

INVITATION

National Convention on European Integration 2021-2023

Working Group III (Agriculture and Consumer Protection)

**Session 1, Topic: Information and public awareness on food safety and consumer protection:
role of the implementing responsible institutions**

11 May 2022, 14:00 – 16:00

Hybrid format – Foyer room, Xheko Imperial Hotel and Zoom Platform

European Movement in Albania (EMA) in partnership with the Slovak Foreign Policy Association, with the financial support of SlovakAid, are pleased to invite you to Session 1 of Working Group III on “*Information and public awareness on food safety and consumer protection: role of the implementing responsible institutions*” under NCEI 2021-2023.

In order to create a bridge of cooperation between state institutions and civil society and at the same time to strengthen the capacities in both sectors, the National Convention on European Integration 2021-2023, implemented by the European Movement in Albania in cooperation with line Ministries and other public institutions, is continuing its activities after the successful implementation during 2019-2021. **The NCEI** represents an initiative that aims to institutionalize public debate on European Union issues, based on the partnership between government and public institutions, civil society and business organizations; to strengthen the skills of experts in negotiations related to European Integration; to transfer the Slovak experience in the field of building democratic institutions and permanent professional dialogue.

Initially, this unique model was successfully applied and developed by the Slovak Foreign Policy Association during 2003-2007 and then implemented in Serbia, B&H, Montenegro, North Macedonia. In the framework of the NCEI in Albania, several Working Groups have been set up according to the chapters of negotiations with the EU: **WG I: Judiciary and Fundamental Rights (Chapter 23); WG II: Justice, Freedom, Security (Chapter 24); WG III: Agriculture and Consumer Protection (Chapters 11, 12 and 28); WG IV: Structural Funds (Chapter 22); WG V: Trade and Economic Affairs (Four Freedoms and Chapter 20), WG VI: Environment (Chapter 27)**

Working Group III, thanks to the experience of experts, are reviewing and discussing topics in the field of agriculture, rural development, food safety and consumer protection, foreseeing a further process of the reforms and accession to the EU focusing on the chapters of the EU Acquis - Chapter 11, Chapter 12 and Chapter 28. Four Sessions are being organized in this Working Group for the period 2021-2023. These sessions are planned to be co-chaired by representatives of *state institutions and civil society* and internal experts of the Convention.

The activity through ZOOM Platform:

Join Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88360454609?pwd=RXZVaDRISWxMVGplM3IwQ0RHdy9lUT09>

Meeting ID: 883 6045 4609

Passcode: PPIE2022

Please confirm your participation while specifying your presence **online** or **physically** at: info@em-al.org.

PROGRAMME

National Convention on European Integration

2021-2023

Working Group III (Agriculture and Consumer Protection)

Session 1, Topic: Information and public awareness on food safety and consumer protection: role of the implementing responsible institutions

11 May 2022, 14:00 – 16:00

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13:45 – 14:00 Registration of participants

14:00 – 14:10 Opening remarks

Gledis Gjipali, Executive Director, European Movement Albania

Laureta Spahiu, Adviser, GIZ Albania

14:10 – 14:45 Agribusiness and food safety – required standards for consumer protection

Agim Rrapaj, Chairman of Albanian Agribusiness Council (KASH)

- *Challenges of agro-processing sector in Albania (investment, processing and package, production costs, certification etc.)*
- *Role of public institutions in guaranteeing food safety – interinstitutional and sectoral cooperation and coordination*
- *Cooperation with business community and their responsibility on food safety and consumer protection*

14:45 – 15:00 Open Discussion with participants

15:00 – 15:45 Institutional framework in Slovakia concerning food safety – cooperation with non-state actors and implications of EU accession process

Viera Baričičová, expert, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in Slovakia

- *Main challenges faced concerning legal and institutional framework during and after the accession of Slovakia in EU*
- *Process of harmonization of national legislation – practical examples of how to undergo this process in a smooth and effective way*
- *Institutional framework in Slovakia concerning food safety and consumer protection – best practices and recommendations*
- *The role of non-state actors (business operators) in raising awareness and guaranteeing the food safety*

15:45 – 16:00 Open Discussion with participants

16:00 Concluding remarks