

**Seventeenth Session of the Commission  
on Sustainable Development  
High-level Segment  
4 – 15 May 2009**

**Closing statement  
on behalf of the European Union  
by**

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Madam Chairperson, distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. I would like to thank you and the Bureau for the efforts in preparing the final document of policy options as well as all negotiating partners for their hard work during the last days and nights to find solutions and compromises. This is not only the end of a two-week session, but also the end of a two-year implementation cycle that was to deal with major challenges of our time.

Considering the credibility and status of the CSD, which serves as a unique forum in the UN system, it is crucial to send a strong signal that CSD can come up with substantial recommendations. It is in this spirit that the EU can go along with the compromise text proposed by the Chair. This does not mean that the text is perfect.

The EU strongly believes that some strictly political references do not belong in a CSD context. Moreover, the parts on follow-up at the very end of the document, which are totally new paragraphs, are too far-reaching and not entirely coherent with other parts of the text.

The EU, being the largest donor, would also like to express some discontent with a number of references to new and additional resources throughout the text as well as with the language on debt related issues.

Furthermore, we underline that there is an urgent need to undertake a thorough analysis of CSD working methods. Particularly we must bring about necessary improvements in transparency and efficiency of CSD work. Only then, will the CSD be able to address the complex issues in the period of interdependent challenges the world is facing.

To conclude, let me wish all the best to all of you – and particularly every success in further implementation.

Thank you very much for your attention.