

Aligning EU legislation with Minamata - Need for EU-legislation -

- UN Minamata Convention on mercury: agreed in 2013.
- Current EU policy bans
 - exports of mercury,
 - provides for the storage of mercury waste,
 - restricts the use of mercury in various products and
 - seeks to address pollution caused by it.
- However, there are some regulatory gaps between EU legislation and the Minamata Convention.

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- Procedure -

- EU-COM submitted a legislative proposal aiming to align the EU legislation with the Convention.
- The European Parliament's Committee for Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) adopted its report on 13 October 2016.
- On 14 December 2016, Commission, Council and Parliament reached agreement in interinstitutional trilogue negotiations. The agreement, endorsed by Coreper on 16 December 2016 and by the ENVI Committee on 12 January 2017, was submitted for a first-reading vote in the March II plenary.

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- Proposal – Whereas -

Whereas:

(27) The Convention requires Parties to endeavour to develop appropriate strategies for identifying and assessing sites contaminated by mercury or mercury compounds.

Directive 2010/75/EU (IED) requires operators of industrial installations to address soil contamination.

Furthermore, Directive 2000/60/EC (WFD) requires MS to address soil contamination where it adversely affects the status of a water body.

Therefore, an exchange of information between the COM and the MS should take place to share experiences on the initiatives and measures taken at national level.

Aligning EU legislation with Minamata - Proposal – Article 15 -

Article 15

Contaminated sites

1. The Commission shall organise an exchange of information with the Member States regarding the measures taken at national level to identify and assess sites contaminated by mercury and mercury compounds and to address the significant risks such contamination may pose to human health and the environment.
2. By 1 January 2021, the Commission shall make the information gathered pursuant to paragraph 1, including an inventory of sites contaminated by mercury and mercury compounds, publicly available on the internet.