



Brussels, 10 October 2022  
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ENV 982

#### 'I/A' ITEM NOTE

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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	Commission's intention to open discussions on joining, on behalf of the EU, the High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution
	- Authorisation to negotiate

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1. On 29 July 2022, the Commission submitted to the Council a note setting out its intention to open discussions on joining, on behalf of the EU, the High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution (HAC). The note was circulated to Member States in document 11716/22.
2. The HAC aims to support the intergovernmental negotiations, based on resolution 5/14 of the UN environment Assembly (UNEA), on a legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution. These negotiations will start on 28 November 2022. The Coalition was launched by Norway and Rwanda on 23 August 2022. New members can join at any moment.
3. The HAC is to be considered a non-binding instrument (NBI) that contains political commitments<sup>1</sup>. The above-mentioned note of the Commission constitutes the first (preparatory) step in the NBI procedure.

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<sup>1</sup> In line with the Arrangements between the Commission and the Council on non-binding procedures, as set out in doc. 15367/17.

4. The Working Party on International Environment Issues (Global) discussed the note in its meeting of 27 September 2022 and subsequently expressed its support to the Commission's intention via informal silence procedure on 29 September 2022.
  5. The Working Party on Environment examined the Commission note on 10 October 2022. All delegations agreed to the intention of the Commission as set out in the above-mentioned note.
  6. In light of the above, the Committee of Permanent Representatives is invited to approve the intention of the Commission to open discussions on joining, on behalf of the EU, the High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution, as set out in document 11716/22, and to forward the latter to the Council for approval of the Commission's intention set out therein at one of its upcoming meetings.
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