



The Mercury Strategy

and how it will be taken forward

Timo Makela

European Commission

Environment Directorate-General



Mercury strategy – main areas

- Supply and trade
 - Fate of surplus mercury from the chlor-alkali industry
 - Measuring and control equipment
 - Coal combustion
 - Cremation
 - International co-operation
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Export ban from 2011

- EU exports about 1,000 tons mercury/year
– nearly 1/3rd of global supply
 - Stop of supply and trade
 - Push for complementary global action
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Safe and sustainable solution for surplus mercury

- 12000 tons surplus mercury from the chlor-alkali industry
 - Surplus mercury will need to be stored/disposed of
 - Strategy favours storage
 - Permanent disposal too expensive and technically uncertain at this stage
 - Agreement with industry an option
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Restrictions for measuring and control equipment

- Good availability of substitutes
 - Legislation needed to restrict the marketing and use of consumer and healthcare equipment
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Reduce emissions from coal burning and cremation

- Coal combustion is the largest source of emissions in the EU and globally
 - Coal burning in large combustion plants already covered by LCP and IPPC Directives
 - Further study on small-scale combustion installations
 - Cremation significant in some countries. Covered by OSPAR Recommendation
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International action

- International initiative on production and supply
 - Bilateral support
 - UNEP Mercury Programme
 - UNDP/GEF/UNIDO Global Mercury Programme
 - UNECE Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution
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Other elements of strategy

- Review of effects of applying current legislation (IPPC, LCP, waste re dental amalgam)
 - Further study of remaining uses including dental amalgam
 - Further investigation and advice on dietary exposure
 - Research
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How will the Strategy be taken forward now?

- The Strategy is with the Council and the European Parliament
 - Conclusions at June Council
 - New legislative proposals:
 - export ban
 - storage of mercury
 - measuring and control equipment
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More information

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

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