Dear Mr. Per M. Bakken,

Please find below information on mercury as requested in your letter DTIE/PMB/Mercury.

1. References to key information resources relating to mercury, such as national

reviews or assessments, scientific publications or other material which has been considered in taking action on mercury

A national review has been conducted to identify key sources of mercury and to estimate their release. The results of the review have been compiled in the Report on Reduction of Emission of Heavy Metals, drafted in 2007. The Report offers a core material to the National Implementation Plan to be elaborated according to the obligations of Stockholm Convention.

The use of metallic mercury and amalgam in the health care sector has recently been assessed in Hungary. The Hungarian Ministry of Environment and Water conducted a study in 2006 on the use of clinical thermometers and sphygmomanometers, both mercury-based and alternative devices. A study on sphygmomanometers has also been conducted by the Hungarian partners of European Environment Bureau in 2009.

2. Descriptions of assessment tools which have proved useful in taking risk

management decisions relating to mercury or in assessing the mercury challenges faced

nationally

Hungary does not employ specific assessment tools in this regard.

3. Details of national or regional actions taken to control mercury, such as legislative

or regulatory action either directly on mercury or designed to control industries which use

mercury in products or processes, industry initiatives (for example, best practice initiatives),

awareness raising campaigns or other actions relevant to the upcoming negotiations for a

global legally binding instrument on mercury

There is a set of legislation which is applicable to mercury and its compounds, in terms of their marketing, storage, direct use of them or in products, and control of emissions by industries. Other legislation is aimed at controlling mercury concentration in the environment. As Hungary is one of the EU's Member States, the national legislation is largely based on the legislation of the European Union. This report lists EU legislation with reference, where appropriate, to the national implementing measures.

Export ban and safe storage of mercury and its compounds:

Regulation (EC) No 1102/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the banning of exports of metallic mercury and certain mercury compounds and mixtures and the safe storage of metallic mercury

Restriction on use of mercury or its compounds:

Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) (Annex XVII, entry 18 and 18a)

Directive 2002/95/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 January 2003 on the restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment

This directive has been transposed to the national legislation by Decree of the Minister of the Environment and Water No 16/2004. (X.8.) KvVM

Directive 76/768/EEC of the Council on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to cosmetic products

This directive has been transposed to the national legislation by the Decree of the Minister of Health No 40/2001. (XI.23.) EüM (Annex 2)

Quality of the environment:

Directive 2004/107/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council relating to arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air

This directive has been transposed to the national legislation by the Decree of the Minister of the Environment, Minister of Health and Minister of Agriculture No 14/2001. (V.9.) KöM-EüM-FVM

Directive 98/83/EC of the Council on the quality of water intended for human consumption

This directive has been transposed to the national legislation by the Decree of the Government No 201/2001. (X.25.) Korm.

Directive 2006/11/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on pollution caused by certain dangerous substances discharged into the aquatic environment of the Community

This directive has been transposed to the national legislation by the Decree of the Government No 220/2004. (VII.21.) Korm.

Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy

This directive has been transposed to the national legislation by the Decree of the Minister of the Environment and Water No 40/2006. (X.6.) KvVM

Directive 80/68/EEC of the Council on the protection of groundwater against pollution caused by certain dangerous substances

This directive has been transposed to the national legislation by the Decree of the Government No 219/2004. (VII.21.) Korm.

Directive 2006/118/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration

This directive has been transposed to the national legislation by the Decree of the Minister of the Environment and Water, Minister of Health and Minister of Agriculture No 6/2009. (IV.14.) KvVM-EüM-FVM

4. Summaries of national assessments of the costs of inaction on mercury, including in

relation to environmental and health effects

No assessment in this regard is available in Hungary.

5. Data on mercury releases to water bodies and the health effects of such releases

Data on mercury releases to water bodies are to be reported by the industry as it is obliged to do by the relevant legislation referred above. These data are supervised by the environment inspectorate and compiled in the national PRTR register. National data are available on the website http://eper-prtr.kvvm.hu/.

As to the health effects, our conditions seem to be acceptable. The exposure of the population to mercury is minimal. We have no information and no suspicion arose on mercury contamination of drinking water, which is otherwise the most significant exposure pathway. No information on peak concentration of mercury in drinking water has been observed either in monitoring data. The same refers to mercury concentration of soil samples, which has been analysed within the frame of domestic Soil Information System.

Yours sincerely,

Kristof Kozak