

Dear co-chairs,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honor to take the floor on behalf of the EU and its Member States.

Firstly, we would like to thank the Government of Thailand for warmly welcoming us in this beautiful city of Bangkok.

The EU and its Member States are pleased to see that so many stakeholders are present at this third intersessional meeting, ready to engage in constructive discussions on the key aspects of SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 in order to prepare recommendations for ICCM5. We warmly thank the Bureau and the Secretariat for the preparations of this meeting, as well as the co-Chairs of the intersessional process for their excellent work, which provides valuable input for the discussions that will take place in the coming days.

Madame President, dear Colleagues, the European Union and its Member States support the agenda as set out for this meeting. We are fully committed to work together with all the stakeholders at this third meeting of the intersessional process, convinced that the work that we will be carrying out here in Bangkok will enable us to further develop the recommendations on SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020. Some progress has been made at the third meeting of the Open Ended Working Group in Montevideo earlier this year as reflected in the outcome document of the contact group. Since ICCM5 is approaching very fast and we are mandated to produce recommendations on numerous items to be considered by that international conference, we are prepared to make substantive progress towards accomplishing our mandate.

Thailand is often – and for a good reason - called ‘the land of smiles’. I hope that we will all be smiling at the end of this week, not just because of the warm welcome, but also for having been able to take significant further steps towards our ultimate ambition, which is to reach the goals of the 2030 Agenda.