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Re: Druskininkai Forum 2020

Druskininkai Forum 2020 took place on September 24-25, 2020 in Druskininkai, Lithuania. It's an annual conference, each year gathering dozens of participant from governmental institutions, environmental agencies, municipalities, businesses involved and interested in sustainability and environment, NGO's, scholars, etc., all over Lithuania.

It was the first conference without any introductory speeches and presenters, whereas the content of it was created by its participants. Systemic and strategic presentations and conversations have been made available upfront to the conference participants in the form of video recordings: the most influential environmental and sustainability leaders, experts and those who "break" the existing systems and create the need for a new quality system to emerge. In total 24 recordings, starting with Mr. Virginijus Sinkevicius, the EU Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, and followed by the representatives of the governmental institutions and agencies, NGOs, business entities, lawyers and scholars. All of them shared their views, concerns and plans in respective areas, namely circular economy, environment protection, waste management, role of municipalities and governmental institutions, business overall and particularly that engaged in packaging, legal framework and impact of the European Green Deal, etc.

Meanwhile, the participants to the conference arrived already acquainted with the presentations and dived directly into the workshops, being divided into 4 discussion groups according to the topics chosen upfront: waste management by municipalities, responsibility and liability of the producers in the stream of packaging life-cycle, new approach in environment protection by the state. The participants were encouraged to share their views on the past, current and future, engage in discussions with the aim not to argue or to look for immediate solutions, but rather to engage in dialogue with the others in the room, as due to the setup of the conference there they could meet not only their daily allies but also the rivals and opponents in a certain sense. Experienced moderators in each workshops made the participants to step into one others shoes, suggest the actions and provide the reasoning. Catchy and engaging sessions, followed by reflections and discussions allowed the participants to leave the conference not only having their own ideas shared, but also having heard the others, apart from the formal positioning and official meetings.

Worth to mention, that the conference is a sustainable event, i.e. sustainable event management system ensures the event organizer proactively foresees and reduces negative environmental and social impacts of the event, guarantees transparent and accountable governance system and publicly reports its positive and negative results thereafter (ISO 20121: 2012 "Sustainable Events Management System" standard).