2025 FULL REPORTS OF THE MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

Report submitted on 15 December 2025

REPORTING PERIOD:
1 January 2021 to 31 December 2024

Attachments can be found on the website

▼ INFORMATION ON THE PARTY

1. Information on the party

Name of party
Switzerland

Date on which its instrument of ratification, accession, approval or acceptance was deposited
25 May 2016

Date of entry into force of the Convention for the party
16 August 2017

2. Information on the national focal point

Full name of the institution
Federal Office for the Environment FOEN

Title of Contact Officer
Mr.

Name of Contact Officer
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3. Information about the contact officer submitting the reporting format if different from the above

Focal Point is submitting the national report

- (●) Information is submitted by the national focal point
- ( ) Information is submitted through the national focal point by the contact officer

▼ ART. 3: MERCURY SUPPLY SOURCES AND TRADE

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

- ○ Yes – primary mercury mining with available data
- ○ Yes – primary mercury mining with no available data
- ◉ No

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

- ○ Yes – primary mercury mining with available data
- ○ Yes – primary mercury mining with no available data
- ◉ No

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

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- ○ 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

ba35_subsection

If the party answered yes,(a) and the party has submitted copies of the consent forms to the secretariat, then no further information is needed.If the party has not previously provided such copies, it is recommended that it do so.

(a) and the party has submitted copies of the consent forms to the secretariat, then no further information is needed.

- CHE_3.5.pdf

Otherwise, please provide other suitable information showing that the relevant requirements of paragraph 6 of article 3 have been met.
The uploaded document, entitled che_3.5, contains other suitable information showing that the relevant requirements of paragraph 6 of article 3 have been met, including:
- the countries that have provided their written consents, the dates of the written consents and the quantities granted for import;
- the actual dates of export;
- the actual quantities exported;
- the use purposes allowed under the Convention.

Supplemental: please provide information on the use of the exported mercury.
{Empty}

Kindly attach all relevant information
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(b) If exports were based on a general notification in accordance with article 3, paragraph 7, please indicate, if available, the total amount exported and any relevant terms or conditions in the general notification related to use.
{Empty}

Relevant terms or conditions in the general notification related to use
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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.
In Switzerland, the restrictions and prohibitions relating to the placing on the market, import, export, manufacture and use of mercury-added products are set out in the Chemical Risk Reduction Ordinance (ORRChem, SR 814.81). Annex 1.7 of the ORRChem regulates mercury (CAS no. 7439-97-6), mercury alloys, mercury compounds and of preparations that contain these mercury compounds, as well as diverse mercury-added products, including those listed in Part I of Annex A to the

Convention. In addition, annexes 2.15 and 2.18 of the ORRChem regulate batteries and electrical and electronic equipment, including that falling under Annex A of the Convention. The mercury added products covered by the amendments of the Annex A of the Convention, as decided at COP4 and COP5 (decisions MC-4/3 and MC-5/4), their placement on the market was already prohibited, either explicitly (by listing the products in the annexes) or implicitly (as their use was unknown in Switzerland before 1 January 2018). The prohibition of placing on the market also implies a prohibition of manufacturing, importing and exporting.

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 use of dental amalgam is already prohibited in Switzerland, if priority can be given to a different filling material for medical reasons (Annex 1.7, ChemRRV). The Water Protection Ordinance obliges dental surgeries and clinics to equip treatment units processing amalgam with an amalgam separator with a removal efficiency of at least 95%.

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.
There is a general prohibition in Switzerland on the use of dental amalgam, which includes the use of mercury in both bulk and encapsulated forms and applies to all patients.

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

- ◉ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ No - not applicable (do not have facilities assembling products using mercury-added products)

If yes, please provide information on the measures.
The Chemical Risk Reduction Ordinance strictly regulates placing on the market, manufacture, importation and exportation of diverse components that can be incorporated into assembled products.
1) It is prohibited to place on the market electrical and electronic appliances which contain batteries with more than 5 mg of mercury (Annex 2.15 ORRChem).
2) It is prohibited to place electrical and electronic equipment on the market that contains more than 0.1% of mercury within a homogeneous material (Annex 2.18 ORRChem).
3) It is prohibited to place on the market new vehicles (passengers cars and light commercial vehicles) and new vehicle components which contain more than 0.1% of mercury per homogeneous material (Annex 2.16 Number 5 ORRChem).
4) It is prohibited to place on the market phenylmercury compounds or other mercury compounds intended for the manufacture of polyurethanes or preparations or articles containing 0.1 % or more of such compounds (Annex 1.7 ORRChem).

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 Chemical Risk Reduction Ordinance prohibits to place on the mark, to import and to manufacture preparations and articles that contain mercury (CAS no 7439-97-6) or mercury compounds, for a use unknown before 1 January 2018.

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.

If yes, please provide information on the measures taken.

The use of mercury (CAS no 7439-97-6), mercury compounds and mercury-containing preparations as auxiliary substances in industrial manufacturing processes is banned since 1 January 2018.

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

The Minamata Convention requires Parties to reduce and eliminate mercury use in artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM). The Swiss Better Gold Initiative (SBGI) Phase I-III contributed directly to this obligation by helping ASGM producers eliminate mercury, strengthening regulation, building skills, and enabling responsible supply chains linked to the Swiss market.

1. Nature of the cooperation related to Minamata
SBGI promoted mercury-free ASGM through several forms of support:
• It applied a strict exclusion rule: any producer using mercury could not join the supply chain. By 2023, all operations supported by the project had eliminated mercury use.
• It provided training and awareness to government agencies, miners, cooperatives and communities on mercury control, responsible mining and due diligence.
• It helped shift producers to alternative processing models and supported research on environmental practices through technical studies.

The initiative also contributed to regulatory tightening, particularly in Bolivia where technical collaboration supported the approval of a rule controlling mercury imports, and trained thousands of public officials, cooperatives and miners on mercury risk reduction and responsible mining. Knowledge sharing included studies, manuals and international presentations that promoted mercury-free technologies and lessons learned.

2. Cooperation partners
Cooperation was carried out with national mining and environment authorities in Bolivia, Peru and Colombia, the Swiss Government through SECO, the Swiss Better Gold Association, universities and training institutes, international initiatives such as planetGOLD, and private refiners and traders that accepted mercury-free gold from ASGM in their supply chains.

3. Date of cooperation

The third phase of SBGI took place from 1 September 2021 to 30 June 2025, but the initiative was active for the last 12 years.

4. Availability of results
Results are documented in the Swiss Better Gold Initiative Phase III Final Report (2021–2025) and in case studies, tools and communication materials shared through the initiative's dissemination channels and events. Please refer to Swiss Better Gold Association: https://www.swissbettergoldassociation.ch/

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)
The categories of sources identified in Switzerland according to Annex D are waste incineration facilities (29) and cement clinker production facilities (6). All these emission sources were existing sources in line with the definition of Article 8, paragraph 2, letter e of the Convention.

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

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

▼ COAL-FIRED POWER PLANTS

- [ ] A quantified goal for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- [ ] Emission limit values for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- [ ] Use of BAT/BEP to control emissions from relevant sources

☐ Multi-pollutant control strategy that would deliver co-benefits for control of mercury emissions

☐ Alternative measures to reduce emissions from relevant sources

Measures
{Empty}

Progress
{Empty}

▼ 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
{Empty}

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

☐ A quantified goal for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources

☐ Emission limit values for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources

☐ Use of BAT/BEP to control emissions from relevant sources

☐ Multi-pollutant control strategy that would deliver co-benefits for control of mercury emissions

☐ Alternative measures to reduce emissions from relevant sources

Measures
{Empty}

Progress
{Empty}

▼ 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
The Ordinance on Air Pollution Control (OAPC, SR 814.318.142.1) sets general preventive emission limits of 0.2 mg/m3 mercury at a mass flow of 1 g/h or more (annex 1) for new and existing stationary installations (i.e. chemistry, mineral oil industry, metals, etc.). Additional emission limitations are required for installations for incineration of municipal and special waste with emission limit values for mercury set at 0.1 mg/m3. All emission limits values were implemented before the entry into force of the Convention. Moreover, emissions for which no limit is specified in the OAPC or for which a particular limit is declared not to apply, shall be limited preventively by the authorities as far as is technically and operationally feasible and economically acceptable.

Progress
Switzerland's trend of anthropogenic emissions of Hg decreased drastically between 1990 (6.3 t) to 2003 (0.69 t) and from then on, a further slightly decreasing trend (0.56 t in 2023). In 2023, anthropogenic emissions of Hg mainly stem from energy sector (municipal and special waste incineration, stationary and mobile fuel combustion activities and fugitive emissions from handling of fuels) accounting for 0.49, follow by industrial processes and product use (0.04 t) and waste (0.029 t). The decrease 1990-2003 was mainly achieved by equipping municipal solid waste incineration plants with flue gas treatment or by improving the already installed technology. The closing down of two steel production sites in 1995 and the installation of new filters in the two remaining secondary steel production plants in 1998/1999 were the leading measures in reducing emissions. Since 2003, the decreasing trend continued on a lower level mainly due to continuous technical improvements in waste and special waste incineration plants as well as crematoria.

▼ 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
The Ordinance on Air Pollution Control (OAPC, SR 814.318.142.1) sets general preventive emission limits of 0.2 mg/m3 mercury at a mass flow of 1 g/h or more (annex 1) for new and existing stationary installations (i.e. chemistry, mineral oil industry, metals, etc.). Additional emission limitations are required for cement clinker production facilities with emissions limits for mercury at 0.05 mg/m3. All emission limits values were implemented before the entry into force of the Convention. Moreover, emissions for which no limit is specified in the OAPC or for which a particular limit is declared not to apply, shall be limited preventively by the authorities as far as is technically and operationally feasible and economically acceptable.

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product use (0.04 t) and waste (0.029 t). The decrease 1990–2003 was mainly achieved by equipping municipal solid waste incineration plants with flue gas treatment or by improving the already installed technology. The closing down of two steel production sites in 1995 and the installation of new filters in the two remaining secondary steel production plants in 1998/1999 were the leading measures in reducing emissions. Since 2003, the decreasing trend continued on a lower level mainly due to continuous technical improvements in waste and special waste incineration plants as well as crematoria.

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?
1 March 2025

Please indicate where this inventory is available
At an early stage it became clear that the mercury issue could not be effectively tackled through national measures alone. For this reason, the Aarhus Protocol on Heavy Metals, a protocol to the Geneva Convention on Air Pollution of 1979, was adopted in 1998. It aims to reduce emissions of heavy metals lead, cadmium and mercury. When the protocol was amended in December 2012, the emissions mitigation measures were adapted to reflect state of the art technology. Switzerland has ratified the protocol, it has to establish an emission inventory for mercury, which is updated annually. The report follows the rules laid down in the “EMEP/EAA Air Pollutant Emission Inventory Guidebook». Last update available has been published in march 2025.

The inventories are available via the link below:
https://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/ch/un/clrtap/iir/
https://webdab01.umweltbundesamt.at/download/submissions2025/TR_NFR_2025.zip?cgiproxy_skip=1

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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

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▼ ART. 9: RELEASES

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

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No
- ○ Do not know (please explain)

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

- ○ Yes
- ◉ Relevant sources do not exist in the territory
- ○ Have not been a party for 5 years
- ○ No (please explain)

Part E - Additional comments on this article

SwissPRTR is Switzerland's publicly accessible pollutant register. It provides information about pollutant release and the transfer of waste and pollutants into wastewater. The register comprises data from facilities subject to a reporting obligation, and on various sources.
Emissions of mercury must be reported if the inputs to wastewater, water or soil exceed 1 kg per year. In the period between 2017 to 2020, no relevant sources of mercury releases have been identified (Mercury loads and fluxes from wastewater: A nationwide survey in Switzerland - ScienceDirect).

Data up to and including 2023 are available below as an Excel download :
https://www.bafu.admin.ch/dam/bafu/fr/dokumente/chemikalien/fachinfo-daten/swissprtr-daten-2007-2021.xlsx.download.xlsx/SwissPRTR-Daten_2007-2023.xlsx

Data for 2024 will be available in the newly developed SwissPRTR 5.0 web application by the end of March 2026:
https://www.swissprtr.admin.ch/landing-page

The locations of SwissPRTR facilities in Switzerland are available as a map layer:
https://map.geo.admin.ch/?lang=en&bgLayer=ch.swisstopo.pixelkarte-grau&layers=ch.bafu.swissprtr&topic=bafu

▼ 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.
The owners of facilities, where more than 200 kg of mercury or more than 2'000 kg of mercury compounds are stored, are subject to the provisions of the Ordinance on Protection against Major Accidents (SR 814.012). Such owners are obliged to take all necessary safety measures to prevent

incidents and have to take appropriate precautions if an accident nevertheless happen. The authorities control the compliance of this duty in a two-stage process consisting of two instruments: a summary report (1st stage) and a possible risk assessment (2nd stage). The canton shall periodically inform the Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) on the hazard potentials and risks present on their territory and on the measures taken.

Link to the ordinance:
https://www.fedlex.admin.ch/eli/cc/1991/748_748_748/en

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
With effect from 1 January 2018, the Ordinance of 4 December 2015 on the Avoidance and the Disposal of Waste (ADWO, SR 814.600) defines mercury waste as follows:

1) waste that contains mercury or mercury compounds (which includes waste that is contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds),
2) mercury or mercury compounds originating from the treatment of mercury waste in terms of number 1, with exemption of mercury that may be exported with an export licence in accordance with the provisions of the Chemical Risk Reduction Ordinance (ORRChem, SR 814.81),
3) mercury or mercury compounds that is or are no longer required in industrial processes.

Furthermore, the ADWO stipulates the following:
1) waste consisting of mercury or mercury compounds as well as waste that contains mercury or mercury compounds must be disposed of in an environmentally sound manner according to the state of the art.
2) mercury or mercury compounds derived from the handling of mercury waste remain mercury waste which must be treated and disposed of in an environmentally sound manner, provided the mercury or mercury compounds may not be handed over for a use allowed, or the metal may not be exported with an export licence in accordance with the provisions of the ORRChem.
3) mercury or mercury compounds that are no longer required in industrial processes must be treated and deposited in an environmentally sound manner according to the state of the art. The placing on the market or use of such mercury or mercury compounds is not allowed.

In other words, this means that metallic mercury or mercury compounds derived from the treatment of mercury waste are considered waste and must be treated and disposed of in an environmentally sound manner and according to the state of the art. This applies if the mercury or mercury compounds cannot be handed over for permissible use according to national legislation or if the mercury cannot be exported with an export licence in accordance with the provisions of the ORRChem. Such a license may only be granted when the mercury come from recovery, recycling, reclamation, direct re-use or alternative uses of sources allowed by the Convention and the European Regulation (EU) 2017/852 and for analysis and research purposes, or for the production of pre-dosed capsules for dental amalgams until the end of 2027.

SR 814.600 - Ordinance of 4 December 2015 on the Avoidance and the Disposal of Waste (Waste Ordinance, ADWO) | Fedlex
https://www.fedlex.admin.ch/eli/cc/2015/891/en

SR 814.81 - Ordinance of 18 May 2005 on the Reduction of Risks relating to the Use of Certain Particularly Dangerous Substances, Preparations and Articles (Chemical Risk Reduction Ordinanc... | Fedlex
https://www.fedlex.admin.ch/eli/cc/2005/478/en

☑ 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
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1) waste that contains mercury or mercury compounds (which includes waste that is contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds),
2) mercury or mercury compounds originating from the treatment of mercury waste in terms of number 1, with exemption of mercury that may be exported with an export licence in accordance with the provisions of the Chemical Risk Reduction Ordinance (ORRChem, SR 814.81),
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2) mercury or mercury compounds derived from the handling of mercury waste remain mercury waste which must be treated and disposed of in an environmentally sound manner, provided the mercury or mercury compounds may not be handed over for a use allowed, or the metal may not be exported with an export licence in accordance with the provisions of the ORRChem.
3) mercury or mercury compounds that are no longer required in industrial processes must be treated and deposited in an environmentally sound manner according to the state of the art. The placing on the market or use of such mercury or mercury compounds is not allowed.

In other words, this means that metallic mercury or mercury compounds derived from the treatment of mercury waste are considered waste and must be treated and disposed of in an environmentally sound manner and according to the state of the art. This applies if the mercury or mercury compounds cannot be handed over for permissible use according to national legislation or if the mercury cannot be exported with an export licence in accordance with the provisions of the ORRChem. Such a license may only be granted when the mercury come from recovery, recycling, reclamation, direct re-use or alternative uses of sources allowed by the Convention and the European Regulation (EU) 2017/852 and for analysis and research purposes, or for the production of pre-dosed capsules for dental amalgams until the end of 2027.

SR 814.600 - Ordinance of 4 December 2015 on the Avoidance and the Disposal of Waste (Waste Ordinance, ADWO) | Fedlex
https://www.fedlex.admin.ch/eli/cc/2015/891/en
SR 814.81 - Ordinance of 18 May 2005 on the Reduction of Risks relating to the Use of Certain Particularly Dangerous Substances, Preparations and Articles (Chemical Risk Reduction Ordinanc... | Fedlex
https://www.fedlex.admin.ch/eli/cc/2005/478/en

☑ 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
In addition to the requirements already mentioned in the answers above, further provisions of waste legislation, particularly the Waste Movement Ordinance (OMW, SR 814.610) and the DETEC Ordinance on Lists for Waste Movements (SR 814.610.1), stipulate that mercury waste must be handled in an environmentally sound manner. The import and export of waste consisting of or containing mercury and mercury compounds must take place in accordance with the Basel Convention (SR 0.814.05).

RS 814.610 - Ordonnance du 22 juin 2005 sur les mouvements de déchets (OMoD) | Fedlex
https://www.fedlex.admin.ch/eli/cc/2015/891/en
RS 814.610.1 - Ordonnance du DETEC du 18 octobre 2005 concernant les listes pour les mouvements de déchets | Fedlex
https://www.fedlex.admin.ch/eli/cc/2005/714/fr
RS 0.814.05 - Convention de Bâle du 22 mars 1989 sur le contrôle des mouvements transfrontières de déchets dangereux et de leur élimination (avec annexes) | Fedlex
https://www.fedlex.admin.ch/eli/cc/1992/1125_1125_1125/fr

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.
The comprehensive measures outlined above ensure that mercury waste in Switzerland is consistently managed, treated and disposed of in an environmentally sound manner. No irregularities were observed in the implementation of these measures. Their effectiveness can therefore be assumed.

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
- [x] Yes - there are facilities outside the party's territory accessible to the party (in accordance with paragraph 5 of article 11)

Kindly attach any additional relevant information
{Empty}

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
Definition of "contaminated site":
In Switzerland, a polluted site is a location whose pollution originates either from an operated or closed disposal site (landfill) or a industrial or accident site, where waste was deposited or seeped into the ground. Industrial sites also include shooting ranges. If a polluted site cause harmful effects or nuisances (or where there is a real danger that such effects may arise), it must be remediated. In this case, it is referred to as "contaminated site".
Online availability of the strategy:
The legal basis for the management of contaminated sites in Switzerland is provided by the Environmental Protection Act (EPA, SR 814.01), the Contaminated Site Ordinance (CSO, SR 814.680) and the Ordinance on the Charge for the Remediation of Contaminated Site (OCRCS, SR 814.681). In addition, the Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) has published various documents that provide guidance on how to comply with legislative requirements on contaminated sites.
Status of implementation:

To date, all registers of polluted sites have been completed by the Cantons and the federal administration. A good three-quarters of all sites requiring further investigation have been investigated (target for completion: 2032) and about 45% of all contaminated sites have been remediated (target for completion 2045). Of the 1,800 contaminated sites that have already been remediated, around 40 were mercury-contaminated. The largest mercury contaminated site (several km2 of soil contaminated with mercury) is located in the Canton of Valais. The remediation of this area heavily contaminated with mercury (in residential and agricultural zones) will be completed shortly.

Links:
Links:
SR 814.01 - Federal Act of 7 October 1983 on the Protection of the Environment (Environmental Protection Act, EPA) | Fedlex
https://www.fedlex.admin.ch/eli/cc/1984/1122_1122_1122/en
SR 814.680 - Ordinance of 26 August 1998 on the Remediation of Polluted Sites (Contaminated Sites Ordinance, CSO) | Fedlex
https://www.fedlex.admin.ch/eli/cc/1998/2261_2261_2261/en
SR 814.681 - Ordinance of 26 September 2008 on the Charge for the Remediation of Contaminated Sites (OCRCS) | Fedlex
https://www.fedlex.admin.ch/eli/cc/2008/670/en
Enforcement aids:
Sites contaminés: Aides à l'exécution
https://www.bafu.admin.ch/fr/sites-contamines

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
National implementation and participation in the further development of the Convention have resource implications at the national level in Switzerland. Personnel expenditures correspond to approximately two additional positions at the Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN). These positions are compensated internally by means of adjustments to current administrative tasks.

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.
Switzerland contributed to the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, to the Specific International Programme, to a Traning Session on mercury waste, and to the Global Mercury Partnership.

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
Switzerland has provided financial resources to UNITAR for the support of developing countries with regard to the development and implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals.

Please provide comments, if any.
{Empty}

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
Switzerland, as the host country of the secretariat, provides 1 million Swiss franc per year to the Convention of which 40 percent is prioritized for the purpose of supporting the participation of representatives from developing countries in the meeting of the Conference of the Parties. In addition, Switzerland has been financially supporting the organisation of regional preparatory meeting before conferences of parties and the participation of representatives from developing countries to those meetings.
Moreover, Switzerland has supported capacity building through its economic cooperation and development as well as with its financial support through UNITAR. It has also financially supported the Secretariat in developing information materials and organizing conferences and webinars.

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

- ( ) Yes
- (●) No

Please specify
No capacity-building or technical assistance is needed

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
Switzerland has supported capacity building through its economic cooperation and development as well as with its financial support through UNITAR, including for the topic mercury waste. It has also financially supported the Secretariat in developing information materials and organizing conferences and webinars.

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 general Swiss population may be exposed to mercury through food consumption, inhaled ambient air, dental amalgam fillings or through accidental exposure by broken or damaged mercury containing products. As mercury is now barely used in products marketed in Switzerland and the use of mercury in industrial processes has been phase out, exposure of the general population to mercury occurs mainly through food consumption and workplace-related exposure are rare.
As part of the Swiss Health Study – Pilot Phase, launched by the Federal Office of Public Health, a human biomonitoring campaign was conducted in 2020–2021 among 789 healthy adults aged 20 to 69 residing in the cantons of Bern and Vaud. Various substances were measured in participants' blood and urine, including total mercury in whole blood.
Overall, population exposure to metals in the two Swiss cantons was found to be comparable in magnitude to levels reported in other European countries. With regard to mercury, the results obtained in the pilot phase are reassuring: the median concentration of total mercury in blood was 0.9 ng/mL, 98% of measurements were below the HBM-I health-based guidance value, and only 0.4% of participants had levels exceeding the HBM-II threshold. Preliminary statistical analyses to identify the most likely sources of mercury exposure have been initiated and will be further developed in the coming years to improve understanding of exposure pathways.
These findings have been published in a report made available to the public and relevant authorities through the FOPH website.

In addition, another study established reference values for 24 trace elements—including mercury—using urine and plasma as complementary matrices to blood. These reference values were derived from samples collected between 2009 and 2013 from a Swiss population cohort and were published in April 2024 in the corresponding article : Perrais et al. "Reference values for plasma and urine trace elements in a Swiss population-based cohort." Clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine vol. 62,11 2242-2255. 22 Apr. 2024, doi:10.1515/cclm-2023-1433"

- https://www.bag.admin.ch/dam/en/sd-web/N28hYVvHltTX/pilotphase-der-schweizer-gesundheitsstudie-zwischenbericht.pdf
- https://www.bag.admin.ch/dam/en/sd-web/fYwR7UApI3RB/Pilotphase_der_Schweizer_Gesundheitsstudie_Schlussbericht.pdf

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

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

Scientific, technical, economic and legal information concerning mercury and mercury compounds, including toxicological, ecotoxicological and safety information
In 2022, the Federal Office for the Environment nominated two Swiss experts to the Open-Ended Scientific Group (OESG) for the first Effectiveness Evaluation to the Convention. This group facilitates the collection and exchange of information on environmental concentrations, emissions, releases, etc., at the national and international levels. The experts also contribute to drafting documents, synthesizing information, analyzing data, and writing the scientific report to be submitted to the Effectiveness Evaluation Group.
The Federal Office for the Environment contributed to various activities, such as:
Technical session on mercury-contaminated land management, at 15th ICCL meeting, Berne, 17-18 October 2024
https://minamataconvention.org/en/news/iccl-and-minamata-convention-secretariat-host-technical-session-mercury-contaminated-land
Managing mercury contaminated soils and sites- Webinar Virtual 14 - 14 Dec 2022
https://minamataconvention.org/en/events/managing-mercury-contaminated-soils-and-sites

☐ 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:

Mercury-added products
{Empty}

Manufacturing processes in which mercury or mercury compounds are used
Researches cofinanced by the Swiss National Science Foundation included:

Tracking life and death of carbon nitride supports in platinum-catalyzed vinyl chloride synthesis
https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-025-60169-7

Nanostructuring unlocks high performance of platinum single-atom catalysts for stable vinyl chloride production
https://www.nature.com/articles/s41929-020-0431-3

Activities and processes that emit or release mercury or mercury compounds
{Empty}

☐ 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

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▼ ART. 18: PUBLIC INFORMATION, AWARENESS AND EDUCATION

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

◉ Yes

○ No

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

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

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

The effects of mercury and mercury compounds on human health and the environment
Info sheet on mercury | Ecotox Centre
https://www.ecotoxcentre.ch/news-publications/news/info-sheet-on-mercury

☐ Alternatives to mercury and mercury compounds

☑ The topics identified in paragraph 1 of article 17

The topics identified in paragraph 1 of article 17
Requirements for supply and use
https://www.bafu.admin.ch/bafu/en/home/topics/chemicals/industrial-chemicals-by-substance/mercury.html
Electrical and electronic equipment
https://www.bafu.admin.ch/bafu/en/home/topics/chemicals/industriechemikalien-nach-anwendungsbereichen/electrical-and-electronic-equipment.html
Vehicles
https://www.bafu.admin.ch/bafu/en/home/topics/chemicals/industriechemikalien-nach-anwendungsbereichen/vehicles.html

☑ The results of its research, development and monitoring activities under article 19

The results of its research, development and monitoring activities under article 19
National Surface Water Quality Monitoring Programme (NAWA)
https://www.bafu.admin.ch/bafu/en/home/topics/water/state-of-watercourses/national-surface-water-quality-monitoring-programme--nawa-.html
NAQUA National Groundwater Monitoring
https://www.bafu.admin.ch/bafu/en/home/topics/water/groundwater/naqua-national-groundwater-monitoring.html
Résultats de l'Observatoire national des sols (NABO) de 1985 à 2019
https://www.bafu.admin.ch/bafu/fr/home/themes/sol/publications-etudes/publications/l-observatoire-national-des-sols-nabo.html
Résultats du Réseau national d'observation des polluants atmosphériques (NABEL)
https://www.bafu.admin.ch/bafu/fr/home/themes/air/publications-etudes/publications/la-qualite-de-l-air.html
Mercury species in agricultural products in Switzerland
https://www.blv.admin.ch/blv/de/home/lebensmittel-und-ernaehrung/lebensmittelsicherheit/stoffe-im-fokus/kontaminanten/quecksilber.html
Reference values for plasma and urine trace elements in a Swiss population-based cohort, Perrais et al., Clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine, vol. 62,11 2242-2255. 22 Apr. 2024, doi:10.1515/cclm-2023-1433"

☑ Activities to meet its obligations under the Convention

Activities to meet its obligations under the Convention
Minamata Convention on Mercury
https://www.bafu.admin.ch/bafu/en/home/topics/chemicals/international-affairs--chemicals/minamata-convention-on-mercury.html

(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
Federal Office of Public Health FOPH Chemicals
https://www.bag.admin.ch/en/chemicals

(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
Switzerlands Informative Inventory Report 2025
https://www.bafu.admin.ch/dam/bafu/de/dokumente/luft/fachinfo-daten/iir_che_2025.pdf.download.pdf/IIR_CH_2025.pdf

SwissPRTR pollutant register
https://www.bafu.admin.ch/bafu/en/home/topics/chemicals/swissprtr-pollutant-register.html

☑ 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
Mercury accumulation and biomagnification in the barn owl (Tyto alba) food chain
https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0304389425011847

☑ 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

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
A pilot project for a national health study with Human Biomonitoring (HBM) has been conducted by the Federal Office of public health under the name "Swiss Health Study - Pilot Phase". The interim report on the operational phase and the analytical results from HBM were published in German and French in June and August 2023, respectively (see below) :

Phase pilote de l'étude suisse sur la santé: résultats de la biosurveillance humaine (Human biomonitoring HBM)
https://backend.bag.admin.ch/fileservice/sdweb-docs-prod-bagadminch-files/files/2025/03/18/45922dcc-9da9-467e-8ad7-76cbc90fc52b.pdf

The Federal Office for the Environment has funded the following research project:

Mercury accumulation and biomagnification in terrestrial food chains
2018-2021, University of Bern
In Switzerland, the data on mercury pollution in the terrestrial environment, especially in wildlife, was scarce and not up to date. Therefore, the first aim of this project was to provide the FOEN with a

method for long-term biomonitoring of mercury in the terrestrial environment. The second aim was to better understand the transfer of mercury and methylmercury in a well-defined food chain. In addition, it has been investigated if mercury could pose a risk for predators at the top of a terrestrial food chain in Switzerland. Finally, we aimed to provide tools to better define historical variation of mercury.

Mercury accumulation and biomagnification in the barn owl (Tyto alba) food chain
https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0304389425011847

☐ 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 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
The Federal Office for the Environment has funded the following research project:

Spatial and seasonal dynamics of gaseous elemental mercury (Hg0) concentrations over Switzerland 2022-2023, ETH Zurich
The aim of this project was to obtain the basic data needed in Switzerland to assess trends in mercury concentrations in the air to support the processes for evaluating the effectiveness of the Minamata Convention. The approach consisted firstly of identifying seasonal and spatial trends in mercury concentrations in Switzerland over a period of one year. Secondly, a monitoring strategy has been developed to determine the exposure of humans and the environment to mercury at a site known to be potentially contaminated.

Spatial and seasonal dynamics of gaseous elemental mercury concentrations over Switzerland observed by a passive air sampler network
https://pubs.rsc.org/en/content/articlelanding/2024/ea/d4ea00052h

☐ 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

{Empty}

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

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

{Empty}

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

Comments regarding the reporting format and possible improvements,

if any

{Empty}

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UN environment programme