

UNIDO Global Chemical Leasing Award Ceremony 2012

Frankfurt, June 19th 2012

- Speech by Jelena Cvetkovic, Director of Serbian Chemicals Agency -

Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished guests, dear Colleagues,

It is my privilege and honor to address on the occasion of UNIDO Global Chemical Leasing Award Ceremony, in the name and on behalf of the Chemicals Agency of the Republic of Serbia. First of all, I would like to express my gratitude to the organizers for the invitation to this event, which enhances visibility of Chemical Leasing worldwide.

In the Republic of Serbia the importance of the International Chemical Leasing was recognized and respectfully the initiatives to promote and implement the International Chemical Leasing were undertaken since 2008.

Serbian Chemicals Agency, as independent, developing, professional and regulatory body responsible for sound chemicals management, including biocidal products, supported the process of inclusion of this concept at the national level. We recognized the close relation between the Chemical Leasing and provisions of REACH Regulation, on the one hand; and between the International Chemical Leasing and principles set out in the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) on the other hand.

Due to the ongoing process of the accession of the Republic of Serbia to the European Union, parts of the REACH Regulation, adequate for transposition, were transposed into the relevant national legislation. Among the other aspects, REACH provides for transparent communication on information in the supply chain and gives more responsibility to industry to manage the risks of chemicals, and enhance substitution of hazardous chemicals with safer alternatives. These requirements are synergetic to the core of Chemical Leasing principles, in which sense Chemical Leasing makes use of the REACH demands and turns them into the economic advantages.

In addition, it is of the high importance that the Chemical Leasing as such provides practical solutions to achieving SAICM objectives, and promotion of sustainable chemical management. It is particularly important to mention today, back-to-back with RIO+20 Summit, where particular emphasis is on Green Economy, the economic aspect of Chemical Leasing. Implementation of Chemicals Leasing concept is included in Serbia's National Report on Green Economy to be presented at Rio+20.

I would like to mention active role of Serbian National Cleaner Production Center in implementation of Chemical Leasing concept in Serbia. Until today, 3 cases of chemical leasing have been implemented in Serbia, in different sectors of industry – chemicals production and distribution, food and beverages industry, with very good results contributing to sound chemicals management, and to broader environmental goals in sense of reduction of

energy consumption, generated waste and decrease of emissions. Those examples show clearly how Chemical Leasing can bring environmental and economic benefits to companies implementing it, but also to whole society.

I would like to congratulate to all nominees and award winners, and allow me to express my proudness for 4 Serbian companies and Serbian Cleaner Production Center being winners.

I would also like to thank to UNIDO and to donors – Government of Austria and Government of Germany for support in implementation of Chemical Leasing in Republic of Serbia and worldwide.

Thank you very much for your attention.