2025 FULL REPORTS OF THE MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

Report submitted on 4 February 2026

REPORTING PERIOD:
1 January 2021 to 31 December 2024

▼ INFORMATION ON THE PARTY

1. Information on the party

Name of party
Cyprus

Date on which its instrument of ratification, accession, approval or acceptance was deposited
25 February 2020

Date of entry into force of the Convention for the party
25 May 2020

2. Information on the national focal point

Full name of the institution
Department of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment

Title of Contact Officer
Ms.

Name of Contact Officer
Aglaia Georgaka

Mailing address
ageorgaka@environment.moa.gov.cy

Telephone number
0035722408966

Fax number
{Empty}

E-mail
cyprus@localhost.com

Second E-mail
ageorgaka@environment.moa.gov.cy

Web page
{Empty}

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

If the party answered no to the question, please explain.
Have not endeavored to identify the above since the Cypriot authorities know that we do not have in our territory such quantities of mercury

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

If the party answered no to the question, please explain.
Have not endeavored to identify the above since the Cypriot authorities know that we do not have in our territory such quantities of mercury

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.

The provisions of the European Regulation (EU) 2017/852 on mercury apply in Cyprus. Under this Regulation, the Competent Authority in Cyprus is prohibiting the export, import and manufacturing of mercury-added set out in Annex II.
1. The provisions of the European Regulation (EU) 2017/852 on mercury apply in Cyprus. Under this Regulation, the Competent Authority in Cyprus is prohibiting the export, import and manufacturing of mercury-added set out in Annex II. The provisions are monitored in close collaboration with the Customs Authorities.
2. REACH Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 provisions apply. Hence, the Cyprus Competent and Enforcing Authority prohibits the manufacture, placing on the market and use of specific phenylmercury compounds known to be used as catalysts in the production of polyurethane, as well as, the use of other mercury-containing catalysts also used in polyurethane production. Mercury is also restricted under REACH (point 18a) in relation to the use of fever thermometers and other measuring devices.
3. Under the PIC Regulation (EU) 649/2012 the export of mercury containing pesticides is banned.
4. Cyprus legislature provides for sanctions in cases of infringements and ensures their effective implementation.

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.

In compliance with the EU Regulation (EU) 2017/852on Mercury the following measures were taken:
1. Setting national objectives aiming at dental caries prevention and health promotion, thereby minimizing the need for dental restoration.
2. Setting national objectives aiming at minimizing its use.
3. Encouraging representative professional organizations and dental schools to educate and train dental professionals and students on the use of mercury-free dental restoration alternatives and on promoting best management practices.
4. Restricting the use of dental amalgam to its encapsulated form.
5. Promoting the use of best environmental practices in dental facilities to reduce releases of mercury and mercury compounds to water and land.
During the year 2020, an information campaign for the dental facilities was performed by Cypriot authorities, about their liabilities against European Regulation (EU) 2017/852 and the ban on use of dental amalgam.
An information leaflet was also published for the ban on use of dental amalgam.

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

- [x] Excluded or not allowed, by taking measures as appropriate, the use of mercury in bulk form by dental practitioners
- [x] 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

If the party answered yes to either option above, please provide information on the measures.
Dental amalgam is only allowed to be used in encapsulated form.
Recommendations against the use of den□tal amalgam for the dental treatment of deciduous teeth, of patients under 15 years and of preg□nant and breastfeeding women, except when considered necessary by the dental practitioner based on the needs of the patient, have been sent to all dentists.

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)

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.

The provisions of the European Regulation (EU) 2017/852 on mercury apply in Cyprus. Under this Regulation, the Competent Authority in Cyprus is prohibiting the export, import and manufacturing of mercury-added set out in Annex II.

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)

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

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ◉ Not applicable (do not have these facilities)

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)

SODIUM OR POTASSIUM METHYLATE OR ETHYLATE

- ○ Yes
- ○ No

◉ Not applicable (do not have these facilities)

PRODUCTION OF POLYURETHANE USING MERCURY-CONTAINING CATALYSTS

○ Yes

○ No

◉ Not applicable (do not have these facilities)

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.

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
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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)
Cyprus has not in its territory new sources in any of the source categories listed in Annex D.

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
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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
{Empty}

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
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Progress
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▼ WASTE INCINERATION FACILITIES

- [ ] A quantified goal for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- [x] Emission limit values for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- [x] 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

There is one installation in Cyprus which is permitted according to the Industrial Emissions (Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control) Law of 2013 and amendments, which implements the EU Industrial Emissions Directive.
Permitting is in accordance with requirements of the aforementioned Law and Directive and the accompanying BAT/BRef process (and all relevant environmental quality standards and AELs). Permitted installation is subject to requirements for compliance assessment (inspection, data
reporting and analysis, review and enforcement where required).

Progress
For the period 2021-2024 waste incineration process was out of operation.

▼ CEMENT CLINKER PRODUCTION FACILITIES

- [ ] A quantified goal for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- [x] Emission limit values for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- [x] 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
There is one installation in Cyprus and is permitted according to the Industrial Emissions (Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control) Law of 2013 and amendments, which implements the EU Industrial Emissions Directive.
Permitting is in accordance with requirements of the aforementioned Law and Directive and the accompanying BAT/BRef process (and all relevant environmental quality standards and AELs). Permitted installation is subject to requirements for compliance assessment (inspection, data
reporting and analysis, review and enforcement where required).

Progress
The periodic measurements of Hg that were held in the installation from 2021 to 2024 are shown below:

a/a Date Hg(mg/Nm3)
1 27.10.2021 0.000639
2 11.11.2022 0.00354
3 13.11.2023 0.00175
4 3.12.2024 0.00310

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?
20 December 2024

Please indicate where this inventory is available
1. CDR Eionet portal at the following link:
https://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/cy/un/clrtap/inventories/envyeskca/
Last updated : 14/02/2025
2. Pollutant Release and Transfer Register
http://www.prtr.dli.mlsi.gov.cy/
Last updated : 20.12.2024

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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.
Relevant sources are identified by the implementation of the national laws harmonizing the IED and EIA EU Directives.

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)

When was the inventory last updated?
24 December 2024

Please indicate where this inventory is available.
{Empty}

Please explain
http://prtr.dli.mlsi.gov.cy/

Part E - Additional comments on this article

The national Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) helps providing information about releases of pollutants to air, water and soil.
This data is publicly available on Internet: http://prtr.dli.mlsi.gov.cy/

▼ 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 no, please explain
Cyprus does not have locations that store mercury and mercury compounds in its territory

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
1. Cyprus is member of Basel Convention, following its provisions.
2. Cyprus follows the provisions of European Regulation (EU) 2017/852 on mercury.

☐ 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

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.
According to article 22A of the National Law on Waste 185(I)/2011, treatment of mercury waste and waste mercury compounds from any of the major sources referred to in paragraphs a), b), c) and d) of Article 11 of Regulation (EU) 2017/852 shall be carried out in a manner that does not lead to any recovery of mercury.

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)

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
The party has not endeavored to develop such a strategy as there are not facilities such chlor-alkali facilities, artisanal and small-scale gold mining sites. Moreover, there is no evidence regarding waste management activities, stack emissions, fugitive emissions and/or spills and emergency incidents that could lead to mercury contamination of a specific site.

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
Financial, technical, capacity-building and technology transfer support provided in relation to the following activities:

A. Human Biomonitoring (HBM) of Mercury at European and National level
The Republic of Cyprus has provided national co-funding to support the participation of the State General Laboratory of the Ministry of Health (SGL/MoH-CY) in the European Joint Programme "The European Human Biomonitoring Initiative (HBM4EU)", implemented during the period 2017-2022 with the participation of 30 European countries.
Cyprus served as the Chemical Group Leader for Mercury (CGL-Hg) within HBM4EU. In this role, Cyprus led and contributed to a range of scientific and policy-oriented activities aimed at addressing knowledge gaps relevant to the protection of public and occupational health from mercury exposure.
Cyprus continues to provide national co-financing for mercury-related human biomonitoring activities under the ongoing European Partnership for the Assessment of Risks from Chemicals (PARC, Horizon Europe, 2022-2028), with a national co-financing rate of 50%.
Through participation in these European initiatives, Cyprus has strengthened national capacity, scientific expertise, data availability, and international networking, and has established a sustainable mechanism for evidence-based policy support using human biomonitoring.

B. Monitoring of Mercury at Sources of Exposure
The Republic of Cyprus provides national funding for the implementation of Annual Official Monitoring and Control Programmes for mercury across key sources of exposure, including the food chain, water bodies and ambient air, in accordance with relevant national and European legislation. These monitoring activities are carried out by the national competent authorities in close collaboration with the State General Laboratory and contribute to the systematic assessment and management of mercury exposure risks.

C. Risk Assessment and Development / Communication of Dietary Guidelines for Pregnant Women for Prenatal Control of Mercury Exposure
National resources are allocated to support dietary mercury risk assessments based on national data on mercury occurrence in foodstuffs—particularly fish and seafood—and on consumption patterns of the Cypriot population.
In addition, total mercury exposure and risk assessments are conducted using human biomonitoring data. The results of these assessments have been used to develop, validate and communicate evidence-based dietary guidelines for pregnant women, supporting the prevention of prenatal mercury exposure and the protection of maternal and child health.

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.
Cyprus contributed for the General Trust Fund, but not for the Special Trust Fund

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
As Cyprus is a small country and new member of Minamata Convention has not provided any financial resources.

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
1.Harmonized, quality-assured human biomonitoring
The following relevant policy questions on mercury in the frame of the European Human Biomonitoring Initiative, HBM4EU, were identified by the Cypriot Chemical Group Leader for mercury (CGL-Hg) and were addressed by HBM4EU partners:
-How effective are policy actions (including the Minamata Convention) to reduce human exposure to mercury in Europe?
-How can harmonized, validated and comparable information be collected and transferred to

support and evaluate current policies?
The CGL-Hg and the European Environment Agency presented the HBM4EU work on mercury during a “Knowledge Lab” (on “Mercury in the European Environment and Population”) at the Minamata COP2 (November 2018). They also discussed with WHO how HBM4EU could contribute towards the global harmonization of mercury biomonitoring in humans and had bilateral discussions with interested non-European parties about possible provision of training or other support.
Though the provision of direct trainings by HBM4EU to non-partners was not feasible, the tools, which were developed by HBM4EU to support the implementation of harmonized, quality assured human biomonitoring of mercury are available for free to all interested Parties, on the HBM4EU webpage (https://www.hbm4eu.eu/). These tools include Standard Operating Procedures (e.g., for recruitment, samplings, development of communication materials), Standardized Documents (e.g. Questionnaires, communication materials for participants, including informed consent), Lists of qualified laboratories, information about preferred biomarkers and matrices for human biomonitoring, etc.). The results of HBM4EU activities on mercury are also made available to interested parties on the HBM4EU webpage and in open access publications. Human biomonitoring data on mercury, developed in the frame of HBM4EU are accessible on the Information Platform for Chemical Monitoring of the European Commission, “IPCheM” (https://ipchem.jrc.ec.europa.eu/).
2.Dietary exposure assessment
The State General Laboratory of the Ministry of Health (SGL/MOH-CY) developed a user-friendly a web application tool for the conduction of dietary exposure assessment (“ImproRisk”, http://www.improrisk.com/). Improrisk works with FoodEx2, a standardized system for classifying and describing food. The tool has been used at SGL/MOH-CY for the assessment of the risk for Cypriots from the diet. The tool is available for free to all interested parties, upon request and associated training can be arranged. In 2020, a virtual training workshop was provided by the SGL/MOH-CY to Montenegro.
3. Actions were taken by the competent authorities, in compliance with the European Regulation (EU) 852/2017 on Mercury, regarding the dental amalgams.

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

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Please specify
Cyprus has not received capacity-building or technical assistance from another party.

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
Cyprus has not promoted and facilitated the development, transfer and diffusion of and access to, up-to-date environmentally sound alternative technologies

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.
The Republic of Cyprus has implemented several measures to provide information to the public on exposure to mercury, particularly to vulnerable populations, in alignment with Article 16(1).
1. HBM4EU-MOM study (2020-2022)
- In the frame of the European partnership "The European Human Biomonitoring Initiative, HBM4EU", Cyprus coordinated the HBM4EU-MOM study ("Methylmercury-contrOl in expectant Mothers through suitable dietary advice for pregnancy") across five countries (Cyprus, Greece, Spain, Portugal, Iceland) to assess mercury exposure in pregnant women. (reference: Katsonouri et al. HBM4EU-MOM: Prenatal methylmercury-exposure control in five countries through suitable dietary advice for pregnancy - Study design and characteristics of participants. Int J Hyg Environ Health. 2023 Jul;252:114213. doi: 10.1016/j.ijheh.2023.114213. Epub 2023 Jun 30. PMID: 37393843.).
- Personal results were provided to each participant and her gynaecologist, together with evidence-based dietary advice to reduce prenatal mercury exposure while maintaining nutritional balance.
o Dietary advice was harmonized across the five countries and communicated to participating pregnant women (N>650) using specially developed materials, including traffic-light categorization of seafood (green: preferred, orange: occasional, red: to avoid), taking into account national dietary habits.
o Communication was supported by leaflets, posters, wallet cards, and web content, and disseminated through health professionals, workshops, and professional associations. The advice was validated for effectiveness using human biomonitoring data.
2. Ongoing PARC partnership (2022-2029)
- Cyprus provides participants in human biomonitoring studies (general population and workers in plastics and WEEE recycling) with information on their personal mercury exposure and guidance for exposure reduction.
3. Additional public awareness materials
- Guidance leaflets on safe handling of mercury-containing devices (thermometers, energy-saving lamps) were developed and distributed to the public.
These measures ensure that the public receives clear, actionable information on mercury exposure, sources, health risks, and preventive measures.

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.
Beyond providing information, Cyprus has implemented measures to directly reduce human exposure to mercury, particularly for vulnerable populations:
1. Prenatal exposure control through dietary intervention
- The HBM4EU-MOM study enabled targeted intervention for pregnant women, providing personalized guidance to reduce methylmercury exposure from seafood consumption.
- Health professionals were engaged in sustainable risk communication, helping to overcome barriers for pregnant women in following the dietary advice.
2. Analytical capacity for human exposure assessment
- Within the PARC framework, Cyprus developed and validated an in-house analytical method for measuring human mercury exposure.
- This method is applied for monitoring children, adults of reproductive age, and occupationally exposed workers, enabling timely identification of elevated exposures and personalized recommendations for exposure reduction.
3. Integration with policy and health systems
- Study results and validated dietary advice were adopted by the Ministry of Health for health care guidance for pregnant women.
- Mercury exposure monitoring in occupational settings (plastic and WEEE recycling) allows early interventions to prevent elevated exposure among workers.
These measures, combining personalized guidance, professional engagement, analytical monitoring,

and policy integration, demonstrate Cyprus' proactive approach to protect human health from mercury exposure.

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

If yes, the Party may wish to indicate in the space provided below the exchange of information it has facilitated, such as:

☐ Scientific, technical, economic and legal information concerning mercury and mercury compounds, including toxicological, ecotoxicological and safety information

☐ Information on the reduction or elimination of the production, use, trade, emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds

☐ Information on technically and economically viable alternatives to:

☐ Epidemiological information concerning health impacts associated with exposure to mercury and mercury compounds, in close cooperation with the World Health Organization and other relevant organizations, as appropriate. (Art. 17.1 (a)-(d))

Part E - Additional comments on this article

The Republic of Cyprus has actively facilitated the exchange of scientific, technical and epidemiological information on mercury at European and international level, as outlined below.
1. Exchange of scientific, technical and epidemiological information on mercury and its health impacts
As a partner in the European Human Biomonitoring Initiative (HBM4EU, 2017-2022) and Chemical Group Leader for Mercury (CGL-Hg), Cyprus played a leading role in the collection, generation and dissemination of epidemiological and exposure data on mercury, as well as in translating scientific findings into policy-relevant outputs.
Key information products include:
• An extensive Scoping Document on Mercury, updated annually throughout the HBM4EU project;
• Multiple technical deliverables suitable biological matrices and methodological aspects, exposure data, risk assessment approaches and health effects, publicly accessible via the zenodo repository (https://zenodo.org/);
• A comprehensive Substance Report on Mercury, synthesizing HBM4EU results on mercury;
• A Policy Brief on Mercury, summarizingHBM4EU policy-relevant findings to support decision-making;
• Numerous peer-reviewed open-access scientific publications, addressing mercury exposure, health effects and risk assessment, including prenatal exposure and vulnerable populations (selected examples listed below).
These outputs facilitated wide access to harmonized scientific and epidemiological information on mercury exposure and associated health impacts across Europe and beyond.
2. Exchange of information on mercury exposure and risk reduction measures
Within HBM4EU, Cyprus contributed to:
• The collection of existing mercury biomonitoring data across Europe; and
• The generation of new data on mercury exposure among pregnant women in five European countries (Cyprus, Greece, Spain, Portugal and Iceland), through the HBM4EU-MOM study coordinated by Cyprus. The results supported the development and validation of evidence-based dietary advice aimed at reducing prenatal exposure to methylmercury, thereby contributing to information exchange on effective exposure reduction strategies.

3. Cooperation with international organizations and capacity-building

Cyprus supported international information exchange and capacity-building by:
• Contributing to the development of the WHO Regional Office for Europe educational course on Human Biomonitoring, strengthening knowledge transfer and technical capacity among public health professionals across countries;
• Participating as a speaker in the Minamata Convention Secretariat's online session on health risk communication (7 December 2022);
• Co-organizing and delivering an online side event at COP-4.2 (9 March 2022) entitled "Can human biomonitoring, combined with fish consumption advice to pregnant women, help to control prenatal exposure to mercury?"
These activities facilitated the dissemination of scientific evidence and best practices related to mercury risk assessment and health communication.

4. Exchange of data on mercury in the food chain within the European Union
As a Member State of the European Union, Cyprus facilitates the exchange of scientific and technical information on mercury in food through close cooperation with the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). The State General Laboratory of the Ministry of Health:
• Participates in EFSA's Advisory Forum and relevant scientific and communication networks;
• Hosts the National Focal Point to EFSA; and
• Regularly submits harmonized data on mercury occurrence in food and food consumption to EFSA.
This contributes to EU-wide risk assessments and supports evidence-based policy development related to mercury exposure via diet.

Selected scientific publications from HBM4EU:
(i) Katsonouri A, Gabriel C, Esteban López M, Namorado S, Halldorsson TI, Snoj Tratnik J, Rodriguez Martin L, Karakoltzidis A, Chatzimpaloglou A, Giannadaki D, Anastasi E, Thoma A, Domínguez-Morueco N, Cañas Portilla AI, Jacobsen E, Assunção R, Peres M, Santiago S, Nunes C, Pedraza-Diaz S, Iavicoli I, Leso V, Lacasaña M, González-Alzaga B, Horvat M, Sepai O, Castano A, Kolossa-Gehring M, Karakitsios S, Sarigiannis D. HBM4EU-MOM: Prenatal methylmercury-exposure control in five countries through suitable dietary advice for pregnancy - Study design and characteristics of participants. Int J Hyg Environ Health. 2023 Jul;252:114213. doi: 10.1016/j.ijheh.2023.114213. Epub 2023 Jun 30. PMID: 37393843.
(ii) Vorkamp K, Esteban López M, Gilles L, Göen T, Govarts E, Hajeb P, Katsonouri A, Knudsen LE, Kolossa-Gehring M, Lindh C, Nübler S, Pedraza-Díaz S, Santonen T, Castaño A. Coordination of chemical analyses under the European Human Biomonitoring Initiative (HBM4EU): Concepts, procedures and lessons learnt. Int J Hyg Environ Health. 2023 Jun;251:114183. doi: 10.1016/j.ijheh.2023.114183. Epub 2023 May 4. PMID: 37148759.
(iii) Capitão C, Martins R, Santos O, Bicho M, Szigeti T, Katsonouri A, Bocca B, Ruggieri F, Wasowicz W, Tolonen H, Virgolino A. Exposure to heavy metals and red blood cell parameters in children: A systematic review of observational studies. Front Pediatr. 2022 Oct 6;10:921239. doi: 10.3389/fped.2022.921239. PMID: 36275050; PMCID: PMC9583003.
(iv) Domínguez-Morueco N, Pedraza-Díaz S, González-Caballero MDC, Esteban-López M, de Alba-González M, Katsonouri A, Santonen T, Cañas-Portilla A, Castaño A. Methylmercury Risk Assessment Based on European Human Biomonitoring Data. Toxics. 2022 Jul 28;10(8):427. doi: 10.3390/toxics10080427. PMID: 36006106; PMCID: PMC9416112.
(v) Moore S, Paalanen L, Melymuk L, Katsonouri A, Kolossa-Gehring M, Tolonen H. The Association between ADHD and Environmental Chemicals-A Scoping Review. Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2022 Mar 1;19(5):2849. doi: 10.3390/ijerph19052849. PMID: 35270544; PMCID: PMC8910189.
(vi) Elonheimo HM, Andersen HR, Katsonouri A, Tolonen H. Environmental Substances Associated with Alzheimer's Disease-A Scoping Review. Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2021 Nov 11;18(22):11839. doi: 10.3390/ijerph182211839. PMID: 34831595; PMCID: PMC8622417.
(vii) Mattila T, Santonen T, Andersen HR, Katsonouri A, Szigeti T, Uhl M, Wąsowicz W, Lange R, Bocca B, Ruggieri F, Kolossa-Gehring M, Sarigiannis DA, Tolonen H. Scoping Review-The Association between Asthma and Environmental Chemicals. Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2021 Feb 1;18(3):1323. doi: 10.3390/ijerph18031323. PMID: 33535701; PMCID: PMC7908498.

▼ 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
- [ ] Alternatives to mercury and mercury compounds
- [ ] 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

(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
(See also information provided under §16.1.)
The Republic of Cyprus has taken measures to promote and facilitate public access to information and education / training on mercury and mercury compounds, including health effects, exposure reduction measures, and the results of research and monitoring activities, with particular focus on vulnerable populations.
Within the framework of the European Human Biomonitoring Initiative (HBM4EU), Cyprus coordinated the HBM4EU-MOM study, which used human biomonitoring data to validate dietary guidelines for safe fish and seafood consumption by pregnant women in relation to mercury exposure. For Cyprus, this constituted the first development of national dietary guidelines based on country-specific data. The validated advice was disseminated to pregnant women and health professionals and was subsequently formally adopted and further disseminated by the Ministry of Health for routine use in healthcare settings.
Dissemination was supported through targeted communication materials (leaflets, posters, wallet cards and web content) and outreach activities, including presentations to gynaecologists, nurses, midwives, dietitians and nutritionists.
In addition, an information leaflet providing guidance on the safe management of accidental breakage of mercury-containing energy-saving lamps and thermometers in households was developed and disseminated to the public.
Furthermore, within the framework of the ongoing European Partnership for the Assessment of Risks from Chemicals (PARC), information on heavy metals, including mercury, is provided to participants in aligned human biomonitoring studies of the general population and selected occupational groups, contributing to awareness-raising and risk communication.

(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
Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) was established, which is an Inventory of Emissions to Air, Releases to land and Transfer of waste

☑ 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

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
Modelling and geographically representative monitoring of levels of mercury and mercury compounds in vulnerable populations in the frame of existing European studies and the new MOM study of HBM4EU. Also monitoring in environmental media, including biota such as fish, in the frame of CYY governmental monitoring and control programs.

☐ 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

Harmonized methodologies for the activities undertaken under subparagraphs (a), (b) and (c) of paragraph 1 of article 19
Activities build in the frame of existing European networks (HBM4EU), planned networks (PARC)

☐ 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

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▼ 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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Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury
International Environment House 1
Office address: 11-13 chemin des Anémones, 1219 Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland
Postal address: Avenue de la Paix 8-14, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
MEA-MinamataSecretariat@un.org | www.minamataconvention.org

UN environment programme