

Statement by Sweden at CSD 18 on Waste Management

Thank You Mr Chairman,

Sweden allies itself with the intervention made by the European Union yesterday.

Production and consumption lead to large quantities of waste. Mismangement of waste has large negative impact on our health and it contributes to emissions of climate gases. Sustainable waste management is therefore a necessity.

In Sweden we have a strategy on non-toxic and resource-efficient life-cycle flows of materials and products. The strategy is linked to the Swedish environmental objectives. It includes prevention of waste, changed patterns of consumption, more efficient production methods and waste management with a greater focus on recycling. The strategy looks at materials and products throughout their life-cycle in order to provide as complete a picture as possible of their environmental impact. A sustainable recycling needs information on the content of chemicals in the waste material. We therefore very much welcomed the initiative and resolution taken within SAICM at ICCM2 to initiate cooperative action on the emerging issue on information on chemicals in product.

Sweden considers it important to see the waste as a resource and has taken many measures in order to minimise landfilling of waste and instead treat the waste through different forms of recycling and recovery.

For example only 4 percent of the household waste in Sweden is sent to landfills, while the rest is used as a resource in different recycling and recovery processes. Measures to stimulate recycling and recovery are producer responsibilities for packaging, waste paper, vehicles and electronics. We have deposit systems for drinking containers. Bans and taxes for landfilling of certain waste streams and recycling targets for waste materials. We stimulate digestion and use the biogas as a fuel in buses and taxi cars.

To succeed in a sustainable waste management we believe that it is important to have an infrastructure which enables collection and transports of waste in a systematic way which is easy for consumers and waste collectors. Waste management is an important part of the concept sustainable cities. We believe that technology transfer and education on knowhow is important in this area and we work actively with technology transfer in the environment field.

Sweden considers it important to comply with the rules in the Basel Convention and the ban amendment in order to reduce the negative aspects of transboundary movements of waste. As we all know and have heard from many delegates at this meeting this is a huge and growing problem in many countries, for example with e-waste. This problem is serious and we welcome the initiatives taken under both the Basel Convention and within SAICM. At our national level we are about to take decisions on how to get the authorities to co-operate better on the supervision of exports on waste and we also participate in the network on coordinated supervision within the EU called impel.

To conclude, Let me also take the opportunity to welcome you to a side event on the need for information on chemicals in products in order to enable sustainable recycling. The side event takes place on Thursday lunch in room 6.

Thank you for the attention!