

**Question for written answer E-001973/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Bart Staes (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: The use of dental amalgam containing mercury and the adverse consequences for the environment and health

An increasing number of scientific studies<sup>1,2</sup> show that the use of amalgam fillings is having adverse effects on health and the environment. The latest report<sup>3</sup> of the Commission's Scientific Committee on Health and Environmental Risks states that there is a clear link between the use of dental amalgam in fillings and mercury pollution in the fish we eat. DEMOCOPHES<sup>4</sup>, a European pilot project on human biomonitoring, shows that a study has revealed significantly higher levels of mercury in the hair of mothers and children in Belgium as a result of having amalgam fillings and eating fish. Nevertheless, minimal action has been taken by the Commission.

1. When can we expect the first results from the Public Consultation on the Ratification by the EU of the Minamata Convention on Mercury<sup>5</sup>?
2. When can we expect the opinion of the Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks (SCENHIR) on the effects of dental amalgam on human health, as mentioned in the answer to parliamentary question E-010035/2013<sup>6</sup>?
3. In anticipation of scientific consensus on the effects of amalgam fillings on the environment and human health, is the Commission willing to allow full exercise of the precautionary principle and introduce a ban on the use of amalgam fillings in Europe, in the knowledge that there are affordable alternatives?

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<sup>1</sup> <http://bookshop.europa.eu/en/study-on-the-potential-for-reducing-mercury-pollution-from-dental-amalgam-and-batteries-pbKH3013440/>.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.occup-med.com/content/6/1/2>.

<sup>3</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific\\_committees/consultations/public\\_consultations/scher\\_cons\\_06\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific_committees/consultations/public_consultations/scher_cons_06_en.htm).

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.eu-hbm.info/democophes>.

<sup>5</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/consultations/mercury\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/consultations/mercury_en.htm).

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getAllAnswers.do?reference=E-2013-010035&language=EN>.