



European Policies to Phase-out Mercury in Healthcare

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European Environmental Bureau (EEB)

“The Global Movement for Mercury-free Healthcare” –
side event to OEWG 1 on Mercury, Wednesday 14 November, Bangkok



About the organisation



- The **European Environmental Bureau, (EEB)**, www.eeb.org, is a federation of over 150 environmental citizens' organisations based in all 27 EU Member States, and most candidate and potential candidate countries, as well as in a few neighbouring countries. These organisations range from local and national, to European and international. The aim of the EEB is to protect and improve the environment of Europe and to enable the citizens of Europe to play their part in achieving that goal.
- The **Zero Mercury Working group**, www.zeromercury.org, is an international coalition of 56 public interest non-governmental organizations in 33 countries from around the world formed in 2005 by the European Environmental Bureau and the Mercury Policy Project/Ban Mercury Working Group. The aim of the group is to reach 'Zero' emissions, demand and supply of mercury, from all sources we can control, towards eliminating mercury in the environment at EU level and globally."

The Zero Mercury Campaign started in November 2004; as Ban Mercury Working Group since 2002

www.zeromercury.org



Overview



- I. EU Level
- II. EU Member States
- III. Individual Hospitals
- IV. Future Developments



EU LEVEL



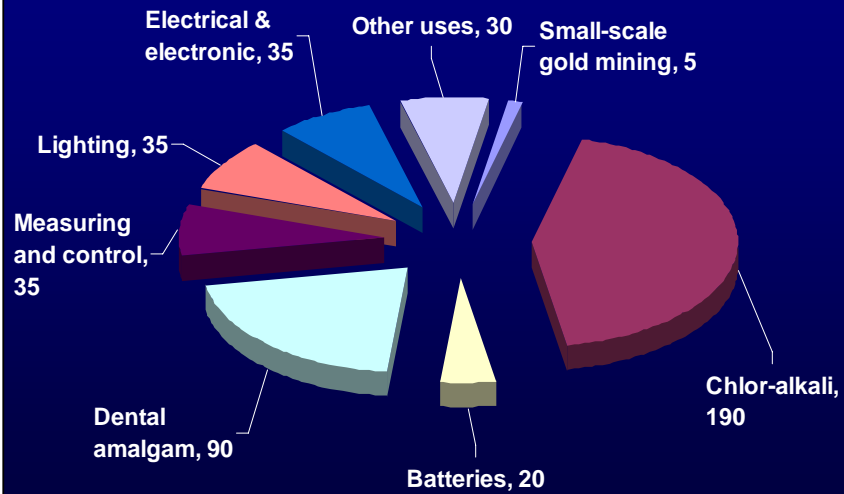
EU Mercury Strategy (Jan 2005)

20 ACTIONS in total to

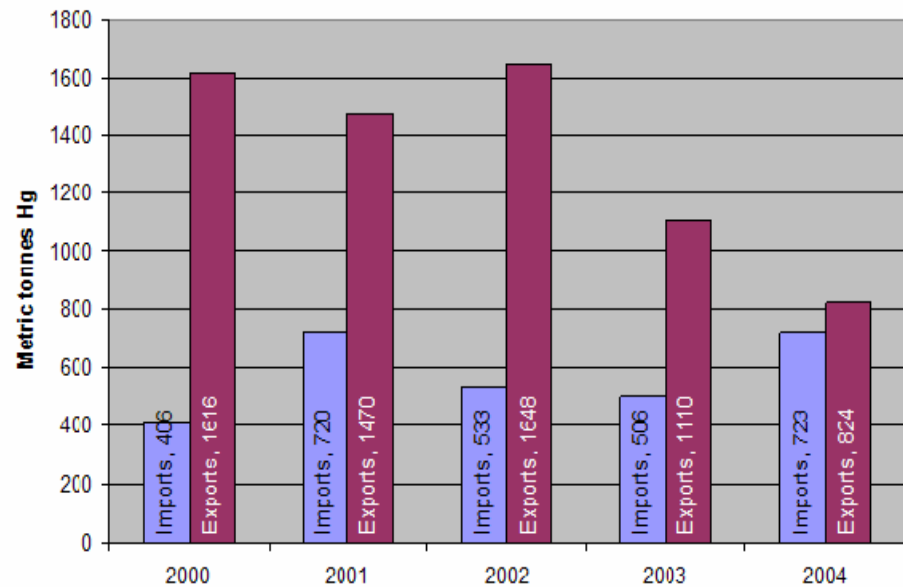
- Reduce emissions
- Reduce supply + demand
- Deal with surpluses & reservoirs
- Protect against exposure
- Improve understanding of problem
- Support & promote international action



2005 EU-25 mercury consumption (tonnes)



EU-25 external trade in elemental mercury (ref. COMTRADE statistics)



Mercury flows and safe storage of surplus mercury. August 2006, prepared for DG Environment by Concorde East/West Sprl



Mercury thermometer ban

- Directive 2007/51/EC regarding mercury in measuring and control devices
- Ban on new fever thermometers and other devices (e.g. sphygmomanometers) intended for sale to general public.
- Adopted 10 July, in force 3 October 2007
- MS have 12 months to transpose in national law (by October 2008) – measures apply by April 2009
- By October 2009 EC shall review availability of reliable safer alternatives for sphygmomanometers and other devices in healthcare and may present a legislative proposal to include them in the ban





EU Strategy Affecting Healthcare



EU Export Ban - First Reading

	Council	Parliament
<i>Date</i>	<i>Jul 2011</i>	<i>Dec 2010</i>
<i>Cinnabar</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>yes</i>
<i>Compounds</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>yes</i>
<i>Hg-cont. Products</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>yes</i>
<i>Tracking</i>	<i>yes*</i>	<i>yes</i>
<i>Stricter Nat.meas.</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>yes</i>



EU LEVEL



Other EU legislation

- Batteries directive [ban on sale of batteries containing $> 0.0005\%$ Hg p.w., button cells up to 2% Hg p.w. allowed]





Other EU legislation



- RoHS Directive revision

Restriction of Hazardous Substances (Hg, Pb, Cd, CrVI, PBB, PBDE) in Electric & Electronic Equipment

- Review – include medical devices, monitoring and control instruments?
- Study – proposes permanent OK for use in sensors, detectors and electrodes



EU Member States



Individual Government Rules

Mercury thermometer bans (pre-directive)

Sweden	Denmark	
France	Netherlands	Norway

Dental ban / restrictions

Sweden	Denmark	[Norway]
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Dental recommendations

Germany	Austria
France	Finland



Individual Hospitals



Czech Republic

- Estimated waste Hg: 300 to 1000 kg / yr
- Survey of 11 hospitals: approx 4 / bed / yr
- Hospital na Homolce, Prague - eliminated from wards since 2005-06

Austria

- Vienna Hospital Association and Vienna City (almost entirely mercury-free since 1990s)





Future developments



- Vaccines
- Existing products circulating in society



Sources



EU Mercury Strategy

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/chemicals/mercury>

Zero Mercury Campaign

www.zeromercury.org

HCWH Europe – Mercury

www.noharm.org/europe/mercury/issue

Stay Healthy, Stop Mercury Campaign

www.env-health.org/stopmercury



Thank you!

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