

JOINT STATEMENT

of the Ministers of Environment of the Visegrad Group Countries and the Representative of the United States

18 June 2015, Tatranská Lomnica, Slovakia

The Ministers of Environment of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia and representatives of the United States met in Tatranská Lomnica to discuss innovation, clean technology, including for energy, and the circular economy; and to chart a course for enhanced cooperation to address environmental challenges.

The dialogue was complemented by engagement with the private sector on its experience and success in relation to innovation, design, business strategies related to the circular economy, environmental protection, and synergies with economic growth and industrial competitiveness.

The participants underscored the importance of a circular economy in creating opportunities for companies to develop innovative business models that generate numerous environmental benefits. Moreover, a circular economy is essential for the creation of green jobs, sustainable economic, social and environmental development, and international competitiveness.

The participants intend to promote enhanced cooperation to ensure effective and efficient actions to protect the environment. The efforts will be concentrated on the concept of a circular economy with particular focus on enhancing the exchange of information on best practises, and identifying opportunities for cooperation in priority areas such as energy efficiency and renewable energy, waste management, including mining waste and contaminated sites, and water management, building upon and complementing national plans and strategies.

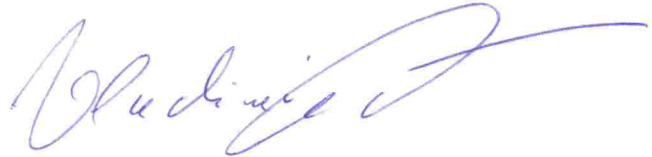
The participants recognise the role of the International Visegrad Fund and the progress made in promoting and assisting V4 stakeholders in the environmental domain.

Furthermore, the four countries of the Visegrad Group agree to further explore the possibilities to engage the International Visegrad Fund into the process and funding of joint environmental sustainability projects.

Signed in Tatranská Lomnica, Slovakia, on 18 June 2015

For the Czech Republic

Mr. Vladimír MANA
Deputy Minister of Environment



For Hungary

Mr. István NAGY
Deputy Minister of Agriculture



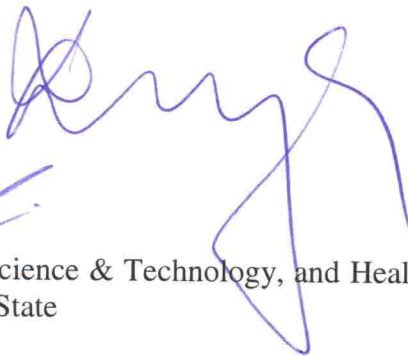
For Poland

Mr. Marcin KOROLEC
Secretary of State of the Ministry of Environment



For Slovakia

Mr. Peter ŽIGA
Minister of Environment



For the United States

Mr. Raffi BALIAN
Director, Regional Environmental, Science & Technology, and Health Office for Central and Eastern Europe, U.S. Department of State

