

Invitation

Partners in Dialogue



H.E. Dr Roberto Balzaretti, Ambassador of Switzerland to the EU, cordially invites you to join the evening panel discussion

Partners in Dialogue

Commodities: The Extractive Sector – Can transparency foster prosperity and development?

on Monday 2nd June 2014 at 6.00 pm

at the Mission of Switzerland to the EU, Place du Luxembourg 1, 1050 Brussels.

The extractive sector is the mainstay of many developing countries. If managed well in terms of transparency and revenue administration, it can be a strong vector of growth, development and economic competitiveness. However, gas, oil and minerals can also lead to the paradox of plenty. Therefore, resource-abundant countries may experience less economic growth and lower development outcomes due to a decline in the competitiveness of other economic sectors, volatility of natural resource revenues and government mismanagement.

Although approaches differ, the European Union and Switzerland have taken a leading role in addressing challenges pertaining to commodity trading and their implications for developing countries. Furthermore, a variety of international initiatives aiming at the promotion of transparency and accountability in the extractive industries are already in place.

How can Europe, Switzerland and the international community further improve transparency in the extractive sector and therefore contribute to prosperity, progress and development in resource-dependent countries? What is the role of companies operating in the trading sector? What can be expected from resource-rich developing countries?

Programme

18:00 Registration

18:15 Welcome note

Panel discussion

H.E. Dr Roberto Balzaretti, Ambassador of Switzerland to the EU

Mr Carlo Sommaruga
National Councillor, Member of the Swiss Parliament,
President of the Foreign Affairs Committee FAC-N

Ms Marie-Gabrielle Ineichen-Fleisch
State Secretary, Director of the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO
and Director of the Foreign Economic Affairs

Mr Klaus Rudischhauser
Deputy Director-General for Policy and Thematic Coordination
at the European Commission

Mr Conor Foley
Government and regulatory affairs adviser in the financial Services
group of Norton Rose Fulbright, London

Moderator

René Hoeltschi
EU & Benelux Correspondent, Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Brussels Office

19:45 Reception

To register please send an e-mail to
partnersindialogue@eda.admin.ch
or register online

www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/home/topics/eu/eu/misbr/events/pid/pid.html
by Monday 26th May 2014

Please note that places are limited.

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