

2025 FULL REPORTS OF THE MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

Report submitted on 23 December 2025



REPORTING PERIOD:

1 January 2021 to 31 December 2024

UNOFFICIAL ENGLISH TRANSLATION

Attachments can be found on the website

DISCLAIMER

This is a secretariat version translation of the submitted report by the Party. The text has not been officially translated and edited, and is provided for information purposes. In case of any error or omission in the translation, the original submission prevails.

▼ INFORMATION ON THE PARTY

1. Information on the party

Name of party

France

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

15 June 2017

Date of entry into force of the Convention for the party

13 September 2017

2. Information on the national focal point

Full name of the institution

Ministry of Ecological Transition, Biodiversity and International Climate and Nature Negotiations

Title of Contact Officer

Ms.

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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

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

ba36_subsection

If the party has not previously provided such copies, it is recommended that it do so.

- [FRA_3.6.pdf](#)

Otherwise, please provide other suitable information showing that the relevant requirements of paragraph 8 of article 3 have been met.

In 2021, France imported mercury compounds (0.04 kg) from Turkey before Turkey became a Party to the Convention in 2022.

Supplemental: Please provide information on the quantities and countries of origin.

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If yes, or if the party relied on paragraph 7 of article 3, did the non-party provide certification that the mercury is not from sources identified under paragraph 3 or paragraph 5 (b) of article 3?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ The party has submitted its general notification of consent, applied paragraph 9 of article 3, and provided information on the quantities and countries of origin.

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.

In accordance with EU Regulation 2017/852, which covers more items containing mercurial compounds, France ensures that products containing added mercury, prohibited by Annex A, Part I, are not manufactured, imported or exported.

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.

The national plan for the elimination of the use of mercury-containing dental amalgams in France, in accordance with Article 10 of European Regulation (EU) 2017/852 on mercury, provides for monitoring developments in the dental amalgam market and methods for mercury removal when these amalgams are replaced, training healthcare professionals, and developing alternative solutions, while ensuring compliance with patient safety requirements.

European regulations stipulate that, since July 1, 2018, dental amalgams are no longer used in dental treatments for primary teeth, nor in dental treatments for minors under fifteen years of age or for pregnant or breastfeeding women (unless otherwise decided by the healthcare professional). Furthermore, the European regulation on mercury (No. 2017/852) has set the date for the gradual phase-out of dental amalgams as January 1, 2025. From this date, the use and export of dental amalgams will be prohibited, except in cases of specific medical need. The relevance of this exemption will be reassessed in 2029.

Since 1998, procedures for the disposal of dry and liquid waste from dental amalgams have been regulated, and the installation of an amalgam separator in dental practices has become mandatory. The restricted use of dental amalgams in their encapsulated form only has been in effect since 2001. France has also undertaken numerous initiatives to improve oral health, both institutional and through associations and professional bodies (the Order of Dental Surgeons and other healthcare professionals), by increasing information campaigns, particularly in schools.

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

If the party answered yes to either option above, please provide information on the measures.

EU Regulation 2017/852 already contained these provisions. France had therefore already banned the use of bulk mercury by dental practitioners since January 1, 2019, and the use of amalgams has been prohibited for children under 15 and pregnant women since July 1, 2018.

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.

France applies European regulations concerning mercury management through the Mercury Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2017/852), Article 8 of which provides for a general ban on economic operators manufacturing and marketing products containing mercury that were not manufactured before 1 January 2018 (referred to as "new mercury-containing products"). There are some exceptions to this ban (military equipment, space equipment, and technical improvements to products manufactured before 1 January 2018).

As provided for in Article 8 of the Regulation, when an economic operator intends to request a decision under paragraph 6 to manufacture or place on the market a new product containing mercury or to use a new manufacturing process that would provide significant benefits for the environment or health and would not present any significant risks to the environment or human health, and for which there is no technically viable mercury-free alternative offering the same benefits, that economic operator shall notify the competent national authorities, and the European Commission shall examine the notification before adopting decisions determining whether the new product containing mercury or the new manufacturing process is authorized.

Furthermore, the Commission shall make available to the public online a list of manufacturing processes involving mercury or mercury compounds that were used before 1 January 2018 and of products containing added mercury manufactured before 1 January 2018, as well as any relevant trade restrictions.

Since 2021, no such requests have been received by the French authorities.

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

If yes, please provide information on the steps.

In France, the French Guiana region is the only territory affected by gold mining. A decree prohibiting the use of mercury was issued on June 8, 2004, considering the risks of mercury contamination of ecosystems and its consequences for the health of the population and workers. Consequently, the use of mercury for gold mining in French Guiana has been prohibited since January 1, 2006.

Illegal gold miners still use mercury (at a rate of 1.2 kg per kg of gold extracted). The environmental impact remains the same as in 2021; the mercury released adds to the naturally occurring mercury, and the soil disturbance caused by gold mining releases it in a necessarily greater quantity than simple natural erosion. Considering that illegal gold miners produce 6 tons of gold (2024 figures), it is estimated that they pollute the environment by introducing more than 6 tons of mercury, to which must be added the mercury released by soil disturbance.

The fight against illegal gold mining (LCOI) is still structured around four pillars (repressive, diplomatic, economic, and social) in order to contain clandestine gold mining. The size of the territory (84,000 km², equivalent to Portugal) and the 1,000 km of porous river border make eradicating the problem impossible, especially since the price of gold, which constantly exceeds its historical peaks of €104,000 per kg, encourages illegal miners to open new sites. In addition to these actions, the Mining Activity Observatory (OAM) also conducts a census of illegal mining sites and their impacts on waterways. All of these actions, aimed at containing the phenomenon, limit the circulation of mercury, although it is hoped that improvements will be achieved through various initiatives linked to the creation of a CCPI (Center for the Prevention of Illegal Gold Mining) in Manaus, Brazil (open since August 2025), which is taking the regional lead on the issue of environmental damage linked to transnational organized crime.

Within the framework of the Fight Against Illegal Gold Mining (LCOI), the Prefect and the Public Prosecutor, the administrative and judicial authorities respectively, continue to prioritize the fight against mercury. On the one hand, law enforcement agencies (particularly Customs and the Gendarmerie, then the National Forestry Office (ONF) and the PAG (Port Authority of Guadeloupe), to which the French Biodiversity Office (OFB) must now be added when the merchandise is abandoned) systematically seize mercury as soon as they detect its presence. On the other hand, these same agencies and diplomatic partners are working with Suriname to try to curb its trade.

- The region has implemented a specific administrative and judicial police operation, dedicated to combating this activity, called "Harpie," since 2008. The main field action of this operation consists of destroying the production equipment of illegal gold miners. However, despite the effective coordination of the system through inter-ministerial cooperation and the armed forces, Harpie only manages to reduce the development of new sites, but does not eradicate the activity itself. Faced with this situation, a renewed strategic plan to combat illegal gold mining was implemented in October 2017, jointly led by the Prefect of French Guiana and the Public Prosecutor, and executed by "EMOPI," a dedicated task force.

- Total eradication of river barges thanks to an unprecedented cooperative effort between neighboring countries (including Suriname). The pollution detected on the Maroni River is increasing primarily due to gold mining activities (legal and illegal) on both sides of the river, but mainly on the Surinamese bank. It should be noted that mercury pollution is not the only aggravating factor; the turbidity of the water, due to suspended matter from illegal gold mining activities (or legal according to Surinamese standards), also significantly impacts the river's ecosystem.

Combat efforts have intensified in recent years, notably through the presence of the French Armed Forces in French Guiana (FAG) and the Gendarmerie in the forest thanks to Operation HARPIE, which has become a permanent operation (with an average of 330 FAG and Gendarmerie personnel deployed daily in the forest), and the judicial response, which demonstrates a commitment to enforcement (125 convictions and/or detentions of illegal gold miners to date, compared to 28 projected for 2024).

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

- The complete eradication of river barges was made possible thanks to an unprecedented cooperative effort between neighboring countries (including Suriname).
- A European initiative, EL Paccato, is attempting to unite stakeholders in the Guiana Shield region (Brazil, Suriname, and Guyana, as well as French Guiana, which was invited to participate in discussions by its international partners). Given the shared challenges, it seemed wise to present a united front against transnational organized crime linked to environmental offenses. Combating the acquisition, transport, and use of mercury has emerged as the common thread in this ongoing cooperation, with operational implementation across all four territories planned for early December 2025.

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

Waste incineration facilities

Between 2021 and 2024, approximately ten facilities subject to regulatory requirements concerning incineration or co-incineration, particularly regarding the measurement of mercury in atmospheric emissions, were established.

Each source (i.e., each incineration facility) is governed by national regulations stemming from ministerial decrees of general requirements [3][4][5][8] as well as a prefectural decree specific to each site. These regulations set the emission limit values to be respected for each site. To verify the facilities' compliance with these regulations, they are inspected at least annually by inspectors of classified installations for environmental protection (ICPE).

All incineration facilities must comply with a mercury emission limit of 0.05 mg/Nm³ during their actual operating period. This value is verified using at least two measurements per year by a body approved by the Ministry of the Environment.

In addition, incineration plants exceeding the capacity threshold set by the European Industrial Emissions Directive (IED; 2010/75/EU) [1] must comply with the conclusions on best available techniques for waste incineration [2]. These conclusions were adopted in November 2019 by the European Commission and transposed into French law through the decree of January 12, 2021 [5].

They have been applicable since December 3, 2023, for incineration plants existing on December 3, 2019, and were immediately applicable to new plants, i.e., those authorized by the French authorities after December 3, 2019.

Several best techniques relate to mercury emissions:

- In terms of monitoring, these new requirements provide for continuous monitoring of mercury emissions. An exemption from continuous monitoring is permitted for single-stream waste from incineration plants whose composition is regularly monitored, provided that it is demonstrated for two consecutive years, using this analysis of incoming waste, that it has a low and stable mercury content. In this case, mercury emissions must be monitored either over a sampling period of 2 to 4 weeks or periodically at a minimum frequency of once every 6 months.

In terms of techniques, each source must apply one or more best practices (BAT) to reduce mercury emissions, such as scrubbers, dry absorbent injection, activated carbon, bromine, etc. These techniques must be able to make it possible to comply with the set emission limit value.

- In terms of emission limit values, these are set at 0.02 mg/Nm³ during normal operating conditions.

Specific emissions from incineration plants are not monitored with an overall quantified target. However, the implementation of the Aarhus Protocol [6], adopted in 1998 and amended in 2012 within the framework of the LRTAP (Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution) Convention, under the auspices of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), can be cited. This protocol targets three heavy metals: cadmium, lead, and mercury. Pursuant to this protocol, France must limit emissions of these heavy metals to a level lower than that of 1990, estimated at 25.6 tonnes. This target includes several industrial sources, such as waste incineration plants, but also the steel industry, fuel combustion, non-ferrous metals industries, etc. France is meeting this objective, as its mercury emissions have been declining since the reference year: since 1990, mercury emissions from metropolitan France have decreased by 91% and are projected to reach 2.2 tonnes of mercury emitted in 2024. Regarding emissions from incineration plants, these represented nearly 11 tonnes of mercury emitted in 1990 compared to less than 0.5 tonnes of mercury emitted in 2024 [7]. The Aarhus Protocol, through the amendment of December 13, 2012, also sets emission limit values for mercury, which are met by France through ministerial decrees of general requirements [3] and [4].

[1] Directive 2010/75/EU of 24 November 2010 on industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control)

[2] Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/2010 of 12 November 2019 establishing best available techniques (BAT) for the incineration of waste, pursuant to Directive 2010/75/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council (notified under number C(2019) 7987)

[3] Order of 20 September 2002 relating to non-hazardous waste incineration and co-incineration plants and to plants incinerating infectious healthcare waste

[4] Order of 20 September 2002 relating to hazardous waste incineration and co-incineration plants

[5] Order of 12 January 2021 relating to best available techniques (BAT) applicable to waste incineration and co-incineration facilities subject to the authorization regime under heading 3520 and to certain waste treatment facilities subject to the authorization regime under headings 3510, 3531 or 3532 of the nomenclature of classified installations for environmental protection

[6]: Decree No. 2005-1110 of 05/09/05 publishing the Protocol to the 1979 Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution relating to heavy metals (including seven annexes), done at Aarhus on 24 June 1998

[7]: Citepa data, 2025 – SECTEN format

[8]: Order of 23 May 2016 relating to installations for the production of heat and/or electricity from non-hazardous waste prepared in the form of solid recovered fuels in installations designed for this purpose, whether or not combined with another fuel and falling under heading 2971 of the nomenclature of classified installations for environmental protection

☐ 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)

If Yes, please explain

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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

French regulations applicable to large combustion plants (Decree of August 3, 2018, concerning combustion plants with a rated thermal input of 50 MW or more subject to authorization under section 3110, which replaced the Decree of August 26, 2013, which contained the same provisions on mercury) impose an emission limit value (ELV) of 0.05 mg/m³ for mercury (Article 13) and at least annual monitoring of this parameter (Article 28). BAT 18 to 23 concern coal-fired combustion plants (energy efficiency, emission limit values for NO_x, SO_x, HCl, HF, and particulate matter). BAT 23, concerning mercury emissions, lists the best available techniques for reducing mercury emissions and sets emission limit values for mercury.

Progress

The BREF LCP applicable since August 2021 to existing large combustion plants requires monitoring of mercury emissions for coal-fired combustion plants (monitoring once every 3 months for plants with a power output of less than 300 MW, and continuous monitoring for plants with a power output of more than 300 MW (MTD 3).

▼ 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

French regulations applicable to large combustion plants (Decree of August 3, 2018, concerning combustion plants with a rated thermal input of 50 MW or more subject to authorization under section 3110, which replaced the Decree of August 26, 2013, which contained the same provisions on mercury) impose an emission limit value (ELV) of 0.05 mg/m³ for mercury (Article 13) and at least annual monitoring of this parameter (Article 28). BAT 18 to 23 concern coal-fired combustion plants (energy efficiency, emission limit values for NO_x, SO_x, HCl, HF, and particulate matter). BAT 23, concerning mercury emissions, lists the best available techniques for reducing mercury emissions and sets emission limit values for mercury.

Progress

The BREF LCP applicable since August 2021 to existing large combustion plants requires monitoring of mercury emissions for coal-fired combustion plants (monitoring once every 3 months for plants with a power output of less than 300 MW, and continuous monitoring for plants with a power output of more than 300 MW (MTD 3)).

▼ 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
- ☒ 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

Each source (i.e., each incineration plant) is governed by national regulations stemming from ministerial decrees of general requirements [3][4][5][8] as well as a prefectural decree specific to each site. These regulations govern the emission limit values to be respected for each site. In order to verify the compliance of the plants with these regulations, they are subject to inspections, at least annually, by inspectors of classified installations for environmental protection (ICPE).

All incineration plants must comply with a mercury emission value of 0.05 mg/Nm³ during

actual operating periods. This value is verified using at least two measurements per year by an organization accredited by the Ministry responsible for the environment.

In addition, incineration plants exceeding the capacity threshold set by the European Industrial Emissions Directive (IED; 2010/75/EU) [1] must comply with the conclusions on best available techniques for waste incineration [2]. These conclusions were adopted in November 2019 by the European Commission and transposed into French law through the decree of January 12, 2021 [5].

They have been applicable since December 3, 2023, for incineration plants existing on December 3, 2019, and were immediately applicable to new plants, i.e., those authorized by the French authorities after December 3, 2019.

Several best techniques relate to mercury emissions:

- In terms of monitoring, these new requirements provide for continuous monitoring of mercury emissions. An exemption from continuous monitoring is permitted for single-stream waste from incineration plants whose composition is regularly monitored, provided that it is demonstrated over two consecutive years, using this analysis of incoming waste, that it has a low and stable mercury content. In this case, mercury emissions must be monitored either over a sampling period of 2 to 4 weeks or periodically at a minimum frequency of once every 6 months.

In terms of techniques, each source must apply one or more best practices (BAT) to reduce mercury emissions, such as scrubbers, dry absorbent injection, activated carbon, bromine, etc. These techniques must be capable of ensuring compliance with the established emission limit value.

The emission limit value is set at 0.02 mg/Nm³ during normal operating conditions. Specific emissions from waste incineration plants are not monitored with an overall quantified target. However, the implementation of the Aarhus Protocol [6], adopted in 1998 and amended in 2012 within the framework of the LRTAP (Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution) Convention, under the auspices of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), can be cited. This protocol targets three heavy metals: cadmium, lead, and mercury. In accordance with this protocol, France must limit emissions of these heavy metals to a level lower than that of 1990, estimated at 25.6 tonnes. This target includes several industrial sources, such as waste incineration plants, but also the steel industry, fuel combustion, non-ferrous metals industries, etc. France is meeting this objective, as its mercury emissions have been declining since the reference year: since 1990, mercury emissions from metropolitan France have decreased by 91% and are projected to reach 2.2 tonnes of mercury emitted in 2024. Regarding emissions from incineration plants, these represented nearly 11 tonnes of mercury emitted in 1990 compared to less than 0.5 tonnes of mercury emitted in 2024 [7]. The Aarhus Protocol, through the amendment of December 13, 2012, also sets emission limit values for mercury, which are met by France through ministerial decrees of general requirements [3] and [4].

[1] Directive 2010/75/EU of 24 November 2010 on industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control)

[2] Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/2010 of 12 November 2019 establishing best available techniques (BAT) for the incineration of waste, pursuant to Directive 2010/75/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council (notified under number C(2019) 7987)

[3] Order of 20 September 2002 relating to non-hazardous waste incineration and co-incineration plants and to plants incinerating infectious healthcare waste

[4] Order of 20 September 2002 relating to hazardous waste incineration and co-incineration plants

[5] Order of 12 January 2021 relating to best available techniques (BAT) applicable to waste incineration and co-incineration facilities subject to the authorization regime under heading 3520 and to certain waste treatment facilities subject to the authorization regime under headings 3510, 3531 or 3532 of the nomenclature of classified installations for environmental protection

[6]: Decree No. 2005-1110 of 05/09/05 publishing the Protocol to the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution of 1979 relating to heavy metals (including seven annexes), Done at Aarhus on June 24, 1998

[7]: Citepa data, 2025 – SECTEN format

[8]: Order of 23 May 2016 relating to installations for the production of heat and/or electricity from non-hazardous waste prepared in the form of solid recovered fuels in installations designed for this purpose, whether or not combined with another fuel and falling under heading 2971 of the nomenclature of classified installations for environmental protection

Progress

Progress:

Industrial operators implemented these best available techniques to achieve compliance by December 3, 2023.

In 2024, the classified installations inspectorate conducted an action to verify compliance with these new requirements at large-capacity incineration plants. This action resulted in 110 inspections, during which more than 1,100 control points were checked. Nearly 70% of the control points were found to be compliant and therefore did not lead to administrative action, while 9 formal notices were issued. The deficiencies that led to administrative action concerned, in particular, the conditions for monitoring pollutants in atmospheric emissions from the installations or the emission limit values for air or water.

▼ 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?

8 October 2025

Please indicate where this inventory is available

In France, industrial emissions, particularly mercury emissions, are declared by operators of industrial facilities via the web application for the annual declaration of pollutant emissions and waste (industries, livestock farms, urban wastewater treatment plants, etc.). Declarations are made on the GEREPP website (<https://www.declaratontpollution.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/>), accessible through the

MonAIOT common authentication portal (<https://monaiot.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/>); an extract on atmospheric mercury for the year 2024 is attached.

The general public can find official emissions data for establishments on the IREP/Géorisques portal

(<https://www.georisques.gouv.fr/risques/registre-des-emissions-polluantes>), by performing a targeted search: <https://www.georisques.gouv.fr/risques/registre-des-emissions-polluantes/etablissement/donnees#/recherche=polluant&polluant=88&milieu=1>"

Attach

- [FRA_8.3.xlsx](#)

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

☐ Yes

☒ No

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

{Empty}

▼ 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?

8 October 2025

Please indicate where this inventory is available.

[FRA_9.2.xlsx](#)

Please explain

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Part E – Additional comments on this article

In France, industrial emissions, particularly mercury emissions, are declared by operators of industrial facilities via the web application for the annual declaration of pollutant emissions and waste (industries, livestock farms, urban wastewater treatment plants, etc.). Declarations are made on the GERE website (<https://www.declaratonpollution.developpement-durable.gouv.fr>), accessible through the MonAIOT common authentication portal (<https://monaiot.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/>); an extract concerning mercury for the year 2024 is attached.

The general public can find official emissions data for establishments on the IREP/Géorisques portal (<https://www.georisques.gouv.fr/risques/registre-des-emissions-polluantes>), by performing a targeted search: <https://www.georisques.gouv.fr/risques/registre-des-emissions-polluantes/etablissement/donnees#/recherche=polluant&polluant=88&milieu=1>

▼ 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.

To ensure the safe storage of mercury compounds in dental amalgams, one measure can be cited: As early as March 14, 2000, the National Agency for the Safety of Medicines and Health Products (formerly Afssaps) made a decision which, in its article 1, prohibits the importation, placing on the market and use of dental amalgams that are not packaged in the form of pre-dosed capsules.

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

{Empty}

- ☒ 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)

Please describe measure and effectiveness of measures

{Empty}

- ☒ 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

{Empty}

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.

As a Member State, France implements the European regulatory framework for the management of mercury waste:

– Regulation (EU) 1013/2006/2024/1157 on transboundary shipments of waste;

- Regulation (EU) 2017/852 on mercury: it ensures that mercury waste is managed without endangering human health or harming the environment;
- Directive 2008/98/EC on waste: it establishes general rules for assessing the hazardous properties listed in its Annex III “Properties of waste”;
- Directive 2006/21/EC on the management of waste from the extractive industries: it aims to prevent or reduce the adverse environmental effects of mining waste management;
- Directive 1999/31/EC on landfill: it establishes specific criteria for the storage of mercury waste.
- Directive 86/278/EEC on the protection of the environment, and in particular of soils, when sewage sludge is used in agriculture;
- Decision 2000/532/EC laying down criteria and procedures for the acceptance of waste at landfills: it defines specific waste codes for waste containing mercury and classifies it primarily as hazardous waste.
- Directive 86/278/EEC on the protection of the environment, and in particular of soils, when sewage sludge is used in agriculture (Sewage Sludge Directive). It regulates the use of sewage sludge in agriculture with the aim of preventing harmful effects on soils, vegetation, animals, and the population. The directive sets concentration limits for seven heavy metals, including mercury, in sewage sludge intended for agricultural use and prohibits the use of sewage sludge whose composition exceeds the limit values for heavy metals.

The management of mercury waste is also regulated at the national level, notably by Title IV “Waste” of the Environmental Code and the decree of December 30, 2002, concerning the storage of hazardous waste.

The implementation of the measures mentioned above is monitored by the regional offices of the ministry responsible for inspecting facilities classified for environmental protection. Nearly 24,000 inspections were carried out in 2024.

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)

If there are facilities in the party’s territory and if the information is available, how much waste consisting of mercury or mercury compounds has been subject to final disposal under the reporting period? Please specify the method of the final disposal operation/operations. If the party does not have specific data on waste consisting of mercury or mercury compounds, the party may report on the data including other mercury waste, with an explanatory note.

France has a physico-chemical treatment facility for mercury waste on its territory, including a mercury stabilization unit. After stabilization at the physico-chemical treatment facility, the mercury waste is sent to a hazardous waste storage facility. Between 2022 and 2024, 1.5 tonnes of mercury waste were treated at the physico-chemical treatment facility.

Another portion of this waste is exported to Germany (12 tonnes between 2022 and 2024) and Switzerland (70 tonnes between 2022 and 2024).

Kindly attach any additional relevant information

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Part E – Additional comments on this article

Waste generated by dental amalgams:

To reduce mercury waste produced by dental amalgams and ensure their safe disposal, two actions were taken:

On March 14, 2000, the French National Agency for the Safety of Medicines and Health Products (formerly Afssaps) issued a decision prohibiting, in Article 1, the importation, marketing, and use of dental amalgams not packaged in pre-dosed capsules.

On March 30, 1998, a decree was issued establishing the disposal of amalgam waste from dental

practices, both dry and liquid, the installation of an amalgam separator in dental practices, and the conditions for transporting all amalgam waste.

▼ 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 publicly accessible BASOL database lists former and active industrial sites that are polluted or potentially polluted and require preventive or corrective measures. The database is maintained by regional inspection services. It contains information on identified pollutants and the measures taken. BASOL also lists current and former industrial sites contaminated or potentially contaminated by substances, including mercury and its compounds. The main reasons for inclusion in BASOL are suspected or known pollution, primarily for active sites (for example, caused by an incident or accident), or the total or partial cessation of activities.

A national methodology for managing contaminated or potentially contaminated sites and soils has been established, covering all types of pollution and all soil pollutants, including mercury. This methodology defines the tools for assessing risks to human health and the environment, including a conceptual site model and an environmental status assessment with a quantitative health risk assessment. Within this framework, a risk management approach is being implemented, the objective of which is to restore the site to a level appropriate for its future use by eliminating the sources of pollution. In this regard, French methodology and legislation do not set any limit values for soil pollutants or mercury.

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

In France, there is no centralized management of mercury and its pollutants. Each aspect of mercury's presence in various products and environments is managed by a different organization: there is no national action plan on mercury, and therefore no centralized budget. Responsibilities are shared among the Ministry for Ecological Transition, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of the Economy, Customs, etc.

Regional issues in French Guiana are primarily managed by the Prefecture and the Regional Health Agency of French Guiana. It is therefore impossible to provide an estimate of the financial resources specifically dedicated to combating mercury pollution and phasing out its use.

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.

French contributions to the GEF on behalf of the Minamata Convention, in millions of EUR

2021: 5.656

2022: 1.650

2023: 0.274

2024: 2.573

Contribution to the SIP: 200,000 euros in 2023 and 100,000 euros in 2025.

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

The "Mercury Abandonment in the Guianas" project, which includes Suriname, Guyana, and French Guiana, is being implemented through the French Global Environment Facility (FFEM), which supports the NGO WWF France in its project to eliminate mercury from the gold mining sector in the Guianas by the end of 2025. This project is structured around three components: 1) Strengthening and ensuring regional coordination of national policies governing the gold mining sector; 2) Developing a mercury-free gold mining model that reconciles social acceptability with technical and economic viability, including the creation of a certification system; 3) Establishing a regional mercury observatory. Of a total budget of €1.04 million (US\$1.17 million), approximately €670,000 has been disbursed since 2021, and the final disbursement will be made by the end of the year. A final evaluation will be launched shortly.

The WEEECAM project, "Building an Exemplary Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Treatment System for Africa," focused on WEEE management in Cameroon and was implemented by "Solidarité Technologique" and the "Guilde européenne du raid" between 2017 and 2025, with a total budget of €1,635,000. This project included the implementation of technology transfers adapted to the Cameroonian context to improve productivity and maximize local recovery and recycling.

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

– Franco-Surinamese cooperation in the fight against illegal gold mining: Illegal gold mining occupies a central place in Franco-Surinamese dialogue and is a major concern for the authorities of French Guiana.

– Total eradication of river barges thanks to an unprecedented cooperative effort between neighboring countries (including Suriname). Pollution detected on the Maroni River is increasing due primarily to gold mining activities (legal and illegal) on both sides of the river, but mainly on the Surinamese bank. It should be noted that mercury pollution is not the only aggravating factor; the turbidity of the water, with suspended matter from illegal gold mining activities (or legal according to Surinamese standards), also causes significant damage to the river's ecosystem.

– Military and police cooperation with Brazil: Brazilian and French armed forces coordinate

periodically to conduct synchronous operations on both sides of the border.

–Intelligence sharing and mutual understanding of the issues related to illegal gold mining are continuously being improved. Furthermore, France is training Amerindian adults to join the Gendarmerie in French Guiana and work on operations to combat illegal gold mining, thus enabling individuals from the most vulnerable communities to actively participate in defending their territory and way of life. The Gendarmerie is also striving to establish close dialogue with Indigenous communities, reporting on its enforcement efforts and explaining the constraints of the rule of law. In the economic sphere, a cooperative for business and employment has been developed to promote economic development by offering professional opportunities to newly trained young people, thereby dissuading young adults from the lure of illegal gold mining.

–A European initiative, EL Paccato, is attempting to unite stakeholders in the Guiana Shield region (Brazil, Suriname, and Guyana, as well as French Guiana, which has been invited to participate in the discussions by its international partners). Given the shared challenges, it seemed judicious to join forces to combat transnational organized crime linked to environmental offenses. The fight against the acquisition, transport, and use of mercury emerged as the common thread in this ongoing cooperation, with operational implementation planned across all four territories in early December 2025.

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

☐ Yes

☒ No

Please specify

France is in a position to provide development aid, not to receive it.

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

One component of the "Mercury Abandonment in the Guianas" project aims to make mercury-free gold mining techniques accessible, applicable, replicable, and profitable, and to encourage artisanal miners to adopt these technologies. The WEECAM project aims to demonstrate the feasibility and sustainability of a Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) recovery activity in Cameroon. One of its components is the implementation of a large-scale WEEE treatment system.

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 French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES)

a) In October 2024, ANSES updated its webpage concerning the health risks of methylmercury in cases of high fish consumption.

Methylmercury: a health risk in cases of high fish consumption | ANSES – French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety.

Fish consumption is the main source of dietary exposure to methylmercury. As part of updating nutritional recommendations for the general population (published in 2019) and then for specific populations (published from 2021 onwards), the presence of contaminants, including methylmercury, was taken into account by the Agency in order to determine recommendations for fish consumption that are safe for health while also considering nutritional benefits.

The risk associated with methylmercury exposure is generally not a major public health problem in mainland France. However, consumers, both adults and children, who regularly eat wild predatory fish (more than one serving per week) may have exposure levels exceeding the tolerable weekly intake determined by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). This intake corresponds to the amount ingested per week beyond which health risks cannot be ruled out.

Considering the nutritional benefits of fish consumption (essential fatty acids, protein, vitamins, minerals, and trace elements) and the risk of environmental contaminants, the Agency recommends:

- consuming fish twice a week, combining an oily fish high in omega-3 fatty acids (salmon, sardines, mackerel, herring) with another type of fish (pollock, hake, cod, sole, etc.);
- diversifying the fish species consumed and the sources of supply (wild, farmed, fishing grounds, etc.).

For pregnant and breastfeeding women and young children (under 3 years old), the Agency recommends taking special precautions:

- limit consumption of wild predatory fish, which are likely to be highly contaminated: tuna, bonito, ray, sea bream, sea bass, monkfish, emperor fish, grenadier, halibut, swordfish, pike, etc.
- avoid consuming the most contaminated "large predator" fish: sharks, lampreys, swordfish, marlin (similar to swordfish), and sikis (a type of shark).

Eating fish: why? how? | Anses – French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety

b) ANSES' Total Diet Studies (TDS) are conducted nationwide and aim to monitor population exposure to chemical substances present in food: pesticide residues, environmental contaminants, neo-formed compounds, natural toxins, additives, substances migrating from food contact materials, trace elements or minerals, etc.

Total Diet Studies (TDS) | ANSES – French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety.

The first results of the 3rd Total Diet Study (TDS3) will be available at the end of 2025, with mercury among the metallic trace elements to be published in the first part of the study. The report on the methodology was published in July 2024.

Public Health France,

based on ANSES dietary guidelines, updated the dietary recommendations of the National Nutrition and Health Program (PNNS 4 – 2019–2023) on the website www.mangerbouger.fr, emphasizing that some fish may contain pollutants, which is why it is recommended to vary the species and sources of supply.

Alternate between oily and lean fish.

Policy for reducing the use of dental amalgams:

In France, starting in the late 1990s, public authorities took regulatory measures and formulated recommendations regarding dental amalgams concerning their marketing, use, and waste disposal. In parallel, the French National Agency for Medicines and Health Products Safety (ANSM) published a report in 2014 on the safety of dental amalgams: it recommended avoiding the removal of dental amalgams in pregnant and breastfeeding women (a practice now prohibited). In children, the use of dental amalgams for primary teeth (baby teeth) should only be considered as a last resort. Furthermore, teeth whitening is strongly discouraged on teeth filled with dental amalgam. Similarly, numerous oral health prevention initiatives and efforts to improve access to care are part of the national plan to eliminate dental amalgams containing mercury.

Systematic screening in French Guiana:

The Regional Health Agency (ARS) of French Guiana initiated systematic screening for lead and mercury, with a pilot phase in Maripasoula. As part of this screening program, operational teams are implementing screening and treatment measures. In addition, a comprehensive health pathway for exposed populations has been put in place (identification, alert, investigation, screening, care, follow-up)

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.

1) Measures on dental amalgams (vulnerable individuals: pregnant and breastfeeding women, children) (see answers 16.1)

In 2017, Regulation (EU) 2017/852 laid down measures and conditions applicable to the use, storage, and trade of mercury or mercury compounds or mixtures. Article 10 introduced:

– From July 2018, a ban on the use of dental amalgams in the treatment of primary teeth, dental treatments for minors under fifteen years of age, and for pregnant or breastfeeding women, unless the dental practitioner deems it strictly necessary due to the patient's specific medical needs.

– From January 2019, the implementation of amalgam separators for the retention and recovery of amalgam particles, including in wastewater.

– From July 2019, Member States are required to implement a national plan to phase out dental amalgams.

– From July 2019, dental amalgams must be used only in pre-dosed encapsulated form.

In 2024, Regulation (EU) 2024/849 of 13 June 2024 amending Regulation (EU) 2017/852 introduced:

– From 1 January 2025, a ban on dental amalgams for dental treatments in the Union, unless the dental practitioner deems it strictly necessary due to the patient's specific medical needs.

– From 1 January 2025, the export of dental amalgams is prohibited

. – From 1 July 2026, the import and manufacture of amalgams are prohibited except to cover specific medical needs.

2) Actions implemented in the screening system in French Guiana

AYMARA: polymetallic analysis, human health, food and environment (origin, impact, assessment...)

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

Epidemiological and scientific information: The Regional Health Agency (ARS) of French Guiana is notably funding the U-Stramelo program, led by the Clinical Investigation Center (CIC) of the Cayenne Hospital, which aims to develop a research program on heavy metals in French Guiana,

including interventional research projects. The first seminar of the U-Stramelo program will take place in January 2026.

▼ 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

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☐ 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

No specific actions are being taken regarding dental amalgams; however, there are many initiatives focusing on nutritional recommendations and strategies for reducing mercury exposure.

In French Guiana, awareness and education campaigns are being conducted through the systematic screening program and the EMLO team.

Public Health France published a brochure in 2023 for the general public, with nutritional recommendations that include a warning about the need to vary fish species to reduce exposure to contaminants (including mercury) through diet: <https://www.santepubliquefrance.fr/determinants-de-sante/nutrition-et-activite-physique/documents/brochure/50-petites-astuces-pour-manger-mieux-et-bouger-plus>.

The French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES) has made extensive information available to the public explaining the link between fish consumption and exposure to methylmercury. Since 2002, the Agency has issued several opinions assessing the health risks associated with this consumption. Therefore, it recommends consuming fish twice a week, combining an oily fish high in omega-3 fatty acids (salmon, sardines, mackerel, herring) with another type of fish (pollock, hake, cod, sole, etc.), diversifying the types of fish consumed and their sources (wild, farmed, fishing grounds, etc.), and taking special precautions for pregnant and breastfeeding women and children under 3 years old.

Methylmercury: a health risk in case of high fish consumption | ANSES – French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety

(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
- ☐ 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

In French Guiana, the U Stramelo program aims to develop a comprehensive research program extending beyond health. The Regional Health Agency (ARS) of French Guiana has also contacted Santé Publique France (SpF) regarding the deployment of a lead and mercury monitoring system. In mainland France, mercury is one of the substances regularly measured in the national biomonitoring program. The latest report was published in July 2021, based on data from the ESTEBAN study (2014–2016), which examined a population aged 6 to 74 years (hair and urine): <https://www.santepubliquefrance.fr/docs/impregnation-de-la-population-francaise-par-le-mercure.-programme-national-de-biosurveillance-esteban-2014-2016>. Following the ESTEBAN study on the exposure of the French population published in July 2021 (<https://www.santepubliquefrance.fr/docs/impregnation-de-la-population-francaise-par-le-mercure.-programme-national-de-biosurveillance-esteban-2014-2016>), which included mercury, Santé publique France has started a new large-scale study Albane: <https://www.santepubliquefrance.fr/etudes-et-enquetes/albane-enquete-de-sante-biosurveillance-environnement-alimentation-et-nutrition>.

▼ 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

{Empty}