

**COMMON STATEMENT BY POLAND AND IRELAND
REGARDING A NEW CHEMICAL POLICY – REACH SYSTEM**

(statement after Competitiveness Council on December 13, 2005)

In order to put an end to the current uncertainty for enterprises, and with the aim of giving maximum strength to the Council's position in the subsequent phase of the decision making process, Poland and Ireland agree to the Presidency compromise on REACH.

The Governments of Poland and Ireland underline the importance of improving the competitiveness of the EU's chemicals industry and downstream manufacturing industries in order to fully realise the Lisbon Strategy, including the achievement of higher levels of employment. In that context, in agreeing to the compromise, they stress that they have reached the limits of their flexibility as regards any further changes which would weaken the competitiveness of EU industry. They are especially concerned about the impact of the provisions relating to authorisation which risk imposing a heavy burden on industry which is not imposed on its principal competitors. In this regard, the Governments of Poland and Ireland attach particular importance to the confirmation by Commissioner Verheugen on behalf of the Commission at the Council that their principal concern as regards a more workable definition regarding adequate control will be met through the review provided for under Article 133.3 bis of the relevant provisions of Annex I and whose introduction in the Presidency's text was the decisive element in agreeing to the compromise."