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PRESS RELEASE
Skopje, 01.06.2023

Kickoff event of the EU Twinning Project “Support in the Implementation of the Waste Management Legislation and the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme”

The Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning of North Macedonia, in partnership with, the Blue Planet Climate Protection Foundation from Hungary, as the Lead Partner, and the Republic of Austria as the Junior Implementation Partner, has launched a very instrumental project aimed at strengthening the extended producer responsibility (EPR) system in North Macedonia.

The opening of the event will be marked by keynote addresses by Kaja Shukova, Minister of Environment and Physical Planning, Steffen Hudolin, Head of Cooperation from the EU Delegation to North Macedonia, H.E. András Klein, Ambassador of Hungary and H.E. Dr. Georg Woutsas, Ambassador of Austria, together with representatives from participating institutions, as well as other key stakeholders from the European Union, who will provide valuable insight into the significance and the impact which will be achieved by the Project.

The EPR system in North Macedonia which ensures proper treatment of all the special waste streams (packaging, WEEE, accumulators and batteries, and textile, tyres, ELVs and oils) and leads to maximum separate collections from unsorted municipal solid waste, is a long-awaited accomplishment of the country that will contribute to a cleaner environment, lower human health risks, introducing the circular economy system, and reliable financing of the proper extended producer responsibility for the generated waste. To this end, the Project will aim at establishing an independent institution, the Producer Balancing Body (PBB), which is expected to support, coordinate and assure effective operations of the competing collective handlers in the country. Enabling level playing field for producers, traders, waste collectors and waste treatment facilities, helping the proper supervision and enforcement of legislative provisions, thus assuring high level of transparency of the process, will be the main purpose of the organization. This will help develop a more professional, accountable and efficient producer extended responsibility system, bringing North Macedonia closer to the EU acquis, assuring the uplifting of quality of life standards equal to those of the EU-member states.

Implemented with the help of a network of renowned short-term experts from Hungary, Austria and other Member-States, coordinated by a Resident Twinning Advisor, the project implementation period is 24 months. It is comprised of three components, each chaired by a respective Component leader. The goal of Component 1 to establish the regulatory and legal framework for the setting up the PBB. Component 2 aims to put PBB into operation, developing all relevant working documents to support smooth establishment and start of the operation of the PBB itself, while Component 3 shall provide the IT tool to reach the overall objective of a transparent EPR system, with all stakeholders involved in data providing. The IT tool will provide a multilingual web-based portal for all data suppliers (from manufacturers, waste management companies, etc.).

(end of press release)