



Brussels, 2 August 2023
(OR. en)

12292/23

LIMITE

ENV 909
MAR 103
RECH 371
RELEX 966
ONU 52

NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Commission's intention to open discussions on joining, on behalf of the EU, the Joint Ministerial Statement of the High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Information note by the Commission

DOCUMENT PARTIALLY ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC (10.08.2023)

1. Delegations will find attached a note by the Commission regarding its intention to open discussions on joining, on behalf of the EU, the Joint Ministerial Statement of the High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution.
2. The High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution (HAC), established on 22 August 2022, is committed to develop an ambitious international legally binding instrument based on a comprehensive and circular approach ensuring urgent action and effective interventions along the full lifecycle of plastics.
3. Following authorisation by the Council on 14 November 2022, the Commission joined the HAC on behalf of the EU on 14 November 2022.
4. In accordance with the Arrangements for Non-binding Instruments agreed by the Council, the Commission and the EEAS in December 2017, the High Ambition Coalition is to be considered a non-binding instrument that contains political commitments.



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Directorate-General for the Environment

Green Diplomacy and Multilateralism
Global Environmental Cooperation and Multilateralism



Ref. Ares(2023)5120479 - 24/07/2023

Brussels, 20 July 2023

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 Joint Ministerial Statement of the High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution

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

[REDACTED]
International Relations Officer

[REDACTED]
International Relations Officer

REMARKS:

“The High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution” (“HAC”) was established on August 22, 2022, following 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.

The Concept Note of the HAC, which specifies the goals and outlines the key deliverables, has been shared with Member States. This was followed by the Non-Binding Instruments (NBI) procedure to allow the EU to join the Coalition on behalf of the Union, whereby the Commission informed that the Coalition aims to launch numerous statements. Following the endorsement by Council, the Commission joined, on behalf of the EU, the HAC on 14 November 2022.

The HAC has 58 members, including the EU and several individual EU member states. HAC members 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 new multilateral environmental agreement.

In the preparations for the third session of the INC for the new international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, the co-chairs of the HAC (Rwanda and Norway) are considering issuing a joint ministerial statement reflecting the priorities of the members of the coalition. The statement aims to sending a political message prior to the negotiations that will take place in Nairobi from 13 to 19 November 2023 in the third session of the INC (INC-3). The draft statement is not yet available from the HAC co-chairs, but it is expected that the statement will build upon the Concept Note of the HAC as well as the HAC joint ministerial statement that was published ahead of INC-1 in November/December 2022 and INC-2 in Paris in May/June 2023. Both previous HAC joint ministerial statements were endorsed by the Commission on behalf of the EU.

For the EU to join the new Joint Ministerial Statement of the HAC, the Non-Binding Instruments procedure (NBI) may be required. With this letter, the Commission informs the Council that it will open discussions on joining the joint statement.

* * *