

Mme chairman,

we fully align ourselves with the statement delivered by the European Union yesterday and by Spain, Sweden and other speakers today.

We wish to share with you observations regarding responses to question 1 on what can CSD do to help ensuring that sound management of chemicals is prioritized. We think that the Commission should recognize importance of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, SAICM as we believe it is important and irreplaceable global framework for achieving chemicals related MDGs as stated earlier by UNEP, Spain and other speakers.

Moreover, SAICM is a broad approach involving many sectors and stakeholders, so that it encourages integrated consideration of different policy areas.

Secondly, the Commission should also underline the importance of ongoing synergies process. Our experience clearly shows the following: if we succeed in better coordination of the support activities to allow for more effective and efficient use of limited financial and human resources, it leads to more pronounced international co-benefits and significant improvement of the environment.

The Czech Republic has always been a country, where industry plays an important role. We have gathered a significant range of experience related to the chemicals management within the life-cycle, including disposal and remediation of environmental hotspots, while striving towards sustainable consumption and production of chemicals. Nowadays, the emphasis, at least in our case, is not put on the creation of the coherent legal framework, but rather on the effective implementation of existing measures and assistance to other countries to reduce risks stemming from chemicals.

We were involved in several bilateral projects related to chemicals management in countries of the Central and Eastern European region. These projects reduce environmental risks from chemicals, contribute to the remediation of the site and its surroundings, establish proper waste management schemes or conversion of the technology to prevent further contamination of the environment and reduce health risks. We strived to cooperate in such a way, that the project and facilities or services that are put in place continue serving after the end of the projects and so far we achieved success. However, let me say that our help would not be possible without active participation of the recipient countries that have put chemicals among their development priorities.

Thank you for your attention.