

Thank you Madame Chair,
Sweden allies itself with the intervention made by the European Union (made yesterday).

Sweden has a long history with ambitious goals to achieve sound management of chemicals. The basic purpose of the national environmental quality objective A non toxic environment is to prevent harm to human health and the environment from chemicals substance, products and articles. Although important achievements haven been taken on a national and regional level for sound management of chemicals, we realise that measures also need to be taken on a global scale.

In this context Sweden would like to draw the attention to the question of new emerging issues in relation to chemicals management, namely the need of information on chemicals in product. This issue was nominated by the EU as an emerging issue to the second session of the International Conference of Chemicals Management (ICCM2). It was with great pleasure we by the end of ICCM 2 could conclude that the conference adopted a resolution on this important matter.

The resolution from ICCM 2 is a clear sign of the common understanding of the spread of and potential exposure to chemicals from articles¹, such as for example toys, personal computers and textiles. Not the least has the recall of children toys due to possible content of lead attracted attention worldwide. The reduced use of hazardous chemicals is one of the key challenges in achieving sustainable consumption and production.

Professero Katima said yesterday that chemicals safety requires, among other things, information. This is exactly the reason why the overall aim with improved information on chemicals in products is to contribute to improved conditions for informed decision making through out the life cycle. Information on chemicals in products is a cross cutting issue where many challenges remains to be tackled. It is a key for sustainable recycling, eco-design and greener economy and successful co-operative actions are needed to tackle this emerging issue.

To conclude Let me also take the opportunity to welcome you to a side event on the need for information on chemical in products, taking place Thursday lunch, in room 6.

Thank you

¹ Article in this context means an object which during production is given a special shape, surface or design which determines its function to a greater degree than does its chemical composition. Examples of articles are, textile, clothing, electronics, toys and furniture.