

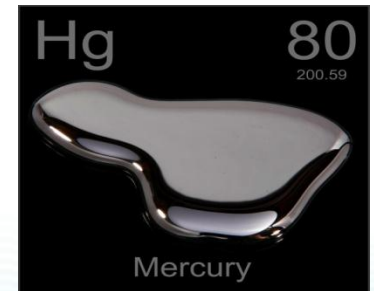
Horizon 2020, Initiative to de-pollute the Mediterranean by the year 2020

www.h2020.net

in collaboration with UNEP/MAP

Training on mercury management and remediation of
contaminated sites. Almadén, SPAIN, 18-19 November 2015

“The Minamata Convention and the Global Mercury Partnership” (UNEP)



Ana García González

Head of the Institutional Coordination Unit
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment
SPAIN

Negotiations of the mercury convention

(2009) UNEP GC Decision 25/5: Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee (INC) to prepare a legally binding instrument on mercury, a global concern



**5 sessions from June 2010 (INC1) to January 2013 (INC-5)
Agreed text of the Minamata Convention on mercury**



Signing the convention: October 2013-October 2014: 128 signatures



**Ratifications: 18 (Nov 2015).....after 50 Ratifications:
ENTRY INTO FORCE (end 2016? beginning 2017?)**



about a year later: the First Conference of the Parties

OBJECTIVE OF THE MINAMATA CONVENTION

Article 1 : “The objective of this Convention is to protect the human health and the environment from **anthropogenic** emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds.”

TOTAL mercury emissions to the air (all sources): 5500-8900 t/y

- **Natural** emissions: **about 10%** (i.e.vulcanoos or geothermal activities)
- **Anthropogenic** emissions: **about 30%** (industrial sources)
- **Re-emissions:** **about 60%** (previously deposited onto soils, water and vegetation)

(Source: UNEP Global Mercury Assessment 2013)

The whole life cycle of mercury: technical articles (2-12)

Article 2: Definitions

Article 3: Mercury supply sources and trade

Article 4: Mercury added products (annex A)

**Article 5: Manufacturing processes which use mercury
(annex B)**

**Article 6: Exemptions to products and processes
(to annexes A-B)**

Article 7: Artisanal and small-scale gold mining (annex C)

The whole life cycle of mercury: technical articles (2-12)

Article 8: Emissions to the atmosphere (annex D)

Article 9: Releases to land and water

**Article 10: Environmentally sound interim storage
of mercury, other than waste mercury**

Article 11: Mercury waste

Article 12: Contaminated sites

Articles on key tools for the implementation (13-15)

Article 13: Financial resources and mechanism

Article 14: Capacity- building, Technical assistance and technology transfer

Article 15: Implementation and Compliance Committee (to promote implementation; facilitative in nature)

Articles on knowledge and information for the implementation (16-19)

Article 16: Health aspects. Vulnerable populations

Article 17: Information exchange

Article 18: Public information, awareness and education

Article 19: Research, development and monitoring

Articles on tools and elements for the national implementation (20-22)

Article 20: Implementation Plans. (Not compulsory, initial assessment considering domestic circumstances).

Article 21: Reporting (art. 3, 5, 7, 8 and 9)



Article 22: Effectiveness evaluation

Institutional and legal articles (23-35)

Article 23: Conference of the Parties

Article 24: Secretariat

Article 25: Settlement of disputes

Article 26: Amendments to the convention

Article 27: Adoption and amendment of annexes

**Articles 28-35: Right to vote; Signature; Ratification,
acceptance, approval or accession; Entry into force;
Reservations; Withdrawal; Depositary; Authentic texts.**

The Global Mercury Partnership (GMP)

The GMP, a voluntary framework where Governments and stakeholders work closely to assist in the timely ratification and effective implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury. The GMP started its activity in 2005 , after UNEP Governing Council 23rd.

Overall goal of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership:

to protect human health and the global environment from the release of mercury and its compounds by minimizing and, where feasible, ultimately eliminating global, **anthropogenic** mercury releases to air, water and land.

GMP areas support the overall goal contributing to the following objectives (GC Decision 24/3):

- Minimization and, where possible, **elimination of mercury supply** considering a hierarchy of sources, and the **retirement of mercury from the market** to environmentally sound management.
- Minimization and, where feasible, **elimination of unintentional mercury releases to air, water, and land** from anthropogenic sources.
- Continued **minimization and elimination of global use and demand** for mercury.
- Promoting the **development of non-mercury technologies** where suitable economically feasible alternatives do not exist.

8 Partnership Areas

- ✓ **Mercury Control from Coal Combustion**
- ✓ **Artisanal and Small scale Gold Mining (ASGM)**
- ✓ **Mercury Reduction in Chlor alkali production**
- ✓ **Mercury Reduction in Products**
- ✓ **Mercury Air Transport and Fate Research**
- ✓ **Mercury Waste Management**
- ✓ **Mercury Supply and Storage**
- ✓ **Mercury Releases from Cement Industry**

Supply and Storage Partnership Area

- ✓ Lead countries: Spain and Uruguay
- ✓ Spain: Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment with the collaboration of the National Technological Centre for Mercury Decontamination (CTNDM)
- ✓ Other areas connected to Supply and Storage area:
 - Artisanal and Small scale Gold Mining (ASGM)
 - Mercury Reduction in Chlor-alkali production
 - Mercury Waste Management

Finding Storage Solutions

- ✓ Need to manage **excess supply**
- ✓ Many countries have difficulties to identify and fund **appropriate facilities** for ESM and storage of Hg and Hg wastes
- ✓ Manage mercury waste as **close to the source** as possible
- ✓ **Adequate and effective legislation** is key
- ✓ Several **stabilization technologies** are now available

Mercury Supply and Storage area: Projects

- **Kyrgyz Republic GEF project: Assist in the transition, provide alternatives to mercury mining**
- **Workshop on Hg management in the LAC region (May 2012)**
- **Workshop on Hg management and decontamination in the Mediterranean Regional Plan on Hg (Dec. 2012)**
- **Regional Mercury Storage Projects in AP and LAC**
- **Storage and Disposal Projects in South and Central America**

Mercury Supply and Storage area: last Project

Characterization of a Chlor-alkali plant area in Uruguay:

- **↓ amount of material/waste with ↑ hg content**

**Colaboration with the CTNDM for the
Stabilization/solidification**

- **↑ amount of material/waste with ↓ hg content**

**Colaboration with Cemintech for the
Stabilization/solidification with microcements**

....final report in process.. positive results



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MINISTERIO
DE AGRICULTURA, ALIMENTACIÓN
Y MEDIO AMBIENTE

Horizon2020

TO DE-POLLUTE THE MEDITERRANEAN BY THE YEAR 2020

www.h2020.net Mercury

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!



aggonzalez@magrama.es