

EIGHTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Views of Turkey on Chemicals

05 May 2010

Thank you Chair.

Distinguished delegates,

Turkey's global commitments through the UN system, its national program for EU accession and its development priorities provide a strong basis to build sustainable development goals for the future. Turkey prepared its national report to the Eighteenth Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development which presents up-to-date information about the progress in Chemicals. We hope this report will be available to all parties through the Secretariat's Web Page.

Madam Chair,

Chemicals have important role in economic growth in Turkey like in other developing countries. Demand for chemical products has increased 6 times and production of chemical has tripled since 1990.

In recent years, it has become even more important to make risk assessments by determining the usage amounts and hazard characteristics of chemicals in order to strengthen preventive measures in chemicals management. In this context, the Regulation on the Inventory and Control of Chemicals includes provisions relating to the assessment of the risks of chemicals on human health and environment.

Under the Regulation on the Control of Major Industrial Accidents, the enterprises operating in Turkey are categorized according to the characteristics and quantities of chemicals they keep at their facilities. Accordingly, risk analysis and risk assessment are now mandatory for the facilities categorized as high-risk facilities. However, the implementation of systems for the prevention of major industrial accidents and for emergency preparedness and response need to be strengthened.

Turkey has invested in specialized laboratories for air pollution, water quality, wastewater control, soil pollution control, environmental microbiology, noise control, cleaning products, lab or hygiene and disinfectant materials/products for the last two decades.

Monitoring of workforce health is also an important policy area for Turkey. For that purpose, the Labor Inspection Regulation requires both the identification of hazardous substances and processes that pose risks at work places and performing risk assessments to prevent these hazards.

The process of the adoption of the EU Environmental Acquis into Turkish Legislation has provided an up-to-date review of Turkish Chemicals legislation. This ongoing process has facilitated the formulation and adoption on of strengthened national legislation and policies on chemicals.

Distinguished Delegates,

Challenges in chemicals management in Turkey are similar to those experienced by the other countries in the region. Responsibilities and duties in chemicals management are shared by various governmental organizations which require more engagement of multiple stakeholders and need for a system that provides continuous information sharing.

In this regard, information sharing among responsible governmental organizations could be improved. Turkey believes that citizens have right to access information about chemicals as consumers and as potential victims of hazardous chemical accidents. To this effect, arrangements have been made regarding the classification, packaging and labeling of chemicals in Turkey. Moreover, a List of High Quantity Substances and a Priority List is being prepared and will be made public. The producers and importers of the products qualified as hazardous are obliged to provide detailed information about the chemical composition and hazardous characteristics of the product to the National Toxin Center.

Education and training of industry, workforce and general public on chemicals and hazardous substances is another important policy area for Turkey. Many guidelines, books, manuals and service centers have been put in service for this purpose.

Madam Chair,

In concluding, I would like to emphasize that Turkey gives high priority to the fight against International Illegal Trafficking of Hazardous Chemicals. Although commodities and vehicles are controlled and inspected at borders, we believe this issue needs strengthened international co-operative action.

I thank you.