

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

31.1.2006

PE 368.044v01-00

AMENDMENTS 1-54

Draft report

(PE 364.783v01-00)

Marios Matsakis

Community strategy concerning mercury
2005/2050(INI))

Motion for a resolution

Amendment by Carl Schlyter

Amendment 1

Citation 1 a (new)

- *having regard to PARCOM Decision 90/3 on Reducing Atmospheric Emissions from Existing Chlor-Alkali Plants,*

Or. en

Amendment by Urszula Krupa

Amendment 2

Recital A

- A. whereas mercury and its compounds are highly toxic to humans *living in different* ecosystems and *to plant and animal* wildlife,

Or. pl

AM\600041EN.doc

PE 368.044v01-00

Amendment by María del Pilar Ayuso González and Miguel Angel Martínez Martínez

Amendment 3

Recital B a (new)

Ba. *whereas mercury that is correctly stored and isolated, presenting no potential risk as there is no evaporation, should nevertheless be stored on secure sites where intervention can take place quickly if necessary and that are continuously monitored,*

Or. es

Amendment by Adamos Adamou

Amendment 4

Recital C

C. *whereas mercury contamination is a widespread, persistent and diffuse problem, transported across international boundaries far from its sources, contaminating both the European and global food supplies, the Community Strategy on mercury proposed by the Commission is an important contribution in tackling this global threat but further binding measures need to be taken in order to protect human health and the environment,*

Or. en

Amendment by Frédérique Ries

Amendment 5

Recital C a (new)

Ca. *whereas the Commission stated in its Extended Impact Assessment that the magnitude of the adverse health impacts from mercury is unknown, so more information on health costs are needed,*

Or. en

Amendment by Carl Schlyter

Amendment 6

Recital F

F. *whereas 12.000 tonnes of mercury in the EU **mercury cell chlor-alkali industry - the biggest holding of mercury in the EU - is destined for decommissioning over the next 5 years pursuant to PARCOM Decision 90/3; whereas the EU needs to act urgently***

to phase out the exports of this surplus mercury, in order to avoid environmental damage in third countries, in particular because EU mercury exports encourage the continued and highly polluting use of mercury in gold mining, and whereas all of this surplus mercury needs to be stored safely in the EU to avoid further environmental damage,

Or. en

Amendment by María del Pilar Ayuso González and Miguel Angel Martínez Martínez

Amendment 7

Recital G

- G. whereas mercury has been mined in Almadén, Spain, for centuries, and whereas the closure of these mines has to be accompanied by economic and social restructuring measures for the *area* concerned,

Or. es

Amendment by Urszula Krupa

Amendment 8

Recital J

- J. whereas emissions *of coal fumes* from small combustion plants *are not documented in scientific publications and there should be a better examination of this issue with a view to regulating it through suitable legislation in the near future,*

Or. pl

Amendment by Adamos Adamou

Amendment 9

Recital J

- J. whereas emissions from small combustion plants and residential coal burning are not regulated through any Community legislation, but they accounted for 35% of EU-27 mercury emissions in 2000, *and further studies on small-scale combustion installations are needed, to assess whether legislation is appropriate,*

Or. en

Amendment by Thomas Ulmer

Amendment 10
Recital K a (new)

Ka. whereas it will also be necessary to take into account the fact that large amounts of amalgam are released in the breath, stool and urine,

Or. de

Amendment by Carl Schlyter

Amendment 11
Recital L

L. whereas mercury in dental amalgam represents the second largest stock of mercury in society; whereas emissions from crematoria will be a significant source of mercury pollution for many years to come, unless abatement techniques that can considerably reduce these emissions are put into place very soon,

Or. en

Amendment by Thomas Ulmer

Amendment 12
Recital P a (new)

Pa. whereas furthermore the relevance to health of such sources of mercury as amalgam, vaccines containing mercury and disinfectants must be independently investigated,

Or. de

Amendment by Carl Schlyter

Amendment 13
Recital R

R. whereas, when reviewing the strategy in 2010, measurements in soil air and water must have been made, must be publicly available, (deletion) and must be taken into consideration,

Or. en

Amendment by Adamos Adamou

Amendment 14

Paragraph 1

1. Welcomes the Commission communication on a “Community Strategy concerning Mercury” and emphasizes the overall approach taken with the objectives to reduce ***and eventually phase out*** emissions, supply and demand of mercury at European level as well as to manage the surpluses of mercury and to protect against exposure;

Or. en

Amendment by Gyula Hegyi

Amendment 15

Paragraph 2

2. Stresses, in this context, the importance of the EU continuing its efforts at international level, ***such as, through the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument***, with a view to reducing substantially emissions and uses of mercury on a global scale, given that alternatives exist, while at the same time phasing out primary production and preventing surpluses re-entering the market;

Or. en

Amendment by Adamos Adamou

Amendment 16

Paragraph 2 a (new)

- 2a. ***Underlines the need for the Community Strategy to be followed by specific measures and legislative acts as soon as practicably possible;***

Or. en

Amendment by Thomas Ulmer

Amendment 17

Paragraph 2 a (new)

- 2a. ***Stresses that, in addition, the use of mercury must be banned in Europe and worldwide after an appropriate transitional period;***

Or. de

Amendment by Adamos Adamou

Amendment 18

Paragraph 3

3. Underlines, considering the above, the significance of the Commission's pro-active proposal to phase out the export of metallic mercury and its compounds from the Community and asks the Commission to ensure that an EU mercury export ban is in place **by 2008**;

Or. en

Amendment by Carl Schlyter

Amendment 19

Paragraph 3

3. Underlines, considering the above, the significance of the Commission's pro-active proposal to phase out the export of metallic mercury, its compounds **and mercury-containing articles** from the Community and asks the Commission **to propose an EU mercury export ban before July 2006, so that it can be** in place as soon as **(deletion)** possible, and at the **very** latest by **2008**;

Or. en

Amendment by Åsa Westlund

Amendment 20

Paragraph 3

3. Underlines, considering the above, the significance of the Commission's pro-active proposal to phase out the export of metallic mercury and its compounds from the Community and asks the Commission to ensure that an EU mercury export ban is in place as soon as practically possible and at the latest by **2009**.

Or. sv

Amendment by Carl Schlyter

Amendment 21

Paragraph 4

4. Calls upon the Commission to propose, before **September 2006**, measures to track

imports and exports of mercury and its compounds within the Member States as well as to and from the Community to be in place before the export ban;

Or. en

Amendment by Adamos Adamou

Amendment 22

Paragraph 4 a (new)

- 4a. *Calls upon the Commission to consider an expansion of the current prohibition on the export of mercury-containing soaps, provided for in Regulation (EC) No 304/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2003¹, to other mercury products, which are, or soon will be, subject to use and marketing restrictions within the EU;***

Or. en

Amendment by Carl Schlyter

Amendment 23

Paragraph 5

- 5. Asks the Commission, in consistence with the above, *to come forward with proposals before September 2006 for legally binding measures to ensure* that all mercury coming from the chlor-alkali industry *is not put back into circulation*, is safely stored, in secure sites, continuously monitored and located where active intervention can take place immediately if necessary;**

Or. en

Amendment by Adamos Adamou

Amendment 24

Paragraph 5 a (new)

- 5a. *Asks the Commission, in addition to the above, to ensure that the following elements are included in the relevant instrument regarding the storage of surplus metallic mercury: minimum safety standards, regular and transparent reporting, advance planning and projections, penalties and sanctions;***

Or. en

¹ OJ L 63, 6.3.2003, p 1.

Amendment by Gyula Hegyi

Amendment 25

Paragraph 5 a (new)

- 5a. *Calls on the Commission to raise public awareness, by holding information campaigns, as regards the health risks, the risks of exposure, and the environmental problems that mercury can cause;***

Or. en

Amendment by Carl Schlyter

Amendment 26

Paragraph 6

- 6. Underlines, furthermore, the importance of applying the Polluter Pays Principle, *in particular* as far as storage of surplus mercury is concerned; *urges that the safe storage of surplus mercury is to be fully financed by the industry sectors responsible for its production;***

Or. en

Amendment by Martin Callanan

Amendment 27

Paragraph 8

- 8. Underlines that the main source of emissions of mercury is the burning of coal, and asks the Commission to *produce, as soon as practically possible, a detailed cost benefit analysis of the technical feasibility of introducing emission limit values for mercury from all relevant coal burning activities;***

Or. en

Amendment by Adamos Adamou

Amendment 28

Paragraph 9 a (new)

- 9a. *Calls upon the Commission to take necessary measures and propose in the short term, national mass emission limits as well as local air quality limits for mercury under relevant existing or a separate legislative instrument;***

Amendment by Carl Schlyter

Amendment 29

Paragraph 9 a (new)

- 9a. *Calls upon the Commission to take action to implement PARCOM Decision 90/3 so as to phase out the use of mercury cell chlor-alkali plants as soon as practicable and at the latest by 2010;***

Or. en

Amendment by Carl Schlyter

Amendment 30

Paragraph 10

- 10. Asks the Commission to *suggest* further measures, in the short term, to control *and reduce* mercury emissions from crematoria, given *that dental amalgam represents the second biggest mercury stock in society and* that this is an increasing and worrisome source of emissions;**

Or. en

Amendment by Martin Callanan

Amendment 31

Paragraph 10

- 10. Asks the Commission to *assess the benefits and technical feasibility of introducing further measures on controlling mercury emissions from crematoria;***

Or. en

Amendment by Martin Callanan

Amendment 32

Paragraph 11

- 11. *Supports the Commission's proposal to ask the Medical Devices Expert Group to consider any potential hazards in the use of mercury in dental amalgam,* and urges the Commission at the same time to take measures ensuring that the Community**

requirements regarding treatment of dental waste are properly applied;

Or. en

Amendment by Carl Schlyter

Amendment 33

Paragraph 11

11. Asks the Commission to come forward by the end of **2006** with proposals to restrict the use of mercury in dental amalgams, given that viable non-mercury alternatives exist, urging at the same time the Commission to take measures ensuring that the Community requirements on treatment of dental waste are properly applied, ***and to investigate whether additional measures are needed to ensure that amalgam does not enter the waste stream;***

Or. en

Amendment by Urszula Krupa

Amendment 34

Paragraph 12

12. Asks the Commission to restrict the marketing and use of mercury in all measuring and control equipment for both consumer and professional uses (especially in households, healthcare facilities, schools ***and scientific and research institutions***), but allowing for some exemptions where adequate alternatives are not yet available. Such exemptions should also apply to the rare cases of maintenance of museum collections and industrial heritage ***and to meteorology;***

Or. pl

Amendment by Martin Callanan

Amendment 35

Paragraph 12

12. Asks the Commission to ***study the feasibility of a restriction on the*** marketing and use of mercury in all measuring and control equipment for both consumer and professional uses ***and to produce a detailed cost-benefit analysis of such a restriction, whilst bearing in mind that any restriction should allow for exemptions.*** Such exemptions should apply to ***(deletion)*** the maintenance of museum collections, ***historic barometers*** and industrial heritage;

Or. en

Amendment by Adamos Adamou

Amendment 36

Paragraph 12

12. Asks the Commission to restrict the marketing and use of mercury in all measuring and control equipment for both consumer and professional uses (especially in household, healthcare facilities and schools), allowing for *a minimum of* exemptions where adequate alternatives are not yet available. Such exemptions should also apply to the rare cases of maintenance of museum collections and industrial heritage;

Or. en

Amendment by Carl Schlyter

Amendment 37

Paragraph 14

14. Calls upon the Commission to address the use of mercury in the manufacture of vaccines, as also mentioned in the Council conclusions of 24th June 2005, and to evaluate this with the view of achieving a restriction of such a use and a total ban, when appropriate and safe alternatives exist, *and to support research into viable options for the future delivery of thiomersal-free multi-dose vaccines in developing countries*;

Or. en

Amendment by Thomas Ulmer

Amendment 38

Paragraph 15

15. Calls upon the Commission to ensure that priority is given and appropriate funds are allocated for mercury research *and research into other diseases which are not directly attributable to mercury* via the 7th RTD Framework Programme and other appropriate funding mechanisms;

Or. de

Amendment by Urszula Krupa

Amendment 39

Paragraph 17

17. Underlines the importance of pursuing measures against exposure and improving understanding, and acknowledges the importance of public awareness, communication and education, mainly concerning the health risks from exposure to mercury; ***stresses the need for access to environmental information in line with the Aarhus Convention;***

Or. pl

Amendment by Frédérique Ries

Amendment 40

Paragraph 17 a (new)

- 17a. Calls upon the Commission to investigate options for making the reporting of Member States' mercury dietary intake data for vulnerable groups to EFSA mandatory, and to request the Scientific Committee on Health and Environmental Risks to carry out a mercury risk assessment for vulnerable groups;***

Or. en

Amendment by Erna Hennicot-Schoepges

Amendment 41

Paragraph 17 a (new)

- 17a. Calls on the Commission, in the same context, to assign priority to financing communication with vulnerable population groups concerning the damaging impact of mercury and to share good practices;***

Or. fr

Amendment by Frédérique Ries

Amendment 42

Paragraph 17 b (new)

- 17b. Calls upon the Commission to conduct an overall Health Impact Assessment to investigate the health costs from mercury contamination, including the reduced intellectual capacity of European children arising from mercury exposure;***

Amendment by Erna Hennicot-Schoepges

Amendment 43

Paragraph 20

20. Calls upon the Commission to ensure that a programme of testing for methylmercury levels *and the cofactors which influence the absorption and/or impact of mercury* in fish throughout Europe, including testing of large predatory fish, is introduced as soon as possible, with a view to consumption recommendations being issued by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) for fish with high levels of mercury, with particular emphasis on guidelines for vulnerable population groups; considers that such a programme should take into account the special risks linked to the fact that certain ecosystems transform mercury more readily into bioavailable methylmercury than others;

Or. fr

Amendment by Frédérique Ries

Amendment 44

Paragraph 21

21. Calls upon the Commission, in the same context, to ensure that mercury *in vulnerable populations* is included in the biomonitoring programme originally foreseen in the European Environment and Health Action Plan 2004-2010 (COM(2004)0416), as called for by the Parliament in its resolution thereon of 23 February 2005(2004/2132 (INI);

Or. en

Amendment by María del Pilar Ayuso González and Miguel Angel Martínez Martínez

Amendment 45

Paragraph 22

22. Welcomes the Council's conclusion recognising the environmental and social problems arising from the closure of the long established mercury mines in Almadén, *Spain, as a consequence of the Community strategy concerning mercury*; recommends that adequate compensation measures be undertaken and duly funded by the Commission in order to allow *the area affected* by the closure of mercury mines to achieve viable economic and social alternatives; underlines that consideration should be given to the possibility of using Almadén for the safe storage of the existing *metallic* mercury stocks or *metallic* mercury sub-produced by industry all over

Europe, ***but never its compounds***, thus making use of the infrastructures and local manpower and technological expertise existing there;

Or. es

Amendment by Carl Schlyter

Amendment 46

Paragraph 22

22. Welcomes the Council's proposal recognizing the environmental and social problems arising from the closure of the long established mercury mines in Almadén/Spain. Recommends that ***existing Objective 1 funds with a fair share of co-financing of the Structural Funds are directed towards economic regeneration of the area and training of the workers concerned so as to contribute to the sustainable development of the region*** affected by the closure of mercury mines (***deletion***). Underlines that, consideration should be given in Almadén, for the safe storage of the existing mercury stocks ***and*** mercury sub-produced by industry all over Europe, making thus use of the there existing infrastructures and local manpower and technological expertise;

Or. en

Amendment by María del Pilar Ayuso González and Miguel Angel Martínez Martínez

Amendment 47

Paragraph 23

23. Supports measures to ensure rehabilitation and monitoring of the contaminated sites, ***whether closed mines, industrial sites or storage sites for waste from both***, respecting the polluter-pays principle;

Or. es

Amendment by Riitta Myller, Åsa Westlund, Andres Tarand

Amendment 48

Paragraph 24 a (new)

- 24a. ***Supports strongly initiatives to make mercury subject to the Rotterdam and/or Basel Convention, in order to increase transparency in mercury trade;***

Or. en

Amendment by Adamos Adamou

Amendment 49

Paragraph 27

27. Asks the Commission to explore the possibility of providing know-how, technical and ***financial assistance*** to affected developing countries and countries with economies in transition to eventually phase out mercury and mercury compounds use and releases;

Or. en

Amendment by Thomas Ulmer

Amendment 50

Paragraph 27 a (new)

- 27a. Stresses that, in addition, the use of amalgam in Second- and Third-World countries must be reduced;***

Or. de

Amendment by Adamos Adamou

Amendment 51

Paragraph 27 a (new)

- 27a. Asks the Commission, considering the above, to request from Member States to report on all of their activities and projects on mercury, with the developing countries, in view of revealing where the needs are for more efficient use of EU funds;***

Or. en

Amendment by Gyula Hegyi

Amendment 52

Paragraph 28

28. Calls upon the Commission to ensure restriction in the use of mercury in gold mining, by promoting at the same time non-mercury using viable techniques, and furthermore to come forward with a proposal for a positive labelling scheme for gold that has been mined without the use of mercury, ***also covering gold processed inside and outside the European Union;***

Amendment by Thomas Ulmer

Amendment 53
Paragraph 28 a (new)

28a. *Stresses that the committee of experts to implement the Community Strategy for Mercury must not be recruited from established health institutions;*

Or. de

Amendment by Thomas Ulmer

Amendment 54
Paragraph 28 b (new)

28b. *Considers it extremely important, in determining the composition of the group of experts, to ensure a balance between dentists, toxicologists and experts on environmental medicine;*

Or. de