

G-7 Summit on Environment Kicks Off in Italy



Rome, June 12 (RHC)-- A two-day environmental summit of the Group of Seven (G-7) industrialized nations plus the European Union and four invited countries kicked off in the Italian city of Bologna on Sunday.

The agenda set by host and G-7 president Italy, led by Environment Minister Gian Luca Galletti, included the fight against global warming and climate change, in spite of U.S. President Donald Trump's withdrawal from the Paris Agreement.

Galletti and Scott Pruitt, Administrator of the U.S. Environment Protection Agency, held a pre-summit meeting in which they agreed on the need to reduce food waste, which also has environmental implications. One third of food destined for human consumption, worth 750 billion dollars, is lost or wasted, according to United Nations data cited by Italy's environment ministry.

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization estimates global water consumption linked to lost or wasted food adds up to 250 cubic kilometers of water -- equal to the domestic consumption needs of New York City for the next 120 years.

Host Italy's agenda also included sustainable growth, green financing, Africa and the role of development banks, marine pollution, circular economy, removing environmentally harmful subsidies, and

environmentally-minded tax reform, according to the environment ministry.

The summit hosted by Galletti saw the participation of his counterparts from Canada, Germany, France, and Japan, plus British Under Secretary of State at the Department for Environment Therese Coffey, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency chief, as well as two members of the European Commission.

Chile, Ethiopia, the Maldives, and Ruanda are the four invited countries. The environmental summit ends Monday.

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