Distinguished Chair,

I am speaking on behalf of the EU and its 28 Member States.

We would like to start by thanking you, your Bureau, the co-facilitators and the Secretariat for all your efforts.

The EU deeply regrets that this Commission, despite weeks of hard work, has not been able to come to an agreement today. The text that you presented this morning was a compromise, and as such required concessions from all parties. It was an outcome that we would have been able to live with.