

2025 FULL REPORTS OF THE MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

Report submitted on 14 January 2026



REPORTING PERIOD:

1 January 2021 to 31 December 2024

▼ INFORMATION ON THE PARTY

1. Information on the party

Name of party

Uruguay

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

24 September 2014

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

Ministry of Environment

Title of Contact Officer

Mrs

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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

If the party answered no to the question, please explain.

There is no source exceeding 10 metric tones per year

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

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

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

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

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

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

Part E – Additional comments on this article

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▼ ART. 4: MERCURY-ADDED PRODUCTS

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

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

If yes, please provide information on the measures.

Decree 15/2019 on mercury added products and their wastes.

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.

Any mercury added product being imported need to register previously and provide adequate information. Once information is revised, it would be allowed or not allowed to be imported.

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 no to question 4.3(B) above, please explain

There is no registry of mercury imported for dental in the reporting period.

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 the party answered no – no action taken, please explain.

There is a constant decrease in mercury-added products, particularly mercury lamps not included in Annex I.

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

If yes, please provide information on measures taken to address emissions and releases of mercury or mercury compounds from such facilities.

There is one chloroalkali facility in Uruguay with mercury electrode. There have presented a plan for dismantling of the facility and for a new one with membrane technology.

If available, please provide information on the number and type of facilities and the estimated annual amount of mercury or mercury compounds used in those facilities.

one facility

The estimation is 350 kg/ year of mercury

Please provide information on how much mercury (in metric tons) is used in the processes listed in the two first entries of Part II of Annex B in the last year of the reporting period.

0,7 metric tons in 2 years

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

CHLOR-ALKALI PRODUCTION

- Yes
- No

Not applicable (do not have these facilities)

If yes, please provide information on these measures.

The deadline for the reconversion was extended until December 31, 2026.

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

Yes

No

Not applicable (do not have these facilities)

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

VINYL CHLORIDE MONOMER PRODUCTION

Yes

No

Not applicable (do not have these facilities)

SODIUM OR POTASSIUM METHYLATE OR ETHYLATE

Yes

No

Not applicable (do not have these facilities)

PRODUCTION OF POLYURETHANE USING MERCURY-CONTAINING CATALYSTS

Yes

No

Not applicable (do not have these facilities)

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

Yes

No

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

Yes

No - no action taken

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

Part E – Additional comments on this article

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

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

Yes

No

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

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

Yes

No

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

Yes

No

Please provide information

{Empty}

Part E – Additional comments on this article

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▼ ART. 8: EMISSIONS

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

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

Coal-fired power plants

Coal-fired industrial boilers

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

Waste incineration facilities

Cement clinker production facilities

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

- Yes
- No (please explain)

No (please explain)

There is no new source category within the reporting period.

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

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▼ WASTE INCINERATION FACILITIES

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

Measures

Decree 135/2021 on standard emissions for fixed and mobile sources, that limited Hg emissions to 0,07 mg/Nm³- 7% Oxigen 7%

Progress

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▼ 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

Decree 135/2021 on standard emissions for fixed and mobile sources, that limited Hg emissions to 0,07 mg/Nm³- 7% Oxigen 7%

Progress

{Empty}

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 no such inventory exists, please explain

The last update of the mercury inventory following UNEP's toolkit was in 2015.

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

- Yes
 No

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

The criteria is set by sector in Decree 135/2021 on standard emissions for fixed and mobile sources, that limited Hg emissions to 0,07 mg/Nm³-Oxygen 7%

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

There is no coal-fired power plant or coal-fired industrial boiler in the territory. The industrial gold facility stopped its production in 2019.

▼ 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?

9 December 2015

Please indicate where this inventory is available.

{Empty}

Please explain

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Part E – Additional comments on this article

there is a decree in place that limits the releases to different types of water courses, Decree 253/79 for the prevention of surface and groundwater pollution, adopting an ecosystem approach, basin management, and considering emerging pollutants and climate change, establishing quality classes and requirements for polluting activities.

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

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

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

If no, please explain

There is no interim storage of non waste mercury or mercury compounds intended for a use allowed to a party under the convention.

Part E – Additional comments on this article

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▼ ART. 11: MERCURY WASTES

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

- Yes
- No
- Yes – the party has taken measures so that mercury waste is managed in an environmentally sound manner

Please describe measure and effectiveness of measures

The Decree 182/13 establishes the categorization of waste, with mercury being a relevant parameter, and the conditions for its final disposal at the site designated for industrial solid waste have been defined.

- Yes – the party has taken measures so that mercury waste is recovered, recycled, reclaimed or directly re-used for a use allowed to a party under the Convention or for environmentally sound disposal pursuant to paragraph 3 (a)
- Yes – the party has taken measures so that mercury waste is not transported across international boundaries except for the purpose of environmentally sound disposal

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

There is an industrial landfill that receives mercury waste with certain content of mercury as final disposal.

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.

CIU´s industrial landfill

Kindly attach any additional relevant information

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Part E – Additional comments on this article

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▼ ART. 12: CONTAMINATED SITES

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

- Yes
- No

Please elaborate

The Japanese environmental agency JICA collaborated closely to monitor and establish hot spots of mercury contamination in the site of the chloralkali facility .

Part E – Additional comments on this article

The facility has a guideline value for intervention and the results of monitoring are less than 15 mg/kg of Hg which was set after the coloboration with JICA.

▼ 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

Through the GEF project 2023–2026:"Accelerate implementation of dental amalgam provisions and strengthen country capacities in the environmental sound management of associated wastes under the Minamata Convention", has an effective a cofinancing of activities planned for Uruguay.

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.

While Uruguay has graduated according to the OECD criteria, the country currently lacks the financial capacity to provide assistance to other nations. Consequently, it remains difficult to establish a specific fund dedicated exclusively to mercury-related activities.

In many cases, mercury management is integrated with broader initiatives, such as industrial waste or general waste management.

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

{Empty}

Please provide comments, if any.

While Uruguay has graduated according to the OECD criteria, the country currently lacks the financial capacity to provide assistance to other nations. Consequently, it remains difficult to establish a specific fund dedicated exclusively to mercury-related activities.

In many instances, mercury management is integrated with broader initiatives, such as industrial waste or general waste management

Part E – Additional comments on this article

BCCC-SCRC for LAC, located in Uruguay has extensive expertise in Minamata Initial Assessments and a proven track record of effectively managing both funds and technical inputs.

▼ 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

Activities of the GEF Project: "Accelerate the implementation of dental amalgam provisions and strengthen national capacities for the environmentally sound management of associated wastes under the Minamata Convention, including sharing lessons learned related to legislation, waste management, and best practices concerning oral health."

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

Yes

No

Please specify

{Empty}

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

In 2024, Uruguay participated in the side event, "Phasing down the use of dental amalgam," held during the WHO Oral Health meeting in Thailand. This involvement was part of the information dissemination activities under the GEF Project: "Accelerate implementation of dental amalgam provisions and strengthen country capacities in the environmentally sound management of associated wastes under the Minamata Convention."

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.

Activities of the GEF Project: "Accelerate the implementation of dental amalgam provisions and strengthen national capacities for the environmentally sound management of associated wastes under the Minamata Convention, including sharing lessons learned related to legislation, waste management, and best practices concerning oral health."

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.

Workshops and videos were developed as part of the communication activities planned under the GEF Project: "Accelerate the implementation of dental amalgam provisions and strengthen national capacities for the environmentally sound management of associated wastes under the Minamata Convention."

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

As part of the activities planned under the GEF Project: "Accelerate the implementation of dental amalgam provisions and strengthen national capacities for the environmentally sound management of associated wastes under the Minamata Convention."

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

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

As part of the activities planned under the GEF Project: "Accelerate the implementation of dental amalgam provisions and strengthen national capacities for the environmentally sound management of associated wastes under the Minamata Convention."

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

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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

As part of the activities planned under the GEF Project: "Accelerate the implementation of dental amalgam provisions and strengthen national capacities for the environmentally sound management of associated wastes under the Minamata Convention."

Alternatives to mercury and mercury compounds

Alternatives to mercury and mercury compounds

As part of the activities planned under the GEF Project: "Accelerate the implementation of dental amalgam provisions and strengthen national capacities for the environmentally sound management of associated wastes under the Minamata Convention."

The topics identified in paragraph 1 of article 17

The topics identified in paragraph 1 of article 17

As part of the activities planned under the GEF Project: "Accelerate the implementation of dental amalgam provisions and strengthen national capacities for the environmentally sound management of associated wastes under the Minamata Convention.", specifically related to dental restoration and oral health good practices

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

Activities to meet its obligations under the Convention

Activities to meet its obligations under the Convention

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(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

Workshops and videos were developed as part of the communication activities planned under the GEF Project: "Accelerate the implementation of dental amalgam provisions and strengthen national capacities for the environmentally sound management of associated wastes under the Minamata Convention."

(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

(Art. 19 (1) (a)-(g))

Part E – Additional comments on this article

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

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

In Uruguay, there exists a chloralkaline production facility that utilizes mercury technology, situated near Montevideo. Presently, the transition to mercury-free technology is in progress; however, the facility is not anticipated to convert from chlorine-soda production utilizing mercury technology to membrane technology by the year 2025. The public information and participation phase regarding the special environmental authorization took place in January 2024. The transition to a mercury-free production process necessitates the procurement of technology and equipment from Europe, which will be transported by sea and subsequently installed at the facility. The initial timeline for halting operations at the current plant has been considerably affected by delays in technology procurement, which are attributed to material shortages and logistical challenges. The Ministry of Environment is diligently supervising the strategy for the construction, procurement, and arrival of the requisite equipment in Uruguay.

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

Comments regarding the reporting format and possible improvements,

if any

It was easy and straight forward to complete the information in this format.