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### INFORMATION NOTE

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Delegations  
Subject: Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)  
First meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 (Brasilia, Brazil, 7-9 February 2017)  
- Compilation of statements

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Delegations will find in the [Annex](#), for information purposes, the opening and closing statements as delivered, on behalf of the European Union and its Member States, at the abovementioned meeting.

**Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)**

**First meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020  
(Brasilia, Brazil, 7-9 February 2017)**

**- Statements by the European Union and its Member States -**

**Opening Statement**

Thank you, Madame Co-Chair,

It is a real pleasure for the EU and its Member States to participate in this important meeting on the intersessional process for chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

We would like to thank the Brazilian government for hosting and organising this meeting and the generous hospitality in this welcoming city.

Thanks also to the secretariat for the documents put forward which will give a good basis for our discussions and their part of the organisation. Finally, our thanks also go for all the work of the bureau.

We would also like to congratulate both co-chairs for their appointment to guide us through this important process. We are delighted to work under your joint chairmanship.

Chemicals are part of our daily lives and as their production and use are increasing and they are traded globally, there is a continuous need to prevent and minimise the adverse effects on human health and the environment. Waste management is a growing challenge that needs to be addressed in conjunction with chemicals.

We recognize and appreciate the results SAICM has accomplished so far.

We continue to support the overall aim of SAICM to close the gap and to achieve the sound management of chemicals and waste and, as highlighted in UNEA resolution 1/5, we must continue our work to reach this goal.

We also support the timeless vision set out in resolution ICCM4/IV on the sound management of chemicals and waste and stress that we should build on the process which led to the adoption of the annex of UNEA resolution 1/5. The intersessional process that we have started today should result in an enabling multilateral platform for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, and I have to emphasise that building on what already exists but with the ambition to be broader than SAICM.

A continuous and strengthened multi-stakeholder and multi-sectorial approach will be essential also after 2020. It is precisely this involvement in SAICM that provides a unique potential to address issues of relevance at a global level.

The sound management of chemicals and waste is a precondition for a sustainable development. Therefore it is embedded in many of the objectives and targets of Agenda 2030. Agenda 2030 offers a great opportunity to renew our commitment to integrate chemicals and waste issues in the national development planning and sectoral policies and actions.

The development of the new framework provides a unique opportunity to enhance cooperation and coordination in the chemicals and waste cluster and forge strong links to other areas, such as biodiversity and climate change.

The EU and its Member States remain fully committed to SAICM and the Beyond 2020 process and look forward to actively engage in this work in the coming years. Finally, we look forward to having a fruitful and thorough discussion over the next days and throughout the intersessional period on the functions of a new enabling platform for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020. We thank the co-chairs for their suggestions regarding the process to be followed after this meeting and we are confident that we will be able to come back and, as appropriate, review them in the light of the discussions and views from stakeholders.

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## **Closing Statement**

Dear President and Co-Chairs, the European Union and its Member States would like to congratulate you on a successful and inspiring chairmanship and thank the Bureau for their dedicated work. We would also like to thank the Secretariat for the good preparation and organisation of the meeting and the Brazilian government for the excellent organisation and for the extraordinary hospitality.

The constructive spirit we experienced during ICCM 4 is alive and we are glad to see so many participants, making clear that there is wide support for a framework to address the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

We welcome the High Level segment with its inclusive panel which showed that we see growing commitment from political and other leaders.

The European Union and its Member States consider it important that the future work on chemicals and waste is clearly linked to the Sustainable Development Goals. The strong connection of many targets with sound management of chemicals and waste demonstrates that the future framework is crucial for achieving the SDGs.

The discussion here in Brasilia has been rich and many important elements have been mentioned. This meeting therefore is a successful kick-off to the process of designing a beyond 2020 framework for the sound management of chemicals and waste.

Several issues were raised that might be incorporated in the future framework and the challenge will be to use these as examples of what the future framework should be capable of handling while precluding discussion on the issue itself. All the ideas and elements that have been brought into the discussion will now need further reflection, and build on decisions already taken in the SAICM and particularly ICCM 4 and UNEA.

The challenge now will be to deliver focussed outcomes on the form and function of a future enabling framework.

In addition, it will be important to involve all relevant stakeholders, throughout the whole process, allowing more opportunities for interaction and dialogue in designing a beyond 2020 chemicals and waste management framework.

We also encourage the co-chairs to consider a format for the next meeting enabling active discussion and participation of all delegates.

Finally, the EU and its Member States are committed to engage throughout this process to further develop an ambitious future framework

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