

EEB and WAMIF Press Release: **Mercury ban in teeth of children and pregnant women, NGOs call**

A ban on the use of mercury in the dental fillings of children and pregnant women comes into effect on July 1, 2018.

Consumer and environmental groups are calling on EU Member States to require dentists to immediately phase out dental amalgam.

Mercury is a dangerous neurotoxin that pollutes the environment, gets taken up the food chain and can be passed on to children and pregnant women.

“With the ban to protect children and pregnant women, the World Alliance for Mercury-Free Dentistry (WAMIF) and the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) are pleased to see the EU decision for a dental amalgam ban. This is a significant step towards a mercury-free dentistry.”

Last year, the European Union adopted a new mercury regulation including a dental amalgam ban for children and pregnant women.

The new rules also require Member States to establish a national plan by July 1, 2019 to phase down dental amalgam use.

“The EU decision for a dental amalgam ban is a significant step towards a mercury-free dentistry. It is a positive signal for the public health and the environment. We are pleased to see the EU decision for a dental amalgam ban. This is a significant step towards a mercury-free dentistry.”

Given that dental amalgam is 50% mercury, the Minamata Convention on Mercury requires each party to phase out dental amalgam.

“The use of mercury in dental amalgam is the largest use of mercury in the Union and a significant source of mercury emissions. The ban on dental amalgam is a significant step towards a mercury-free dentistry and a mercury-free environment.”

The regulation also states that: “The training of dentistry students and dental practitioners on the use of dental amalgam should be based on the principle of substitution by mercury-free alternatives.”

Notes to the editor:

EU Regulation 2017/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2017 on mercury, and <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32017R0852-01&fromDoc=ed-4045-11e7-a9b0-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>

[EEB-WAMFD-Memo on Technical advantages of mercury free dentistry](#) , May 2016

Minamata Convention on [Mercury](http://mercuryconvention.org/)

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