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### INFORMATION NOTE

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Delegations

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Subject: Resumed third session of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG-3.2) on a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste to prevent pollution (Punta del Este, Uruguay, 14-20 June 2025)  
- Compilation of statements from the European Union and its Member States

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Delegations will find enclosed, for information, in the Annex to this note a compilation of the statements from the EU and its Member States as delivered at SPP OEWG-3.2 (14-18 June 2025) and at the Intergovernmental Meeting (19-20 June 2025).

**Resumed third session of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG-3.2) on a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste to prevent pollution**

**(Punta del Este, Uruguay, 14-18 June 2025)**

**STATEMENTS FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS MEMBER STATES**

**Item 1: Opening of the session**

Madame Chair, Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

The European Union and its Member States are delighted to gather here in Punta del Este and wish to express their gratitude to the government of Uruguay and UNEP for organising this meeting. We wish to thank the Chair, the Bureau, and the Secretariat for the diligent work undertaken in preparing for this gathering and for reaching out to Parties and regional groups to explore and discuss possible ways forward with the aim to finish the recommendations for the intergovernmental meeting this week.

The European Union and its Member States regard the documents UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/6 - Foundational document and related draft decision for consideration by the intergovernmental meeting to establish a science-policy panel and UNEP/SPP-CWP/OEWG.3/7 - Recommendations for consideration by the governing body of the science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution at its first session, along with the related draft decision for consideration by the intergovernmental meeting with its proposed addenda, as a solid basis for finalizing the discussions at this OEWG 3.2.

We look forward to actively engaging in the work aiming at fruitful and productive outcomes of the discussions this week. We are committed to working closely with all participants in this meeting to fulfil the mandate of the OEWG and lay the groundwork for establishing the SPP at the upcoming intergovernmental meeting here in Punta del Este.

Thank you.

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#### **Item 4: Preparation of proposals for the establishment of a science-policy panel**

Madame Chair, Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

Thank you for the possibility of sharing our general position on some issues on the establishment of the science-policy panel

We recognize the fundamental aim of this meeting to fulfil the mandate of the OEWG and prepare the recommendations for the Intergovernmental meeting to establish the Science-Policy Panel. Thus, we stand ready to engage in effective and constructive cooperation to reach this goal.

The European Union and its Member States support the agreed scope of the future panel, which encompasses all aspects of chemicals, waste and pollution prevention. We support the already agreed-upon functions, including a compromised text of capacity building.

Regarding operating principles, we believe they should be concise, simple, and clear and should stand on their own to guide the panel's work.

Regarding the institutional arrangements, we emphasize the importance of clearly defining the mandates for the Bureau, the Interdisciplinary Expert Committee, the Secretariat, and the governing body.

Furthermore, the panel's work should be scientifically independent and policy relevant without being policy prescriptive as this is crucial for the panel's credibility.

Certain aspects of the institutional arrangements should be considered alongside the Rules of Procedure proposed by the Secretariat.

The European Union expresses its interest in joining the future Panel and commits to supporting its work through its scientific programs and resources. We believe that membership in the Panel should be available to Regional Economic Integration Organizations.

We attach great importance to the involvement of all relevant stakeholders to contribute to the work of the panel so that the best available expertise and knowledge is available, which will ensure the panel's transparency and enhance the relevance and impact of its products.

Thank you.

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**Item 5: Recommendations to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme for the preparation of the intergovernmental meeting to establish the science-policy panel**

Madame Chair, Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

The European Union and its Member States are convinced that reaching a consensus on the arrangements essential for establishing a science-policy panel that encompasses all aspects of chemicals, waste, and pollution during this session is crucial.

Therefore, we are committed to finalize, during this OEWG session, the foundational document and the decisions needed for the Intergovernmental meeting with the ambition set in Resolution 5/8. We also seek to make decisive progress on the draft Rules of Procedure annexed to the Recommendations to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme for the preparation of the intergovernmental meeting to establish the science-policy panel.

The European Union and its Member States support the convening of the first session of the governing body at the earliest feasible opportunity, and in any event no later than one year from the date of the Panel's establishment.

Regarding the name of the Panel, the European Union and its Member States appreciate the suggestions that were made. We believe that a recognizable name will help with the awareness and uptake of the outcomes of the panel.

We are committed to working closely with all the participants of this OEWG to prepare the ground for the successful establishment of the panel at the Intergovernmental meeting.

Thank you.

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**Intergovernmental Meeting to Consider the Establishment of the new Science-Policy Panel  
(Punta del Este, Uruguay, 19 - 20 June 2025)**

**STATEMENTS FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS MEMBER STATES**

**Opening Statement**

*Thank you, Madam Chair,*

I am privileged to deliver this statement on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Ukraine align themselves with this statement.

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the Executive Director of UNEP and the Secretariat for their work in organising this meeting.

We would also like to thank the Government of Uruguay for its generous hospitality in hosting this important event.

Finally, we want to thank the chair of the OEWG, Ms Gudi Alkemande and the whole Bureau for their dedicated work, guidance and support for the group over the last three years.

We meet here in Punta del Este at a critical juncture in the global environmental agenda. The triple planetary crisis — of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution — continues to accelerate, posing a major threat to the health of our planet and impacting both current and future generations.

The European Union and its Member States are convinced that a dedicated science-policy panel will strengthen the science-policy interface at all levels. This will support and promote science-based local, national, regional and global action on the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution. This panel will fill one of the missing gaps in the field of multilateral science-policy panels addressing the triple planetary crisis.

We must recognize the importance of science-based assessments to inform decision-making and affirm that sound management of chemicals and wastes and the prevention of pollution is critical to protecting human health and the environment. Especially in our globalized world.

We are convinced that a science-policy panel will support countries in their efforts to take action, including by implementing multilateral environmental agreements and other relevant international instruments, promoting the sound management of chemicals and waste, and addressing pollution by providing policy-relevant scientific advice.

The panel should be an independent intergovernmental body with a programme of work approved by the Governments to provide policy-relevant scientific evidence without being prescriptive. The European Union and its Member States are eager to participate in this scientifically independent body. We hope the future panel will effectively work alongside, and complement, other scientific bodies such as IPBES and IPCC.

The European Union and its Member States express their support for the establishment of the panel during this meeting. And express their readiness to participate in its work at many levels, using their capacity both within the institutions of the European Union and the scientific potential located in individual member states.

The main objective of ad hoc Open-Ended Working Group has been reached – an agreement on the **establishment of a science-policy panel**, based on the documents prepared by the Open-Ended Working Group, and based on the mandate given by UNEA resolution 5/8 and look forward to establishing the Panel in the course of this Intergovernmental Meeting.

We look forward to this meeting taking a historical decision to establish the panel. The European Union and its Member States declare its commitment to support its important mission.

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