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Waste Management Discussion

Statement of Italy

Delivered by Mr. Paolo Soprano – Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea

Italy aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union on behalf of its Member States and would like to highlight some further aspects linked to the best innovative practices at National level.

We appreciate the presentation made by distinguished panelist but would like to refer to the presentation made yesterday and warmly thank for the many references made by the distinguished panelists on the best practices in waste management carried out in Italy aimed at achieving zero waste targets. Indeed, there are wide areas in my country populated by millions of citizens where very high standards of reducing reusing and recycling of waste have been already achieved.

Furthermore, Italy is also very active in the implementation of international agreed strategies on waste management, included inter alia the 3R Initiative promoted by Japan upon the 2008 G8 mandate, and the UNEP Panel on sustainable resource management.

But, Mr Chairman, I would like also to assure all distinguished delegates of Member States and stakeholder groups that Italy is thoroughly keeping into consideration the EU and international relevant norms and regulations when planning waste treatment plants, and in particular for hazardous and solid waste treatment.

As in most democracies, in Italy the process of decision making envisages an open dialogue with main local and national stakeholders. Nonetheless every decision follows a procedure which entails a strict environmental impact assessment

analyzing the impacts on the local environment and on the quality of life for individuals living in the premises.

Regarding the impacts of waste treatment plants on the quality of local food products, Italy wishes to highlight that all environmental and health threats have been considered. Furthermore the city of Parma, that yesterday has been quoted, has been chose for hosting the European Food Safety Authority which is the keystone of European Union risk assessment regarding food and feed safety. In close collaboration with national authorities and in open consultation with its stakeholders, EFSA provides independent scientific advice and clear communication on existing and emerging risks.

Mr Chair, no country is unaffected by problems in terms of environmental pollution and this is why we decided to establish at the UN the Commission on SD. Furthermore, I would like to underline how negative comparisons can result in unjustified alarm and do not favor decision making processes in intergovernmental multilateral bodies.

Thank you.