Council of the European Union

Brussels, 2 August 2022
(OR. en)

11716/22

LIMITE

ENV 790
MAR 149
RECH 463
RELEX 1079
ONU 106

PUBLIC

NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Commission's intention to open discussions on joining, on behalf of the EU, the High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution – Information note by the Commission

1. Delegations will find attached a note by the Commission regarding its intention to open discussions on joining, on behalf of the EU, the High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution.

2. The High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution (HAC) aims to prepare and inform the intergovernmental negotiations setting an agreement to end plastic pollution, by providing science-base input on possible objectives, targets, policies, standards and mechanisms. A draft concept note detailing the purpose of the coalition has been distributed to the WPIEI (Global) on 15 July 2022[1].

3. In accordance with the Arrangements for Non-binding Instruments agreed by the Council, the Commission and the EEAS in December 2017[2], the High Ambition Coalition is to be considered a non-binding instrument that contains political commitments.

---

1 WK 10402/2022.
2 Doc. 15367/17.

PUBLIC

Ref. Ares(2022)5459779 - 29/07/2022

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Directorate-General for the Environment

Green Diplomacy and Multilateralism
Global Environmental Cooperation and Multilateralism

Brussels, 29 July 2022

NOTE FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL WORKING PARTY ON INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT ISSUES

SUBJECT: **Information on the Commission's intention to open discussions on joining, on behalf of the EU, the High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution**

***CONTACT POINTS*:** **DG Environment, Unit F.3 – Global Environmental Cooperation and Multilateralism**

Christoffer VESTLI
International Relations Officer
+4792822405
christoffer.vestli@ec.europa.eu

REMARKS:

The Commission has received an invitation addressed to the EU to join the High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution (HAC). The invitation relates to the adoption of resolution 5/14 "End Plastic Pollution: Towards an international legally binding instrument" at the Fifth Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, which established an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) with a mandate to develop a legally binding global agreement on plastic pollution. Prior to the adoption of the resolution, the EU and its Member States, as well as a number of like-minded countries, engaged in extensive outreach and informal consultations to prepare for the negotiations.

To prepare for negotiations and build on the like-minded cooperation, Norway and Rwanda plan to establish a HAC committed to support an overarching political vision to "End Plastic Pollution by 2040, supported by three strategic goals and seven deliverables.

HAC members intend to work together to "mobilize countries to take decisive action and undertake joint work to identify essential elements and fill knowledge gaps with the aim to further develop ambitious and science-based input on possible objectives, targets, policies, standards and mechanisms to inform the intergovernmental negotiations towards an ambitious treaty to End Plastic Pollution."

The strategic goals of the HAC are as follows:

1. Restrain plastic consumption and production to sustainable levels
2. Enable a circular economy for plastics that protects the environment and human health
3. Achieve environmentally sound management and recycling of plastic waste

The Concept Note which specifies the goals and outlines the key deliverables has already been shared with Member States through Delegates Portal as part of the meeting documents for the meeting of WPIEI Global that took place on 18 July 2022. It is further expected that the HAC will issue statements and organize events to raise awareness and identify priorities for the negotiation sessions of the INC. The coalition will also undertake intersessional work on essential elements and issues to inform the negotiations.

The co-sponsors of the HAC plan to launch it during the ministerial week of the upcoming session of the General Assembly in September. Potential members are however welcome to formally join the coalition at any point, regardless of the official launch.

For the EU to join the HAC, the procedure of Non-Binding Instruments (NBI) is required and as a first step. With this, the Commission informs the Council that it will open discussions on joining the coalition with the co-sponsors of the HAC.

* * *

Electronically signed on 28/07/2022 14:52 (UTC+02) in accordance with Article 11 of Commission Decision (EU) 2021/2121

PUBLIC