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WORKING TOWARD A GREEN ECONOMY AFTER RIO+20

Speaking points addressed by Cristiana Pasca Palmer, Head of Unit "Climate Change, Environment, Natural Resources, Water" in DG EuropeAid Development and Cooperation

- From the EU perspective, an important outcome of Rio+20 is the recognition of green economy as "one of the important tools available for achieving sustainable development". The EU stands ready to take further steps and promote green economy policies, in the EU and internationally.
- Raising awareness and building evidence about the potential benefits of an inclusive green economy for the environment as well as for social development and creation of decent jobs are therefore essential to convince more leaders to embark on that path.
- Within the EU, we have a long experience in applying measures leading to a greener economic development that demonstrates our commitment to sustainable growth and jobs on the basis of a re-invigorated green economy.
- There is an obvious link between our natural resource base and lifting people out of poverty. That is why the EU development policy, an Agenda for Change promotes a green economy approach that makes investing in natural capital, including through the protection and use of eco-systems, the engine for sustainable and inclusive growth.
- This is also why the private sector has to be seen as a key partner in the promotion and transformation towards a green economy. Beyond gains that can accrue from greening the brown economy, there are opportunities arising from an increasing demand for environmental goods and services, for growing the green sectors of the economy.
- Our Directorate General is working toward enhancing the integration of the three dimension of sustainable development. In this regards, I find

the joint UNEP/ILO report '*Working towards sustainable development: Opportunities for decent work and social inclusion in a green economy*' particularly useful.

- Let me highlight few points that seem essential to us.
 - o First of all, countries will need to create the right enabling environment for the green economy through a mix of policy. The European Commission can help in supporting willing developing countries in that policy development.
 - o Second of all, public spending and investment, including ODA, should be employed in a way that stimulates the greening of economic sectors and that leverage capital to do the same.
 - o Lastly, we must examine closely how we can work better with the private sector, in particular through the local private sector able to generate much needed decent jobs.
- I would encourage you as well to follow the 2012 edition of the European Development Days around three main topics: (i) sustainable agriculture, food security and resilience, (ii) engaging private sector for development and (iii) empowering people for inclusive growth.