



**Permanent Representation of the Republic of Slovenia to the UN, OSCE  
and other International Organizations in Vienna**

**Statement by Ambassador Andrej Benedejčič, Permanent Representative of the  
Republic of Slovenia, at Session V of the First Preparatory Meeting of the 24<sup>th</sup> OSCE  
Economic and Environmental Forum, Vienna, 26 January 2016**

*Mr. Moderator,*

Slovenia fully subscribes to the statement made on behalf of the European Union at the opening of the First Preparatory Meeting. In addition, I would like to make several points in my national capacity, related to the topic of this particular Session.

Slovenia welcomes the discussion on resource efficiency and green technologies. In our view, transformation towards greener economies is fundamental for achieving a more sustainable future. We need strong incentives to change the use of resources and keep them within the ecological boundaries of the planet.

In the current EU financial perspective, from 2014 to 2020, circular economy is one of the priority areas in the framework of the Slovenian Smart Specialization Strategy. "Smart specialization" is a policy of economic transformation under which a country defines its niches and thus places itself within global markets. Slovenian strategy, which was approved by my Government last September, is focused on fostering sustainable technologies and services for a healthy life. It envisions Slovenia as a green, active, healthy and digitalized country with first-rate conditions for creativity and innovation. It also represents a platform for strategic development innovation partnerships, by connecting economy and knowledge institutions with state and civil society. In this connection, I would like to inform you that networks of interest are already being created in the fields of paper industry, polymers and bioplastics, conversion, distribution and storage of energy, building materials and biomass.

Let me also point out that in Slovenia a substantial amount of public financial resources has been earmarked to encourage the use of green technologies and more efficient uses of energy. Additionally, the majority of public tenders for the areas of research, development and innovation already include among their selection criteria the impact of a project on the environment. These criteria also include the exploitation of renewable energy sources, as well as the recycling and use of waste materials.

Before concluding, I would also like to highlight the fact that the framework program for transition to a green economy in Slovenia is designed to build partnerships among the relevant stakeholders. Our main goal is to link policies and activities into common solutions through a structured dialogue. Planned supporting activities include education and training, capacity building and best practice sharing.

*Mr. Moderator,*

Slovenian knowledge in the field of resource efficiency and green technologies is especially strong in the areas of water management, sustainable use of wood and forests, sustainable tourism, smart building and smart homes. We would be therefore pleased to share our expertise and technical know-how with the interested participating States.

*Thank you.*