Proposal by the European Union and its Member States on Part II.9 – waste management

Rationale

- The EU and its Member States submit the text proposal below with regard to Part II.9 on waste management. This proposal builds on elements contained in the streamlined document submitted by the co-chairs on 24 April 2024 for discussions in subgroup 1.3. (option 1 and common provisions). It aims at further streamlining and structuring the provisions on waste management.
- Paragraph 1 is based on the first paragraph in option 1: it sets out the main objective of the provision on waste management.
- Paragraph 2 sets out the main measures which are needed to achieve the general objective contained in paragraph 1. It contains elements from paragraph 2 of option 1 (relating to collection and recycling rates) as well as from the “common provisions” (relating to littering, open dumping and open burning of plastic waste). In addition, new elements are proposed in 2(a) and 2(c).
- Paragraph 3 is based on elements contained in the “common provisions”, with the aim to streamlining the text.
- Paragraph 4 is new, reflecting the need to take the role of the informal sector into account.
- Paragraph 5 is based on elements contained in paragraph 3 of option 1.
- The text proposal does not contain the first paragraph of the “common provisions” as the EU and its Member States consider that the provisions in that paragraph would be better placed in Part II.8 on emissions and releases, which should encompass emissions and releases linked to the whole lifecycle of plastic, including waste management practices.

Text proposal

1. Each Party shall ensure that plastic waste is managed in a safe and environmentally sound manner throughout its different stages, including handling, collection, sorting, transportation, storage, recycling, other recovery including energy recovery and final disposal, in line with the waste hierarchy.

2. In order to meet the objective set out in paragraph 1, each Party shall take the measures necessary, where relevant through a sectoral approach, to reach the collection and recycling rates set out in part I of annex F, including:
   
   a. putting in place adequate infrastructure for the collection, sorting, transport and treatment of plastic waste;
   
   b. prohibiting littering, open dumping and open burning of plastic waste;
   
   c. prohibiting incineration without energy recovery or landfilling of separately collected plastic waste which can be recycled.
3. Parties are encouraged to take additional measures to:
   
a. Promote investments in waste management systems and infrastructure that enable safe and environmentally sound management of plastic waste;

b. Encourage behavioural changes and raise consumer awareness;

c. Strengthen markets for secondary plastics including by defining national targets for incorporation of secondary plastics into plastic products.

4. When implementing these measures, each Party shall pay particular attention to the role of workers and the informal sector, notably waste pickers.

5. Each Party shall take into account guidance and guidelines relevant to waste management developed under other international instruments, especially the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal. The governing body may, where necessary, adopt guidelines for the implementation of the provisions this Article, additional or complementary to the relevant guidance and guidelines developed under other international agreements.