



Implementation of the EU Mercury Strategy – *Export ban and storage obligation*

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Introduction

- The Mercury Strategy was adopted January 2005
 - Key aim: reduce mercury levels in the environment and human exposure
 - Twenty actions
 - Support from European Parliament and Council
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Main actions in the Strategy - What is needed to reach the aim?

- Reduce demand of mercury – alternatives to mercury in products and processes
 - Reduce supply – stop the mercury mining
 - Safe handling of our surplus mercury – a main concern is 12,000 tonnes from the chlor-alkali industry
 - Reduce emissions - coal combustion stands for 50% of remaining mercury emissions
 - Push for actions at global level
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Key legislative actions

- Marketing restrictions for measuring devices containing mercury
 - COM(2006)69



- Export ban and storage obligation for mercury (in preparation)
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Export ban for mercury

Action 5 in the Mercury Strategy: "... to phase out the export of mercury from the Community by 2011"

A pro-active contribution to a proposed globally organised effort to phase out primary production of mercury and stop surpluses re-entering the market



Storage obligation for surplus mercury

Action 9 in the Mercury Strategy: "The Commission will take action to pursue the storage of mercury from the chlor-alkali industry, according to a timetable consistent with the intended phase out of mercury exports by 2011"

To guarantee a safe storage or disposal of the surplus mercury.



Issues selected for more detailed assessment

- The scope of the export ban, e.g. if mercury compounds and products already restricted in the EU should be covered.
- The scope of the storage obligation, how much mercury do we need in the EU?
- Different storage and disposal options will need to be presented and compared.
- Is a reporting and information exchange needed?

International actions discussed in parallel when assessing the export ban and storage obligation



International action

- International initiative on production and supply
- Bilateral support
- UNEP Mercury Programme
- UNECE Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution

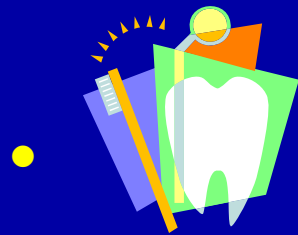
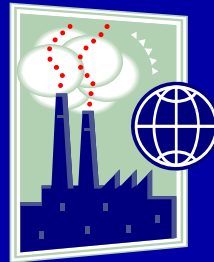


The Commission organises an international conference on mercury on 26/27 October 2006



Other actions in the Strategy

- Coal combustion



- Dental amalgam

- Study on remaining uses of mercury planned
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More information

[http://www.ec.europa.eu/
environment/chemicals/
mercury/](http://www.ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/mercury/)

- The Mercury Strategy COM(2005) 20
 - The extended impact assessment
 - Mercury reports published by the Commission
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