



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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NOTE

from : General Secretariat
to : Delegations

Subject : Second International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM 2)
(Geneva, 11-15 May 2009)
- Information from the Presidency

Delegations will find annexed a note from the Presidency on the above subject, which will be dealt with under "other business" at the meeting of the Council (Environment) on 25 June 2009.

**Second International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM 2)
(Geneva, 11-15 May 2009)**

- Information from the Presidency -

The International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) undertakes periodic reviews of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) adopted in Dubai in February 2006.

The meeting was officially opened on Monday 11 May 2009 and the Conference elected Mr. Ivan Eržen (Slovenia, CEE) as its President. Bureau representatives of other regions were Mr. Eisaku Toda (Japan, Asia-Pacific), Mr. Carlos Portales (Chile, GRULAC), Mr. Ndiaye Cheikh Sylla (Senegal, Africa) and Mr. Victor Escobar Paredes (Spain, WEOG). Almost 800 delegates from 147 countries, in total over 200 delegations including representatives of IGOs, NGOs and a large delegation of industry representatives, participated in the meeting.

In fact, the meeting started on 10 May 2009 with comprehensive presentations of four emerging policy issues (electronic waste, chemicals in products, nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials, lead in paints) selected for detailed technical consideration.

The conference itself started working immediately on Monday morning due to the heavy agenda for the week. In addition to a lively plenary, numerous contact groups' discussions and regional consultations, a large number of side events were organized. Out of those the EU organized four side events. Throughout the meeting, the EU played an active role and significantly contributed to the very successful outcome of the Conference. The Presidency would like to commend all EU chairs and co-chairs of the contact or drafting groups for their work and for the constructive spirit they showed, working until late at night.

The high-level segment was organized on the two final days of the Conference. Major discussions took place in the form of two ministerial round tables on long-term financing and on health aspects. In addition, recognition of the 45 SAICM donors took place on Thursday evening. Many EU countries and the European Commission received awards from the Executive Director of UNEP, Mr. Achim Steiner, recognising the significant resources provided by the EU for SAICM secretariat activities, organization of ICCM2 and over 70% of the Quick Start Programme (QSP) funding since the adoption of SAICM.

Outcomes

The Conference's first priority was to accomplish the remaining tasks from ICCM1, to allow effective functioning of the ICCM in the future. ICCM2 also provided an opportunity to see how much progress had been made on SAICM implementation in the three years since ICCM1. At the national and regional level delegates generally recognised that significant progress had been achieved but at the global level it was unclear whether the pace was sufficient to attain the 2020 goals in chemicals management. All appreciated the decision on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions as it also provides opportunities for SAICM stakeholders. It was also recognized that all stakeholders will have to work very intensively to be able to report successes to ICCM3, at which meeting a major review is planned along with any further necessary elaboration of SAICM.

In short, the Presidency considers the meeting successful, as the EU attained all its priority goals.

Administrative decisions on **Rules of Procedure, reporting modalities, the indicative budget and the programme of work for 2010-2012** were quite smoothly adopted by the Plenary. Both policy priorities – i.e. **long-term financing** and emerging policy issues - were thoroughly and successfully discussed in contact groups. The EU repeatedly emphasised the need for sustainable and predictable funding for SAICM implementation. The resolution on financial and technical resources for implementation finally adopted encourages action by all stakeholders at the national or subnational level to support financing for the achievement of SAICM objectives, including by giving adequate priority to the sound management of chemicals in development, health and environmental planning and related budget allocation processes. ICCM2 welcomed the consideration being given to the sound management of chemicals during the fifth Global Environment Facility (GEF) replenishment process and urged the GEF to consider expanding its activities related to sound chemicals management to facilitate SAICM implementation, while respecting its responsibilities as the financial mechanism for the Stockholm Convention. The need to broaden the QSP donor base has been recognized and all potential donors, including IGOs, NGOs, the private sector, industry, foundations and other stakeholders, were urged to contribute to the QSP or to continue and increase their support. In order to accommodate some potential donors' budgetary planning horizons and to facilitate the QSP review, the Conference decided to allow the QSP Trust Fund to remain open for voluntary contributions until ICCM3, while the time limit for disbursement of funds from the Trust Fund will remain the end of 2013. The QSP Executive Board will evaluate the QSP, and make recommendations to ICCM3, which will consider the adequacy of financial and technical arrangements for SAICM as appropriate.

On **emerging policy issues**, an omnibus resolution covering all four selected issues considered in detail, in addition to the long-term procedure on nominating and handling emerging policy issues, was adopted.

Furthermore, the Conference also adopted resolutions focusing on continuous cooperation with other international organizations or fora. The EU successfully proposed a resolution related to the future work programme of the Committee of Sustainable Development that will deal with chemicals in the next biennium cycle and facilitate beneficial mutual communication and cooperation between CSD and SAICM. The EU also supported the ICCM2 resolution calling for a more active role for the WHO in chemicals management, along with the proposal to develop a strategy for strengthening the engagement of the health sector for consideration at ICCM3.

The Conference also acknowledged the EU proposal for a resolution on the historic contribution of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS) to SAICM development but decided not to integrate it into the ICCM due to the establishment of the Conference's own intersessional body – the open-ended working group.

The importance of regional consultative mechanisms and the need to strengthen them was recognized in the resolution on regional networks; they helped to support information sharing, establish regional priorities and elaborate the role and tasks of national focal points to strengthen national capacities for the sound management of chemicals.

In addition to other topics the Conference also discussed a newly added agenda item on polyfluorinated chemicals and agreed that this item merits further elaboration under emerging policy issues after ICCM2.

The next session of the Conference should take place in 2012, but as no proposal for hosting the meeting was received, the Conference mandated the bureau to decide on the date and venue of the next session during the intersessional period.