



*Delegation of the European Union*



*Permanent Mission of Spain*

**Statement on behalf of the European Union**

**By**

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**Delegation of the European Union**

**OPENING STATEMENT**

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**- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY -**

Mister Chairman, Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the EU.

The following countries align themselves with this EU Statement: the Candidate Countries Croatia, Turkey, and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia<sup>1</sup>, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.

Due to the time constraints of this session, I will keep my statement within seven minutes. The full version of my statement will be distributed in the room shortly.

CSD18 is an excellent opportunity to re-visit the core messages on sustainable development, in the light of the recent Report of the Secretary General. I agree that development is the "midwife of sustainability, just as much as sustainability is the life support system for development".

And this clearly points to the importance of an integrated approach when dealing with the key global challenges of poverty, hunger, environmental degradation and the misuse of natural resources.

With this in mind, allow me to highlight some key points based on experience and on the interesting discussions from last week:

On transport, taking into account the sustainable mobility challenges, we must focus on how to use the long-term potential of transport for improving the standards of living worldwide and, at the same time, solving the associated environmental and health problems, especially air pollution and sector specific GHG emissions;

On waste, it is in the interest of all countries to promote first of all the so-called waste hierarchy, the prevention of waste before reuse, followed by recycling, recovery of energy embedded in waste, and with

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Mister Chairman, now allow me to elaborate a little more on resource efficiency:

The "Resource-efficient Europe" initiative aims to "decouple economic growth from the use of resources, support the shift towards a low carbon economy, increase the use of renewable energy sources, modernize our transport sector and promote energy efficiency." It aims at ensuring continued economic growth whilst managing our resources sustainably.

Resource efficiency also means a greater reliance on eco-innovation across the whole economy and the introduction of environmental technologies, including in service sectors and households. This should provide the technologies, business processes, and management techniques to decrease the environmental impacts of our actions while contributing to green growth, innovation and jobs. Already around 3.4 million people are directly employed in the EU eco-industry, which is around 1,5% of all Europeans in employment.

These are strong figures. However, the continuing challenge remains how to convince all stakeholders that resource efficiency is the cornerstone of sustainability.

Mister Chairman,

International cooperation will have to play an important role in the realisation of all those objectives. But this kind of cooperation will only succeed if we first secure cast-iron political commitment and political will by all the relevant partners. The EU, as the world's biggest donor providing 60 percent of overall Official Development Assistance, will make its contribution as a commitment to our shared goal of eradicating poverty in the context of sustainable development.

And finally, let us not forget: all of these aims and discussions will have failed if they do not elaborate concrete policy recommendations that will have to be taken at CSD 19 next year, notably on further international action on SCP and in particular the setting up of a 10-year framework of programs on SCP. These policy recommendations will be the basis of a renewed commitment to