

INVITATION TO JOIN THE ZERO MERCURY WORKING GROUP

The Zero Mercury Working Group was officially launched on the 7 April 2006. This is an international working group. In practice many NGOs have already been actively participating, but by launching the group officially, a **controlled list-serve** will be created to facilitate discussions between the members of the group. A **website** has already been created - www.zeromercury.org, last year, and it can be used as a platform for information exchange. All members of the group are welcome to send announcements for events or call for actions. The website/listeserve is managed by the EEB/Ban Hg WG-MPP .A **logo** will soon be created to give identity to the group.

You are invited you to **JOIN THE ZERO MERCURY WORKING GROUP.**

Public Interest Environment and Health NGOs as well as allies who are committed to the aim and objectives (see below) of the Zero Mercury Working Group can participate. If you are interested in being a member of this list, please fill in the attached form.

Alternatively if you are simply interested in information exchange regarding global mercury problems, you can join just our *information list* on the global mercury issue, by sending an email to elena.lymberidi@eeb.org thereof, including your details (name, organisation, email, tel, fax, address, website).

The **aim** of the group is to reach “‘Zero’ emissions, demand and supply of mercury, from all sources we can control, in view of reducing to a minimum, mercury in the environment at EU level and globally.”

The **objectives** of the Zero Mercury Working Group are:

To ensure that:

- Mercury mining is ceased globally.
- Mercury uses are phased out at EU and global level and mercury is substituted by environmentally safe and less poisonous alternatives.
- Mercury releases from all sources subject to anthropogenic activities are controlled and eventually eliminated as far as possible.
- Human and wildlife exposure to mercury released from anthropogenic activities is totally eliminated and immediately reduced to its greatest extend possible.
- Promoting progressive risk communication and precautionary approaches to mercury exposure, particularly for vulnerable groups, whilst pushing the above objectives.

The **mission** of the Zero Mercury Working Group is:

- To follow actively the debate and developments on mercury related policies in Europe at all levels (European Commission, European Parliament, Council of Ministers), ensuring that its opinion is taken into consideration when decisions are being taken.
- To follow the developments at UNEP level, in view of actively participating to the UNEP Governing Councils where mercury is discussed. Our objective is to have a global legislative instrument on mercury, to be agreed by all governments.
- To follow developments at different fora (such as UNECE, POPs, SAICM, PIC), to identify and promote synergies towards the development of a global legislative instrument on mercury.
- To assist and support where possible activities on mercury in developing countries.

Background

The European Environmental Bureau (EEB) www.eeb.org, in collaboration with Ban Mercury Working Group <http://www.ban.org/Ban-Hg-Wg> / Mercury Policy Project (MPP) www.mercurypolicy.org, started the 'Zero Mercury' Campaign, with the financial support of the Sigrid Rausing Trust, having as its ultimate objective 'Zero' emissions, demand and supply of mercury, from all sources we can control, in view of reducing to a minimum, mercury in the environment at EU level and globally.

The Zero Mercury campaign was launched in November 2004. Acknowledging that work on mercury at a global level from the side of the NGOs started in 2002 with the formation of this international coalition - Ban Hg WG, the 'Zero Mercury' Campaign will build on the work done so far and go even further.

Details on the campaign can be found at http://www.zeromercury.org/about_us/index.htm

Many thanks in for your interest!

Signed

Elena Lymberidi
Zero Mercury Campaign Project Coordinator
European Environmental Bureau

Signed

Michael Bender
Northern Representative/Director
Ban Hg WG/Mercury Policy Project