



Delegation of the European Union



Permanent Mission of Spain

KEY EU MESSAGES

STRAIGHT TALKS: WHAT WILL IT TAKE TO TRANSLATE GLOBAL CHALLENGES INTO ACTION AT LOCAL LEVEL? **(Closed Inter-Ministerial Dialogue)**

*United Nations
New York*

*13 May 2010
08.30 - 09.45 am*

KEY MESSAGES

- The European Union welcomes the outcomes of the expert level discussions last week and in general the importance attached this year to the topics of transport, waste, chemicals, mining, sustainable consumption and production and their interlinking issues, as themes of the CSD18-19 cycle.
- The CSD plays a unique role in promoting sustainable development issues within the UN system and needs the capacity to deliver ambitious results. It has many added values; its ability to review and provide recommendations on different aspects of sustainable development in an integrated way, while benefiting from a broad range of perspectives; as well as its ability to mobilise policy-makers, academia and stakeholders at a high level.
- In this respect, we would like to acknowledge the important conclusions and recommendations in part I of the Chair's Summary, such as:
 - The need, at a national level and internationally, to decouple environmental degradation and resource consumption from economic growth. This is to be done by promoting **waste hierarchy** – giving preference to waste prevention over re-use, followed by recycling, recovery of energy embedded in waste, and with disposal as the last resort; as well as ensuring the safe and environmentally sound management of waste in line with high technical standards.
 - We will also continue – as a matter of priority - to combat illegal shipments of waste, improve the overall environmental performance of products throughout their life-cycle, and continue to address unsustainable patterns of consumption and production.
 - Underlining that CSD and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (**SAICM**) process can mutually reinforce each other, without duplicating effort. It is our strong belief that CSD18 will constitute an important step in building the connections that will lead to the achievement of the objective of **sound chemicals management** by 2020.
 - Still on chemicals, the recognition that sound chemical management has to be based on a precautionary approach taking into account the life-cycle of chemicals, relies on an expanded knowledge base on the hazardous properties of chemicals, builds the capacity for risk assessment and risk management and promotes the substitution of dangerous chemicals with less hazardous alternatives
 - On the topic of Mines, the need to develop a holistic, comprehensive UN policy framework for Mining, addressing urgent issues such as the enhancement of Corporate Social Responsibility and the improvement of Governance in the mining sector.
 - Transport should play its role to achieve the Millennium Development Goals on the one hand and the environmental and climate protection targets on the other. Therefore we underline the importance of decoupling transport growth from energy demand by applying the wide range of instruments available.

Regarding **SCP**, in line with the Chair's Summary, we believe that:

- a move to sustainable consumption and production could deliver important social benefits and enable countries, companies and communities to do more and better, with less; and at the same time increase net welfare gains from economic activities, by reducing resource use and depletion as well as pollution;
- furthermore, that the promotion of sustainable consumption and production and the implementation of a future 10-Year Framework of Programmes could support a shift to a green economy, and should also play a key role in supporting social development and the fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals.

Internationally, work is only starting now on all these key topics at CSD18. Based on listening to national and regional experience, we would like to identify some specific issues where we should focus our attention in the coming year, building towards an ambitious and successful outcome of CSD 19, including an ambitious 10 Year Framework of Programmes.

- We could see such an international structure, based on a declaration, followed by a set of voluntary programs, targeting key areas of resource use, where there is a potential both for environmental and development benefits.
- Therefore a well structured and transparent process with a clear and accepted mandate should be set up right after CSD 18 to develop a proposal for a 10-Year Framework of Programs on Sustainable Consumption and Production, taking into account the experience and results of the Marrakech process.
- There are obvious and strong links between SCP and green economy as such and between an ambitious outcome of CSD19 on SCP and the discussions on addressing green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication on the way to Rio2012 UNCSD.
- SCP measures already include many of the policy tools needed to green our economies and they have proven to create business opportunities and jobs, rather than constraints. We hope that Rio2012 will further define the elements that are capable of greening our economies and at the same time to benefiting society and especially the poor.
- We also see the upcoming Rio 2012 Conference as a possible major step towards changing our future and making it more sustainable. This Conference should not be just another review exercise. UNCSD 2012 provides a unique chance to develop new thinking – transform old ideas into new contexts and create innovative solutions and to revise current trends of unsustainable development. The implementation review should not duplicate the work of the CSD and should avoid overlapping with already ongoing review processes, at the same time as being well defined and focused.
- Let us act instead of getting lost in theoretical debates. While it is important to learn from our past experiences, UNCSD 2012 needs to be forward looking. I cannot stress enough the importance of taking advantage of this unique opportunity to create a more sustainable future.

Thank you for your attention.