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Subject: International Management of Chemicals  
Preparation of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (SAICM ICCM 3, Nairobi, Kenya, 17-21 September 2012) and the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Mercury INC 4 (Punta del Este, Uruguay, 27 June - 2 July 2012)  
- Adoption of Council conclusions

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1. The International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM 3) of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) to be held in Nairobi, Kenya, in September 2012 and the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Mercury (INC 4) to be held in June/July 2012 in Punta del Este, Uruguay, are important international meetings addressing global challenges of chemicals management and adverse impacts of chemicals on human health and the environment. The Presidency has drafted Council conclusions to prepare for those meetings.

2. At its meeting on 31 May 2012, the Permanent Representatives Committee reached agreement on the text of the Council conclusions.
3. The Council is invited to approve the conclusions as set out in the Annex to this note.

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**International Management of Chemicals - Preparations for the International Conference on Chemicals Management (SAICM ICCM 3, Nairobi, Kenya, 17-21 September 2012) and the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Mercury (INC4, Punta del Este, Uruguay, 27 June – 2 July 2012)**

**Council conclusions**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION:

***SAICM***

1. RECALLS the commitment made at the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development on 4 September 2002, and the adoption of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) on 6 February 2006 in Dubai, to achieve that, by 2020, chemicals are produced and used in ways that lead to minimisation of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment;
2. CONFIRMS its continued support for the Strategic Approach working towards closing the gaps in capacity to achieve sustainable management of chemicals and waste through partnerships, technical assistance and financial assistance;
3. RECALLS the multi-stakeholder nature of the Strategic Approach and in this context strongly ENCOURAGES all stakeholders, in particular the private sector, to enhance further their efforts to achieve the objectives and goals of SAICM;
4. RECOGNIZES initiatives, ongoing work and results already achieved, in particular in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in strengthening the sound management of chemicals throughout their life-cycle, including waste management, and the development of safer alternative products and processes, including non-chemical alternatives;

5. SUPPORTS the Global Plan of Action and underlines the need for further implementation of the plan, and further SUPPORTS the possibility to both update the plan and nominate new emerging policy issues of increasing global concern to protect human health and the environment now as well as for future generations, and in this context WELCOMES the work to date;
  
6. AFFIRMS the commitment of the EU and its Member States to achieve an ambitious outcome at ICCM3 and to enhance further the implementation of the Strategic Approach by encouraging:
  - a) the further engagement of the health sector by adopting a Health Sector Strategy,
  - b) a dialogue amongst all SAICM stakeholders on how to more effectively develop and implement joint actions on other activities of common need,
  - c) further progress on emerging policy issues and in particular on chemicals in products, hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products and nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials, the adoption of a new emerging policy issue addressing the potential risks posed by endocrine disruptors on human health and the environment, e.g. by building on existing initiatives, including knowledge transfer,
  - d) the periodic review of the Strategic Approach based on development of suitable indicators to monitor progress;
  
7. WELCOMES the commitments and financial contributions by all partners to the Quick Start Programme for projects in support of capacity building and implementation activities thereby strengthening sustainable chemicals management and WELCOMES its midterm review, which has provided valuable information on the results of the Strategic Approach so far;

8. LOOKS FORWARD to an open discussion at ICCM3 with all countries and stakeholders, in order to ensure that the outcomes address global challenges and ensure tangible, effective and forward-looking, action-oriented and measurable results that have a real and positive impact across the world now and for future generations;
9. AGREES to seek a strong global political signal at the Rio+20 Summit to call for strengthening the implementation of SAICM to react in a timely way to emerging challenges and step up efforts towards a more robust, coherent, efficient and effective international regime for sound management of chemicals and waste throughout their life-cycle;

### *Mercury*

10. EMPHASIZES its commitment to the overall objective of protecting human health and the environment from releases of mercury and its compounds by minimising and, where feasible, ultimately eliminating global anthropogenic mercury releases to air, water and land;
11. REITERATES that the EU and its Member States will continue and intensify their international efforts to reduce mercury emissions and exposure on a global scale, and encourage other parties to contribute to this objective, taking into account the availability of alternatives or reduction measures;
12. STRESSES the importance of the EU and its Member States continuing to participate actively in negotiations on all elements of the future global mercury convention aiming at an ambitious overall outcome prior to the twenty-seventh regular session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environmental Forum (UNEP) in 2013;

### *Synergies*

13. EMPHASIZES that the new mercury instrument and the Strategic Approach should be included in the cooperation and coordination process between the Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions to address policy fragmentation, avoid overlap and duplication of efforts; and contribute to ensuring that hazardous substances that are identified as being of global concern can be addressed effectively;

*Financing of chemicals and wastes*

14. Taking into account the costs of inaction, RECOGNIZES the importance of mobilising national and international financial resources from all possible sources in order to ensure sound chemicals and waste management;
15. UNDERLINES that long-term predictable funding is important to assist developing countries, especially the least developed countries, in applying sound chemicals and waste management, and seeks an integrated approach that combines various sources, especially mainstreaming in national policies and development strategies and the involvement of the private sector as well as the provision of external resources for financing;
16. SUPPORTS the Consultative Process on Financing Options for Chemicals and Wastes and AGREES to give due consideration to the UNEP Executive Director's forthcoming proposal and possible draft decision on financing options for chemicals and wastes at ICCM3 and at the subsequent twenty seventh session of the Governing Council in 2013; EMPHASIZES that existing institutions should be used for the future financing of the chemicals and waste cluster;
17. WELCOMES the decision of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to allocate funds to activities on mercury and SAICM;
18. SUPPORTS the GEF to be the financial mechanism for external financing of the new mercury convention thereby avoiding proliferation of funding mechanisms and associated administration;
19. Further SUPPORTS the funding of activities on SAICM from the GEF and ENCOURAGES the GEF to enhance further, within its mandate, its important role in financing activities within the chemicals and waste cluster.