



**Environmental & Health NGOs' KEY DEMANDS on
Measuring & Control Equipment containing mercury**

Brussels, 4 June 2007

Dear Member of the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Committee,

Tomorrow, June 5th, you will be voting on measuring and control equipment containing mercury. We call on you to **vote in favour of the Council Common Position**, and against the proposed exemption for mercury-containing barometers.

Why?.....because as far as barometers are concerned:

1. The manufacturers can live without making mercury containing barometers. They can still continue their business manufacturing other products including mercury-free barometers which can fetch high prices. And they will still be allowed to repair existing ones.
2. Licensing and controlling the production of new mercury barometers does not solve the problem of the risk of contamination from breakages in private homes.
3. Consumers do not have an essential need for NEW mercury containing barometers, as the mercury-free alternatives are completely reliable, and come in a variety of esthetic forms. No new mercury barometers on the market means that both the public and the environment will be protected from the risk of breakages in private homes from an increasing number of devices. Respective high clean-up costs will also be avoided.
4. REACH does not allow for permanent exemptions of highly dangerous substances, why should barometers get one for mercury? Why should the barometer manufacturers have privileges that are not accorded to the thousands of other European SMEs dealing with chemicals of very high concern?
5. The compromise with Council provides for a transitional period which will allow manufacturers to phase out their production of mercury barometers, and increase the production of their mercury-free alternatives.

We don't believe that going into conciliation will bring any improvements to this legislation, and moreover it poses the risk of losing progress made on the other devices covered by the directive¹.

The World Health Organisation has concluded that there is **no safe level of mercury exposure**. We need to address all sources in order to safeguard people's health and the environment

Thank you in advance for your interest and support,

Yours sincerely,

John Hontelez
Secretary General
European Environmental Bureau
<http://www.eeb.org>

Genon Jensen
Executive Director
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¹Full argumentation on the letter sent to you on 7 May 2007,
http://www.zeromercury.org/EU_developments/070507NGOscmentsMeasDevicesENVlonCCP.pdf