

2025 FULL REPORTS OF THE MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

Report submitted on 28 December 2025

*Questions 3.3, 4.3 and 4.4 amended by Belgium on 16 February 2026



REPORTING PERIOD:

1 January 2021 to 31 December 2024

Attachments can be found on the website

▼ INFORMATION ON THE PARTY

1. Information on the party

Name of party

Belgium

Date on which its instrument of ratification, accession, approval or acceptance was deposited

26 February 2018

Date of entry into force of the Convention for the party

27 May 2018

2. Information on the national focal point

Full name of the institution

Federal Public Service Public Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment

Title of Contact Officer

Ms.

Name of Contact Officer

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3. Information about the contact officer submitting the reporting format if different from the above

Focal Point is submitting the national report

- ☒ Information is submitted by the national focal point
- ☐ Information is submitted through the national focal point by the contact officer

▼ ART. 3: MERCURY SUPPLY SOURCES AND TRADE

3.1: Does the party have any primary mercury mines that were operating within its territory at the date of entry into force of the Convention for the party?

- ☐ Yes – primary mercury mining with available data
- ☐ Yes – primary mercury mining with no available data
- ☒ No

3.2: Does the party have any primary mercury mines that are now in operation that were not in operation at the time of entry into force of the Convention for the party?

- ☐ Yes – primary mercury mining with available data
- ☐ Yes – primary mercury mining with no available data
- ☒ No

3.3: (A) Has the party endeavoured to identify individual stocks of mercury or mercury compounds exceeding 50 metric tons that are located within its territory?

3.3: (A) Has the party endeavoured to identify individual stocks of mercury or mercury compounds exceeding 50 metric tons that are located within its territory?

- ☒ Yes – with new data* (also to be selected by parties reporting for the first time)
- ☐ Yes – endeavoured and indicates same stocks as reported in the previous report
- ☐ No

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i. Please attach the results of your endeavour or indicate where it is available on the Internet;

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i. Please attach the results of your endeavour or indicate where it is available on the Internet;
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ii. Supplemental: Please provide any related information – for example, on the use or disposal of mercury from such stocks.

Nyrstar BV (operative in the municipality Balen) has informed the Flemish authorities that 210,8 T HgSe was produced, and 202 T HgSe is stored.

3.3: (B) Has the party endeavoured to identify individual sources of mercury–supply–generating stocks exceeding 10 metric tons per year that are located within its territory?

3.3:(B) Has the party endeavoured to identify individual sources of mercury–supply–generating stocks exceeding 10 metric tons per year that are located within its territory?

- ☐ Yes – with new data* (also to be selected by parties reporting for the first time)
- ☒ Yes – endeavoured and indicates same stocks as reported in the previous report
- ☐ No

3.4: Has the party determined that it has excess mercury available from the decommissioning of chlor-alkali facilities?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No – has determined it has no excess mercury
- ☐ No – has not made a determination

3.5: *Has the party received consent, or relied on a general notification of consent, in accordance with article 3, including any required certification from importing non–parties, for all exports of mercury from

the party's territory in the reporting period?

- ☐ Yes – exports to parties
- ☐ Yes – exports to non-parties
- ☒ No – no export took place
- ☐ No – consent was not given

3.6: Has the party allowed the import of mercury from a non-party?

- ☒ No
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ The importing party has relied on paragraph 7 of article 3

Part E – Additional comments on this article

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▼ ART. 4: MERCURY-ADDED PRODUCTS

4.1. Has the party taken any appropriate measures to not allow the manufacture, import or export of mercury-added products listed in Part I of Annex A of the Convention after the phase-out date specified for those products?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes (implementing paragraph 2 of article 4)

If yes, please provide information on the measures.

EU Mercury Regulation (Art. 5 , paragraph 1,2) + Annex II (Regulation (EU) 2017/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2017 on mercury, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1102/2008)

If yes, has the party registered for an exemption pursuant to article 6?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

4.3: (A) Has the party taken two or more measures listed in subparagraphs (i) to (ix) of part II of annex A for the mercury-added products listed in part II of annex A in accordance with the provisions set out therein?

4.3:(A) Has the party taken two or more measures listed in subparagraphs (i) to (ix) of part II of annex A for the mercury-added products listed in part II of annex A in accordance with the provisions set out therein?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

If yes, please provide information on the measures.

- EU Mercury Regulation (2017/852), Article 10 para 1, 2 and 3
- Decree of the Government of the Brussels-Capital Region of 25 September 1997 regulating the management of dental amalgam waste. Additional promotion of the use of best environmental practices in dental facilities to reduce releases of mercury and mercury compounds to water and soil.

4.3: (B) If the amendment to annex A adopted in decision MC-4/3 has entered into force for the party, has the party (please check the

appropriate box below) taken relevant measures:

4.3:(B) If the amendment to annex A adopted in decision MC-4/3 has entered into force for the party, has the party (please check the appropriate box below) taken relevant measures:

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not applicable

If the party answered yes please select from the bellow checkboxes

- ☐ Excluded or not allowed, by taking measures as appropriate, the use of mercury in bulk form by dental practitioners
- ☐ Excluded or not allowed, by taking measures as appropriate, or recommended against, the use of dental amalgam for the dental treatment of deciduous teeth of patients under 15 years of age and of pregnant and breastfeeding women, except when such use is considered necessary by the dental practitioner based on the needs of the patient

4.4: Has the party taken measures to prevent the incorporation into assembled products of mercury-added products whose manufacture, import and export are not allowed for it under article 4?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ No – not applicable (do not have facilities assembling products using mercury-added products)

If yes, please provide information on the measures.

EU Mercury Regulation Art 5(1;2) + Annex II

Belgium, as an EU Member State, is implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/852 and its Article 10 on Dental Amalgam and after the 13 June 2024, is implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/1849 amending Regulation (EU) 2017/852 on mercury as regards dental amalgam and other mercury-added products subject to export, import and manufacturing restrictions and its Article 10. Following the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2017 on mercury, a prohibition on the reimbursement of amalgam for primary teeth, for young people under 15 years of age, and for pregnant women has been in place in Belgium since 2018. The following text was introduced by the Royal

Decree of 27 June 2018 into Article 6 of the nomenclature: ‘Cavity fillings and restorations under the heading “conservative treatments”, performed on primary teeth or permanent teeth in young people under the age of fifteen using dental amalgam, are not eligible for reimbursement, unless the dental practitioner considers it strictly necessary due to a specific medical need of the patient. The justification for the use of amalgam must be kept by the practitioner in the patient’s file and may be requested for consultation by the advising physician. Cavity fillings and restorations under the heading “conservative treatments” for pregnant or breastfeeding women, performed using dental amalgam, are not eligible for reimbursement.’” For information, since the Regulation 2024/1849 adopted the 13 June 2024, Belgium has introduced a supplementary Royal Decree, to update the nomenclature of dental services into line with this European regulation, its Article 6 has been adapted. Compulsory health insurance is therefore no longer reimbursing dental amalgams.

4.5: Has the party discouraged the manufacture and the distribution in commerce of mercury-added products not covered by any known use in accordance with article 4, paragraph 6?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No – no action taken
- ☐ No – an assessment of the risks and benefits of the product demonstrates benefits to human health or the environment

If yes, please provide information on the measures.

EU Mercury Regulation Art 8 (paragraphs 1,2,3,4,5,6,7)

Part E – Additional comments on this article

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▼ ART. 5: MANUFACTURING PROCESSES IN WHICH MERCURY OR MERCURY COMPOUNDS ARE USED

5.1: Are there facilities within the territory of the party that use mercury or mercury compounds for the processes listed in Annex B of the Minamata Convention in accordance with paragraph 5 of article 5 of the Convention?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No
- ☐ Do not know

5.2: Are measures in place to not allow the use of mercury or mercury compounds in manufacturing processes listed in Part I of Annex B after the phase-out date specified in that Annex for the individual process?

CHLOR-ALKALI PRODUCTION

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not applicable (do not have these facilities)

If yes, please provide information on these measures.

This activity is covered by the EU Mercury regulation (art 7).

ACETALDEHYDE PRODUCTION IN WHICH MERCURY OR MERCURY COMPOUNDS ARE USED AS A CATALYST

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not applicable (do not have these facilities)

If yes, please provide information on these measures.

This activity is covered by the EU Mercury regulation (art 7).

5.3: Are measures in place to restrict the use of mercury or mercury compounds in the processes listed in Part II of Annex B in accordance with the provisions set out therein?

VINYL CHLORIDE MONOMER PRODUCTION

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not applicable (do not have these facilities)

If yes, please provide information on these measures.

Implementation by the EU Mercury regulation (art 7).

SODIUM OR POTASSIUM METHYLATE OR ETHYLATE

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not applicable (do not have these facilities)

If yes, please provide information on these measures.
Implementation by the EU Mercury regulation (art 7).

PRODUCTION OF POLYURETHANE USING MERCURY-CONTAINING CATALYSTS

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not applicable (do not have these facilities)

If yes, please provide information on these measures.
Implementation by the EU Mercury regulation (art 7).

5.4: Is there any use of mercury or mercury compounds in a facility using the manufacturing processes listed in Annex B that did not exist prior to the date of entry into force of the Convention for the party?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

5.5: Has the party discouraged the development of any facility using any other manufacturing process in which mercury or mercury compounds are intentionally used that did not exist prior to the date of entry into force of the Convention?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No – no action taken
- ☐ No – the party demonstrated to the Conference of the Parties the significant environmental and health benefits of the manufacturing process and that there are no technically and economically feasible mercury-free alternatives available providing such benefits.

If yes, please provide information on the measures taken.
Yes, article 8 of the Mercury Regulation cover those new manufacturing processes.

Part E – Additional comments on this article

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▼ ART. 7: ARTISANAL AND SMALL-SCALE GOLD MINING

7.1: Have steps been taken to reduce, and where feasible eliminate, the use of mercury and mercury compounds in, and the emissions and releases to the environment of mercury from, artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing subject to article 7 within your territory?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

☒ There is no artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing subject to article 7 in which mercury amalgamation is used in the territory

7.2: Has the party determined, and notified the secretariat, that artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing within its territory is more than insignificant?

☐ Yes

☒ No

7.5: Supplemental: Has the party cooperated with other countries or relevant intergovernmental organizations or other entities to achieve the objective of this article?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Please provide information

{Empty}

Part E – Additional comments on this article

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▼ ART. 8: EMISSIONS

8.1: Identify any Annex D source categories for which there are new sources of emissions of mercury or mercury compounds as defined in paragraph 2 (c) of article 8.

For each of those source categories describe the measures in place, including the effectiveness of such measures, to implement the requirements of paragraph 4 of article 8.

☐ Coal-fired power plants

☐ Coal-fired industrial boilers

☐ Smelting and roasting processes used in the production of non-ferrous metals

☐ Waste incineration facilities

☐ Cement clinker production facilities

Has the party required the use of best available techniques or best environmental practices (BAT/BEP) to control and where feasible reduce emissions for new sources no later than 5 years after the date of entry into force of the Convention for the party?

☐ Yes

☒ No (please explain)

No (please explain)

No new sources of emissions have been identified in Belgium.

8.2: Identify any Annex D source categories for which there are existing sources of emissions of mercury or mercury compounds as defined in paragraph 2 (e) of article 8.

For each of those source categories, select and provide details on the measures implemented under paragraph 5 of article 8 and explain the progress that these applied measures have achieved in reducing emissions over time in your territory:

▼ COAL-FIRED POWER PLANTS

- ☐ A quantified goal for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Emission limit values for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Use of BAT/BEP to control emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Multi-pollutant control strategy that would deliver co-benefits for control of mercury emissions
- ☐ Alternative measures to reduce emissions from relevant sources

Measures

{Empty}

Progress

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▼ COAL-FIRED INDUSTRIAL BOILERS

- ☐ A quantified goal for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Emission limit values for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Use of BAT/BEP to control emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Multi-pollutant control strategy that would deliver co-benefits for control of mercury emissions
- ☐ Alternative measures to reduce emissions from relevant sources

Measures

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Progress

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▼ SMELTING AND ROASTING PROCESSES USED IN THE PRODUCTION OF NON-FERROUS METALS

- ☐ A quantified goal for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Emission limit values for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Use of BAT/BEP to control emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Multi-pollutant control strategy that would deliver co-benefits for control of mercury emissions
- ☐ Alternative measures to reduce emissions from relevant sources

Measures

{Empty}

Progress

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▼ WASTE INCINERATION FACILITIES

- ☐ A quantified goal for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- ☒ Emission limit values for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- ☒ Use of BAT/BEP to control emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Multi-pollutant control strategy that would deliver co-benefits for control of mercury emissions
- ☐ Alternative measures to reduce emissions from relevant sources

Measures

Decree of the Government of the Brussels-Capital Region of 21 November 2002 on waste incineration; Directive 2010/75/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 November 2010 on industrial and livestock rearing emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control); Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/2010 of 12 November 2019 establishing the best available techniques (BAT) conclusions, under Directive 2010/75/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council, for waste incineration.

Progress

The environmental permit of the Brussels-Capital Region defines an emission limit value for mercury and its compounds, expressed as mercury (Hg). Following Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/2010, new BAT were incorporated into the environmental permit in December 2023 and the emission limit value was reduced from 0.05 to 0.02 mg/m³.

▼ CEMENT CLINKER PRODUCTION FACILITIES

- ☐ A quantified goal for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Emission limit values for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Use of BAT/BEP to control emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Multi-pollutant control strategy that would deliver co-benefits for control of mercury emissions
- ☐ Alternative measures to reduce emissions from relevant sources

Measures

{Empty}

Progress

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Have the measures for existing sources under paragraph 5 of article 8 been implemented no later than 10 years after the date of entry into force of the Convention for the party?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

8.3: Has the party prepared an inventory of emissions from relevant sources within 5 years of entry into force of the Convention for it?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

☐ Have not been a party for 5 years

If yes, when was the inventory last updated?

22 May 2025

Please indicate where this inventory is available

For the Brussels region: Only the household waste incinerator meets the criteria of "relevant sources". Last validated and published European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (E-PRTR) dates from 2022 (<https://app.bruxellesenvironnement.be/PRTR/FR/Detail.asp?code=Bxl06>). We also received data for 2023 and 2024 which were below the emission threshold requiring publication (i.e., 10 kg Hg/year): 0 kg/year for 2023 (all measurements being below the quantification threshold of 0.005 mg/Nm³) and 16 kg/year for 2024.

For Wallonia : <https://geoportail.wallonie.be/catalogue/c877a10c-80e8-4f88-8086-a5813af92999.html#:~:text=Le%20registre%20wallon%20des%20%C3%A9missions%20et%20des%20transferts>

Attach

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8.4: Has the party chosen to establish criteria to identify relevant sources covered within a source category?

☒ Yes

☐ No

If yes, please explain how the criteria for any category include at least 75 percent of the emissions from that category and explain how the party took into account guidance adopted by the Conference of the Parties.

This falls under the scope of the revised EU Industrial and Livestock Rearing Emissions Directive (IED 2.0) in combination with the EU Water Framework Directive and EU Environmental Quality Standards Directive (EQSD), that establishes maximum concentration levels of mercury in surface water bodies, sediment and biota.

8.5: Has the party chosen to prepare a national plan setting out the measures to be taken to control emissions from relevant sources and its expected targets, goals and outcomes?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Part E – Additional comments on this article

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▼ ART. 9: RELEASES

9.1: Are there, within the party's territory, relevant sources of releases as defined in paragraph 2 (b) of article 9?

☐ Yes

☒ No

☐ Do not know (please explain)

9.2: Has the party established an inventory of releases from relevant sources within 5 years of entry into force of the convention for it?

☐ Yes

☒ Relevant sources do not exist in the territory

☐ Have not been a party for 5 years

☐ No (please explain)

Part E – Additional comments on this article

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▼ ART. 10: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND INTERIM STORAGE OF MERCURY, OTHER THAN WASTE MERCURY

10.1: Has the party taken measures to ensure that the interim storage of non-waste mercury and mercury compounds intended for a use allowed to a party under the Convention is undertaken in an environmentally sound manner?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No (please explain)
- ☐ Do not know (please explain)

If yes, please indicate the measures taken to ensure that such interim storage is undertaken in an environmentally sound manner, and the effectiveness of those measures.

We have been informed about the following processing activities:

Indachem Solids: pre-treatment of 10,32 T HgSe

Indaver Rotary kilns: processing of 6,5 T of active carbon Hg

These activities are subject to the EU Mercury Regulation, article 7.

Part E – Additional comments on this article

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▼ ART. 11: MERCURY WASTES

11.1: Have measures outlined in article 11, paragraph 3, been implemented for the party's mercury waste?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

☒ Yes – the party has taken measures so that mercury waste is managed in an environmentally sound manner

Please describe measure and effectiveness of measures

The EU Mercury Regulation, article 11 is relevant for this activity.

Examples of such measures in Flanders are:

the collection of batteries (with mercury) via Bebat;

the selective collection of lamps, for recuperation and with separation of Hg compounds.

☐ Yes – the party has taken measures so that mercury waste is recovered, recycled, reclaimed or directly re-used for a use allowed to a party under the Convention or for environmentally sound disposal pursuant to paragraph 3 (a)

☒ Yes – the party has taken measures so that mercury waste is not transported across international boundaries except for the purpose of environmentally sound disposal

Please describe measure and effectiveness of measures

We would only allow exports if the mercury waste is landfilled or stored in deep underground facilities such as those operated by K + S Minerals (whether or not after pre-treatment to separate the mercury from other, potentially recyclable waste).

We have been informed about the following waste exports:

Vynova BE: 11,94 T mercury-containing sludge from a water treatment facility was exported to K&S Germany;

Nyrstar BV: 121,2 T of mercury waste was exported to and stored underground at K+S in Germany;

Suez R&R BE Services: 50.019 T was exported to Batrec Industrie in Switzerland;

Umicore: 45T to K&S Germany;

Sortbat: 50 T of mixed button cells containing mercury & primary Li batteries have been exported by Sortbat to Baltrec in Switzerland;

Sortbat: another export of 24,954T was intended to Baltrec Switzerland, but 22T has not been confirmed.

If the party answered yes to any measures above, please describe the measures implemented pursuant to paragraph 3, and please also describe the effectiveness of those measures.

Mercury-containing lamps and mercury-containing batteries are collected by a non-profit association (Recupel), more information on Help reduce waste volume: repair, re-use and recycle | Recupel ;

Dental amalgams from dental offices are captured via filtration devices and are collected via hazardous waste collectors.

11.2: *Are there facilities for final disposal of waste consisting of mercury or mercury compounds in the party's territory?

☒ Yes

☐ No

☐ Do not know (please explain)

If the party answered yes to any measures above, please select from the following

☐ Yes – there are facilities in the party's territory

☒ Yes – there are facilities outside the party's territory accessible to the party (in accordance with paragraph 5 of article 11)

Kindly attach any additional relevant information

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Part E – Additional comments on this article

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▼ ART. 12: CONTAMINATED SITES

12.1: Has the party endeavoured to develop strategies for identifying and assessing sites contaminated by mercury or mercury compounds in its territory?

☒ Yes

☐ No

Please elaborate

Potentially mercury-contaminated sites were identified and mapped between 2002 and 2015 based on various sources, including environmental permits. Whenever one of these sites is the subject of an environmental permit, planning permit, sale, transfer or termination of environmental permit request, there is an obligation on the part of the operator or selling owner to carry out a soil condition survey. In the event of pollution, additional studies must be carried out to determine the need and urgency to treat the pollution. If treatment is necessary, there is an obligation to submit a remediation/risk management project to Brussels Environment (the administration for the environment and energy of the Brussels-Capital Region) and as soon as Brussels Environment's agreement is given, the work must be carried out and the soil pollution expert must prepare a report of the work (= final evaluation).

Flanders has broader strategies that include sites contaminated by mercury or mercury compounds (but these strategies are not dedicated to only mercury), eg "Bodemdecreet" en bijhorende uitvoeringsbesluiten (Soil Act and implementation decisions), "bodemsaneringsdecreet" (Soil Remediation Decree).

In Wallonia, it is covered by the Soil Decree of 1st of March 2018 which considers all kind of pollutants and includes several definitions (including soil pollution, site, polluted site, potentially polluted site) and an inventory of (potentially) contaminated sites (the Soil Status Database – « Banque de Données de l'Etat des Sols (BDES) »).

Part E – Additional comments on this article

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▼ ART. 13: FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND MECHANISM

13.1: Has the party undertaken to provide, within its capabilities, resources in respect of those national activities that are intended to implement the Convention in accordance with its national policies, priorities, plans and programmes?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Please specify

No specific funding is going to actions dealing with mercury. However, broader strategies and action plans cover mercury;

13.2: Supplemental: Has the party, within its capabilities, contributed to the mechanism referred to in paragraph 5 of article 13?

☒ Yes

☐ No

Please provide comments, if any.

Belgium has contributed to GEF 7 and GEF 8. We cannot however identify to fraction of this budget allocated to Minamata.

13.3: Supplemental: Has the party provided financial resources to assist developing-country parties and/or parties with economies in transition in the implementation of the Convention through other bilateral, regional and multilateral sources or channels?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Please specify

We did not identify voluntary contributions from Belgium. It is a political and budgetary choice. Belgium identified other priorities in terms on international development cooperation and international efforts to protect the climate and environment.

Please provide comments, if any.

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Part E – Additional comments on this article

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▼ ART. 14: CAPACITY-BUILDING, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

14.1: Has the party cooperated to provide capacity-building or technical assistance, pursuant to article 14, to another party to the Convention?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Please specify

We did not identify such data, neither to our knowledge nor in our database.

14.2: Supplemental: Has the party received capacity-building or technical assistance pursuant to article 14?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Please specify

We did not identify such data, neither to our knowledge nor in our database.

Please provide comments, if any.

{Empty}

14.3: Has the party promoted and facilitated the development, transfer and diffusion of and access to, up-to-date environmentally sound alternative technologies?

☐ Yes

☒ No

☐ Other

Please specify

We did not identify such data, neither to our knowledge nor in our database.

Part E – Additional comments on this article

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▼ ART. 16: HEALTH ASPECTS

16.1: Have measures been taken to provide information to the public on exposure to mercury in accordance with paragraph 1 of article 16?

☒ Yes

☐ No

Supplemental: If yes, describe the measures that have been taken.

Federal Public Service website pages to inform the public :

<https://www.health.belgium.be/en/professionals/enterprises/environment/regulation-chemicals-chemical-products/authorisations-restrictions/heavy-metals>

16.2: Have any measures been taken to protect human health in accordance with article 16 beyond the provision of information to the public on exposure to mercury (referred to in question 16.1)?

☒ Yes

☐ No

Supplemental: If yes, describe the measures that have been taken.

It is implemented via several regulations: medical devices EU Regulation ; workers protection; concentration limit contaminant in food EU legislation ; ...

Part E – Additional comments on this article

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▼ **ART. 17: INFORMATION EXCHANGE**

17.1: Has the party facilitated the exchange of information referred to in article 17, paragraph 1?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Part E – Additional comments on this article

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▼ **ART. 18: PUBLIC INFORMATION, AWARENESS AND EDUCATION**

18.1: Have measures been taken to promote and facilitate the provision to the public of the kinds of information listed in article 18, paragraph 1?

☒ Yes

☐ No

If yes, the party may wish to indicate in the space provided below, the measures it has taken to promote and facilitate information to the public, such as:

(a) Provision to the public of available information on:

☒ The effects of mercury and mercury compounds on human health and the environment

The effects of mercury and mercury compounds on human health and the environment

The Belgian authorities have provided information to the public on several web pages, such as <https://www.health.belgium.be/en/professionals/enterprises/environment/regulation-chemicals-chemical-products/authorisations-restrictions/heavy-metals> , or <https://www.departementzorg.be/nl/hormoonverstorende-stof/methylkwik> , <https://environnement.brussels/pro/reglementation-et-inspection/obligations-et-autorisations/les-dechets-de-mercure-dans-les-cabinets-dentaires?highlight=mercure> ,

☒ Alternatives to mercury and mercury compounds

Alternatives to mercury and mercury compounds

The Belgian authorities have provided information to the public on several web pages, such as <https://www.health.belgium.be/en/professionals/enterprises/environment/regulation-chemicals-chemical-products/authorisations-restrictions/heavy-metals> , or <https://www.departementzorg.be/nl/hormoonverstorende-stof/methylkwik> , <https://environnement.brussels/pro/reglementation-et-inspection/obligations-et-autorisations/les-dechets-de-mercure-dans-les-cabinets-dentaires?highlight=mercure> ,

- ☐ The topics identified in paragraph 1 of article 17
- ☐ The results of its research, development and monitoring activities under article 19
- ☒ Activities to meet its obligations under the Convention

Activities to meet its obligations under the Convention

The Belgian authorities have provided information to the public on several web pages, such as <https://www.health.belgium.be/en/professionals/enterprises/environment/regulation-chemicals-chemical-products/authorisations-restrictions/heavy-metals> , or <https://www.departementzorg.be/nl/hormoonverstorende-stof/methylkwik> , <https://environnement.brussels/pro/reglementation-et-inspection/obligations-et-autorisations/les-dechets-de-mercure-dans-les-cabinets-dentaires?highlight=mercure> ,

(b) Education, training and public awareness related to the effects of exposure to mercury and mercury compounds on human health and the environment in collaboration with relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and vulnerable populations, as appropriate.

Activities to meet its obligations under the Convention

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(Art. 18 (1) (a) and (b))

Part E – Additional comments on this article

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▼ ART. 19: RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND MONITORING

19.1: Has the party undertaken any research, development and monitoring in accordance with paragraph 1 of article 19?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

If yes, the party may wish to indicate in the space provided below, the research, development and monitoring it has undertaken, such as:

- ☒ Inventories of use, consumption, anthropogenic emissions to air and releases to water and land of mercury and mercury compounds

Inventories of use, consumption, anthropogenic emissions to air and releases to water and land of mercury and mercury compounds

Monitoring of mercury and mercury compounds in water (water column, sediment, biota) following the Water Framework Directive and EQS Directive, and monitoring of mercury and mercury compounds in soil

Inventories of anthropogenic mercury emissions and pathways to surface waters following the Water Framework Directive and included in Annex II of Brussels River Basin Management Plan

- ☐ Modelling and geographically representative monitoring of levels of mercury and mercury compounds in vulnerable populations and in environmental media, including biotic media such as fish, marine mammals, sea turtles and birds, as well as collaboration in the collection and exchange of relevant and appropriate samples
- ☐ Assessments of the impact of mercury and mercury compounds on human health and the environment, in addition to social, economic and cultural impacts, particularly in respect of vulnerable populations
- ☐ Harmonized methodologies for the activities undertaken under subparagraphs (a), (b) and (c) of paragraph 1 of article 19
- ☐ Information on the environmental cycle, transport (including long-range transport and deposition), transformation and fate of mercury and mercury compounds in a range of ecosystems,

taking appropriate account of the distinction between anthropogenic and natural emissions and releases of mercury and of remobilization of mercury from historic deposition

☐ Information on commerce and trade in mercury and mercury compounds and mercury-added products

☐ Information and research on the technical and economic availability of mercury-free products and processes and on best available techniques and best environmental practices to reduce and monitor emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds

(Art. 19 (1) (a)–(g))

Part E – Additional comments on this article

The ongoing 2022–2027 Flemish Human Biomonitoring includes monitoring of mercury but data are not published yet.

PARC is conducting research other than Human Biomonitoring on mercury but those are mix of data from several countries and we don't know how Belgian data are used.

Monitoring also available on this website: <https://geoportail.wallonie.be/catalogue/c877a10c-80e8-4f88-8086-a5813af92999.html#:~:text=Le%20registre%20wallon%20des%20%C3%A9missions%20et%20des%20transfers>

▼ COMMENTS REGARDING POSSIBLE CHALLENGES IN MEETING THE OBJECTIVES OF THE CONVENTION

Part C: Comments regarding possible challenges in meeting the objectives of the Convention

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▼ COMMENTS REGARDING THE REPORTING FORMAT AND POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENTS, IF ANY

Comments regarding the reporting format and possible improvements, if any

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