



Press invitation  
JOKE SCHAUVLIEGE  
FLEMISH MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, NATURE AND CULTURE  
Wednesday 6 July 2010

## Programme for Informal Environment Council of EU Ministers

The Informal Council of Environment Ministers of the European Union will take place in Ghent from Sunday 11 to Tuesday 13 July. Under the chairmanship of Joke Schauvliege, the ministers will examine the issue of Sustainable Materials Management which, for the first time, will enjoy such a prominent place on the European agenda.

After a welcome dinner with musical accompaniment by the Encantar music ensemble in the Gravensteen (Court of the Counts), the ministers will hold a two-day debate on Sustainable Materials Management (SMM). The debate will be held at the Handelsbeurs at the Kouter in Ghent.

### MONDAY 12 JULY

#### **9 a.m. – 12 p.m.: 1st session: introduction to Sustainable Materials Management and closing cycle**

Council Chairperson and Flemish Minister, **Joke Schauvliege**, will give an introduction on Sustainable Materials Management, which will be elaborated on by the EU Commissioner for the Environment, **Janez Potočnik**.

**Jacqueline McGlade**, Executive Director of the European Environment Agency (EEA) and **Thomas Leysen**, President of the Federation of Belgian Enterprises, among others, will provide further clarification.

#### **1 p.m.: 2nd session: dealing with the limited availability of raw materials**

**Dr Stefan Bringezu** of the Wuppertal Institute and the UNEP Resource Panel will introduce the debate with an explanation on "Dealing with the exhaustibility of raw materials and resources".

**3.30 p.m.: press conference in the Vlaamse Opera (Flemish Opera)** (next to the Handelsbeurs): Chairperson **Joke Schauvliege** and EU Commissioner **Janez Potočnik**

After that there will be a guided tour of the Sint Baafskathedraal (Sint Bavo's Cathedral) and the Sustainable Materials Management exhibition in NTGent, Sint Baafsplein. This exhibition is open to the general public and aims to acquaint visitors with real-life examples of Sustainable Materials Management (<http://www.eutrio.be/nl/van-wieg-tot-wieg>).

## TUESDAY 13 JULY

### **9 a.m. – 12 p.m.: 3rd session: Towards a coherent and ambitious European policy on resources and raw materials**

Introduction by **John Hontelez**, Secretary-General of the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) and **Jo Leinen**, Chairman of the European Parliament Environment Committee. The debate will be closed by EU Commissioner **Janez Potočnik**.

**12 p.m.: group photograph** in the Handelsbeurs

**12.45 p.m.: Chairperson Joke Schauvliege** will formulate **conclusions** on the Informal Council.

**13.30 p.m.: working lunch** – informal exchange of ideas with EU Commissioner for Climate Change, **Connie Hedegaard**, on the continued procedure and approach with a view to the COP-16 in Cancún.

**3 p.m.: press conference in the Flemish Opera:** Chairperson **Joke Schauvliege** and EU Commissioner **Connie Hedegaard**

### Practical information for the press:

- The press centre will be accommodated in the Flemish Opera, Schouwburgstraat 3, Ghent, next to the Handelsbeurs; the centre will be open on 12 and 13 July from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Entry will be subject to accreditation arranged in advance at <https://media.eutrio.be/>.
- For the audio-visual media: at the start of the 1st session on Monday 12 July, you will be able to film and take photographs from 9 a.m. to 9.10 a.m.

*(This programme is subject to possible last-minute changes)*

### **Press information:**

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