

# FIRST FULL NATIONAL REPORTS OF THE MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY 2021



## REPORTING PERIOD:

16 August 2017 to 31 December 2020

### ▼ INFORMATION ON THE PARTY

## 1. Information on the party

#### Name of party

Austria

#### Date on which its instrument of ratification, accession, approval or acceptance was deposited

12 June 2017

#### Date of entry into force of the Convention for the party

10 September 2017

## 2. Information on the national focal point

#### Full name of the institution

Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology

#### Title of National Focal Point

Ms.

#### Name of National Focal Point

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### 3. Information about the contact officer submitting the reporting format if different from the above

Focal Point is submitting the national report

- ☐ Information is submitted by the national focal point
- ☒ Information is submitted through the national focal point by the contact officer

#### a3\_subsection

Full name of the institution

Federal Ministry for Climate Protection, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology

Title of contact officer

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#### ▼ ART. 3: MERCURY SUPPLY SOURCES AND TRADE

**3.1. Does the party have any primary mercury mines that were operating within its territory at the date of entry into force of the Convention for the party?**

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

Additional information on this question if needed

{Empty}

**3.2. Does the party have any primary mercury mines that are now in operation that were not in operation at the time of entry into force of the Convention for the party?**

☐ Yes

☒ No

**3.3. Has the party endeavoured to identify individual stocks of mercury or mercury compounds exceeding 50 metric tons and sources of mercury supply generating stocks exceeding 10 metric tons per year that are located within its territory?**

☒ Yes

☐ No

### **ba34\_subsection**

\*If the party answered Yes to Question 3 above:

**i. Please attach the results of your endeavor or indicate where it is available on the internet, unless unchanged from a previous reporting round.**

Study on "Implementing Minamata Convention on Mercury in Austria" (2020)

[https://www.umweltbundesamt.at/studien-reports/publikationsdetail?](https://www.umweltbundesamt.at/studien-reports/publikationsdetail?pub_id=2401&cHash=49c40586ebc410dfec11e682e73f3a9f)

[pub\\_id=2401&cHash=49c40586ebc410dfec11e682e73f3a9f](https://www.umweltbundesamt.at/studien-reports/publikationsdetail?pub_id=2401&cHash=49c40586ebc410dfec11e682e73f3a9f)

<https://www.umweltbundesamt.at/fileadmin/site/publikationen/rep0785bfz.pdf>

**i. Please attach the results of your endeavor or indicate where it is available on the internet, unless unchanged from a previous reporting round.**

{Empty}

**ii. Supplemental: Please provide any related information, for example on the use or disposal of mercury from such stocks and sources.**

Information is available on Internet (see box above). The Ministry contacted the Chamber of Commerce, as stocks may concern dental amalgam or mercury in batteries and in lightbulbs. There is no indication that the amounts would exceed 10 or 50 metric tons. The implementation of the provisions of the MC is provided by Regulation (EU) 2017/852 on mercury (European Union law) and the Austrian Chemicals Act BGBl I No 53/1997, as amended, as well as Ordinance BGBl. II No 102/2017 concerning disposal on national level [https://www.bmk.gv.at/themen/klima\\_umwelt/chemiepolitik/recht/chemG\\_novelle.html](https://www.bmk.gv.at/themen/klima_umwelt/chemiepolitik/recht/chemG_novelle.html)

**3.4. Does the party have excess mercury available from the decommissioning of chlor-alkali facilities?**

☐ Yes

☒ No

**3.5. \*Has the party received consent, or relied on a general notification of consent, in accordance with article 3, including any required certification from importing non-parties, for all exports of mercury from the party's territory in the reporting period?**

☐ Yes, exports to parties

☐ Yes, exports to non-parties

☒ No

**Additional information if needed**

Reason for selecting "no" is the absence of exports

**3.6. Has the party allowed the import of mercury from a non-party?**

☒ No

☐ Yes

☐ The importing party has relied on paragraph 7 of article 3

**Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so**

Reason for selecting "no" is the absence of primary mercury mines, imports and exports .  
Exports occur only concerning quantities for laboratory-scale research or as a reference standard  
(Article 3 (2) a MC)

**▼ ART. 4: MERCURY-ADDED PRODUCTS**

**4.1. Has the party taken any appropriate measures to not allow the manufacture, import or export of mercury-added products listed in Part I of Annex A of the Convention after the phase-out date specified for those products?**

☒ Yes

☐ No

☐ Yes (implementing paragraph 2 of article 4)

**If yes, please provide information on the measures.**

The implementation of the provisions of the MC is provided by Regulation (EU) 2017/852 on mercury (European Union law) and the Austrian Chemicals Act 1996 BGBl. I No 53/1997, as amended, on national level. Restrictions on mercury in batteries and in electrical and electronic equipment are regulated at EU level in the Battery Directive (2006/66/EC) and the RoHS Directive (2011/65/EU), respectively. In Austria, these provisions were implemented in the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Ordinance (Federal Law Gazette II No.

121/2005) and in the Battery Ordinance (Federal Law Gazette II No. 159/2008). Due to these restrictions, the amount of waste containing mercury has been decreasing for years. The annual Hg loads in the collected WEEE are currently estimated at 80 kg for waste lamps and 12 kg for display screen equipment. Mercury loads in spent batteries are estimated to be insignificant due to the ban on placing Hg-containing button cells on the market since 2015. Treatment requirements for waste containing mercury, such as waste electrical and electronic equipment and batteries, are laid down in Austria in the Waste Treatment Obligations Ordinance (BGBl. II No. 102/2017). The final treatment or disposal of mercury-containing waste usually takes place abroad. The EU Battery Regulation 2021 aims to ensure sustainable and safe batteries throughout their life cycle.

References: [https://www.bmk.gv.at/themen/klima\\_umwelt/chemiepolitik/recht/chemG\\_nouvelle.html](https://www.bmk.gv.at/themen/klima_umwelt/chemiepolitik/recht/chemG_nouvelle.html)  
Study on "Implementing Minamata Convention on Mercury in Austria" (2020):  
[https://www.umweltbundesamt.at/studien-reports/publikationsdetail?pub\\_id=2401&cHash=49c40586ebc410dfec11e682e73f3a9f](https://www.umweltbundesamt.at/studien-reports/publikationsdetail?pub_id=2401&cHash=49c40586ebc410dfec11e682e73f3a9f)  
<https://www.umweltbundesamt.at/fileadmin/site/publikationen/rep0785bfz.pdf>

**4.3. Has the party taken two or more measures for the mercury-added products listed in Part II of Annex A in accordance with the provisions set out therein?**

- ☒ Yes  
☐ No

**If yes, please provide information on the measures.**

Setting national objectives aiming at dental caries prevention and health promotion, thereby minimizing the need for dental restoration.

Setting national objectives aiming at minimizing its use.

Restricting the use of dental amalgam to its encapsulated form.

Public available Source: National Actionplan 2019

[https://www.sozialministerium.at/dam/sozialministeriumat/Anlagen/Themen/Gesundheit/Medizin-und-Gesundheitsberufe/Medizin/Medizinprodukte/%C3%96NAP-Dentalamalgam\\_2019.docx](https://www.sozialministerium.at/dam/sozialministeriumat/Anlagen/Themen/Gesundheit/Medizin-und-Gesundheitsberufe/Medizin/Medizinprodukte/%C3%96NAP-Dentalamalgam_2019.docx)

**4.4. Has the party taken measures to prevent the incorporation into assembled products of mercury-added products whose manufacture, import and export are not allowed under article 4?**

- ☒ Yes  
☐ No

**If yes, please provide information on the measures.**

Pursuant Regulation (EU) 2017/852 – Article 8 (1) Economic operators shall not manufacture or place on the market new mercury-added products unless authorised by European Commission. The Commission shall examine and assess whether it has been demonstrated that the new mercury-added product or new manufacturing process would provide significant environmental or health benefits and pose no significant risks either to the environment or to human health, and that no technically practicable mercury-free alternatives providing such benefits are available.

**4.5. Has the party discouraged the manufacture and the distribution in commerce of mercury-added products not covered by any known use in accordance with article 4, paragraph 6?**

- ☒ Yes  
☐ No

**If yes, please provide information on the measures.**

Pursuant Regulation (EU) 2017/852 – Article 8 (3) Where an economic operator intends to apply for a decision by the Commission (see Q 4.4) in order to manufacture or place on the market a new mercury-added product, or to use a new manufacturing process, that would provide significant environmental or health benefits and pose no significant risks either to the environment or to human health, and where no technically practicable mercury-free alternatives providing such benefits are available, that economic operator shall notify the competent authorities of the EU Member State concerned. The Member State concerned shall forward to the Commission the notification received if it considers on the basis of its own assessment that the criteria (see Q 4.3) are fulfilled.

**Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so**

References: [https://www.bmk.gv.at/themen/klima\\_umwelt/chemiepolitik/recht/chemG\\_nouvelle.html](https://www.bmk.gv.at/themen/klima_umwelt/chemiepolitik/recht/chemG_nouvelle.html)  
Study on "Implementing Minamata Convention on Mercury in Austria" (2020):  
[https://www.umweltbundesamt.at/studien-reports/publikationsdetail?pub\\_id=2401&cHash=49c40586ebc410dfec11e682e73f3a9f](https://www.umweltbundesamt.at/studien-reports/publikationsdetail?pub_id=2401&cHash=49c40586ebc410dfec11e682e73f3a9f)  
<https://www.umweltbundesamt.at/fileadmin/site/publikationen/rep0785bfz.pdf>  
EU Mercury Regulation (EU) 2017/852: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/ALL/?uri=CELEX%3A32017R0852>

▼ ART. 5: MANUFACTURING PROCESSES IN WHICH MERCURY OR MERCURY COMPOUNDS ARE USED

**5.1. Are there facilities within the territory of the party that use mercury or mercury compounds for the processes listed in Annex B of the Minamata Convention in accordance with paragraph 5 of article 5 of the Convention?**

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No
- ☐ I do not know

**5.2. Are measures in place to not allow the use of mercury or mercury compounds in manufacturing processes listed in Part I of Annex B after the phase-out date specified in that Annex for the individual process?**

**CHLOR-ALKALI PRODUCTION**

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☒ Not applicable (do not have these facilities)

**ACETALDEHYDE PRODUCTION IN WHICH MERCURY OR MERCURY COMPOUNDS ARE USED AS A CATALYST**

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☒ Not applicable (do not have these facilities)

**5.3. Are measures in place to restrict the use of mercury or mercury compounds in the processes listed in Part II of Annex B in accordance with the provisions set out therein?**

**VINYL CHLORIDE MONOMER PRODUCTION**

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

☒ Not applicable (do not have these facilities)

### **SODIUM OR POTASSIUM METHYLATE OR ETHYLATE**

☐ Yes

☐ No

☒ Not applicable (do not have these facilities)

### **PRODUCTION OF POLYURETHANE USING MERCURY-CONTAINING CATALYSTS**

☐ Yes

☐ No

☒ Not applicable (do not have these facilities)

**5.4. Is there any use of mercury or mercury compounds in a facility using the manufacturing processes listed in Annex B that did not exist prior to the date of entry into force of the Convention for the party?**

☐ Yes

☒ No

**5.5. Is there any facility that has been developed using any other manufacturing process in which mercury or mercury compounds are intentionally used that did not exist prior to the date of entry into force of the Convention?**

☐ Yes

☒ No

### **Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so**

For the reporting on the EU Mercury Regulation (EU) 2017/852, the situation in Austria regarding Annex B activities was surveyed. No production of mercury-based vinyl chloride monomers takes place in Austria, nor does the production of methylates, ethylates or polyurethane. The only Austrian chlor-alkali plant in Brückl switched from the amalgam process to the mercury-free membrane process in 1999.

### **▼ ART. 7: ARTISANAL AND SMALL-SCALE GOLD MINING**

**7.1. Have steps been taken to reduce, and where feasible eliminate, the use of mercury and mercury compounds in, and the emissions and releases to the environment of mercury from, artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing subject to article 7 within your territory?**

☐ Yes

☐ No

☒ There is no artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing subject to article 7 in which mercury amalgamation is used in the territory

**7.2. Has the party determined and notified the secretariat that artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing within its territory is more than insignificant?**

☐ Yes

☒ No

**Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so**

{Empty}

#### ▼ ART. 8: EMISSIONS

**8.1. Identify any Annex D source categories for which there are new sources of emissions of mercury or mercury compounds as defined in paragraph 2 (c) of article 8.**

For each of those source categories describe the measures in place, including the effectiveness of such measures, to implement the requirements of paragraph 4 of article 8.

☐ Coal-fired power plants

☐ Coal-fired industrial boilers

☐ Smelting and roasting processes used in the production of non-ferrous metals

☐ Waste incineration facilities

☐ Cement clinker production facilities

**Has the party required the use of best available techniques or best environmental practices (BAT/BEP) to control and where feasible reduce emissions for new sources no later than 5 years after the date of entry into force of the Convention for the party?**

☒ Yes

☐ No

**Attach relevant documentation**

{Empty}



## 8.2. Identify any Annex D source categories for which there are existing sources of emissions of mercury or mercury compounds as defined in paragraph 2 (e) of article 8.

For each of those source categories, select and provide details on the measures implemented under paragraph 5 of article 8 and explain the progress that these applied measures have achieved in reducing emissions over time in your territory:

### ▼ COAL-FIRED POWER PLANTS

- ☐ A quantified goal for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Emission limit values for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Use of BAT/BEP to control emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Multi-pollutant control strategy that would deliver co-benefits for control of mercury emissions
- ☐ Alternative measures to reduce emissions from relevant sources

#### Measures

{Empty}

#### Progress

{Empty}

### ▼ COAL-FIRED INDUSTRIAL BOILERS

- ☐ A quantified goal for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Emission limit values for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Use of BAT/BEP to control emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Multi-pollutant control strategy that would deliver co-benefits for control of mercury emissions
- ☐ Alternative measures to reduce emissions from relevant sources

#### Measures

{Empty}

#### Progress

{Empty}

### ▼ SMELTING AND ROASTING PROCESSES USED IN THE PRODUCTION OF NON-FERROUS METALS

- ☐ A quantified goal for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources

- ☐ Emission limit values for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Use of BAT/BEP to control emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Multi-pollutant control strategy that would deliver co-benefits for control of mercury emissions
- ☐ Alternative measures to reduce emissions from relevant sources

**Measures**

{Empty}

**Progress**

{Empty}

**▼ WASTE INCINERATION FACILITIES**

- ☐ A quantified goal for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Emission limit values for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Use of BAT/BEP to control emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Multi-pollutant control strategy that would deliver co-benefits for control of mercury emissions
- ☐ Alternative measures to reduce emissions from relevant sources

**Measures**

{Empty}

**Progress**

{Empty}

**▼ CEMENT CLINKER PRODUCTION FACILITIES**

- ☐ A quantified goal for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Emission limit values for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Use of BAT/BEP to control emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Multi-pollutant control strategy that would deliver co-benefits for control of mercury emissions
- ☐ Alternative measures to reduce emissions from relevant sources

**Measures**

{Empty}

**Progress**

{Empty}

Have the measures for existing sources under paragraph 5 of article 8 been implemented no later than 10 years after the date of entry into force of the Convention for the party?

☒ Yes

☐ No

**8.3. Has the party prepared an inventory of emissions from relevant sources within 5 years of entry into force of the Convention for it?**

☒ Yes

☐ No

☐ Have not been a party for 5 years

**If yes, when was the inventory last updated?**

Thu, 04/29/2021 – 00:00

**Please indicate where this inventory is available**

Austria's Informative Inventory Report (2021):

<https://www.umweltbundesamt.at/fileadmin/site/publikationen/rep0762.pdf>

**Attach**

- [AUT\\_8.3.pdf](#)

**8.4. Has the party chosen to establish criteria to identify relevant sources covered within a source category?**

☒ Yes

☐ No

**If yes, please explain how the criteria for any category include at least 75 percent of the emissions from that category and explain how the party took into account guidance adopted by the Conference of the Parties.**

In the course of the EU Industrial Emissions Directive, BAT (Best Available Techniques) conclusions were drawn up, which serve as a reference document for setting permit conditions. The associated emission values listed there must not be exceeded under normal operating conditions. For the industrial activities "non-ferrous metals, iron and steel, waste incineration, waste treatment, large combustion plants, cement and lime and refining", emission levels to air and water associated with the best available techniques are available. These emission values were compared with the values given in the BAT/BEP Minamata Guidance Document (see Table 7)

**8.5. Has the party chosen to prepare a national plan setting out the measures to be taken to control emissions from relevant sources and its expected targets, goals and outcomes?**

☐ Yes

☒ No

## Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so

Emission calculations provide the data basis for the reporting obligations under the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution, which includes mercury emissions. On the basis of these calculations, which are carried out according to a uniform methodology, the majority of Austrian mercury emissions are caused by industrial production – especially iron and steel production – and the chemical industry, followed by the energy supply and small-scale consumption sectors.

### ▼ ART. 9: RELEASES

#### 9.1. Are there, within the party's territory, relevant sources of releases as defined in paragraph 2 (b) of article 9?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No
- ☐ I do not know

#### 9.2. Has the party established an inventory of releases from relevant sources within 5 years of entry into force of the convention for it?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ Relevant sources do not exist in the territory
- ☐ Have not been a party for 5 years
- ☐ No

## Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so

PRTR – Pollutant Release and Transfer Register: since 2009, the largest industries in Europe have to report annually their pollutant releases to air, water, soil. This data is publicly available on Internet: <https://prtr.unece.org/> or European Industrial Emissions Portal: <https://industry.eea.europa.eu/> Regulation (EG) Nr. 166/2006

### ▼ ART. 10: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND INTERIM STORAGE OF MERCURY, OTHER THAN WASTE MERCURY

#### 10.1. Has the party taken measures to ensure that the interim storage of non-waste mercury and mercury compounds intended for a use allowed to a party under the Convention is undertaken in an environmentally sound manner?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No
- ☐ I do not know

## Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so

Regulation (EU) 2017/852, in particular Article 7 (3) complies with the provisions of Article 10 (2) of the Convention.

### ▼ ART. 11: MERCURY WASTES

#### 11.1. Have measures outlined in article 11, paragraph 3, been implemented for the party's mercury waste?

☒ Yes

☐ No

Please describe the measures implemented pursuant to paragraph 3, and please also describe the effectiveness of those measures.

Transport of Mercury wastes to underground disposal in Germany in order to ensure environmentally sound disposal in conformity with article 11 MC and Basel Convention.

#### 11.2. Are there facilities for final disposal of waste consisting of mercury or mercury compounds in the party's territory?

☐ Yes

☒ No

☐ I do not know

## Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so

Waste Treatment Obligation Ordinance BGBl. II Nr. 102/2017:

[https://www.bmk.gv.at/themen/klima\\_umwelt/abfall/recht/vo/abfallbehandlung.html](https://www.bmk.gv.at/themen/klima_umwelt/abfall/recht/vo/abfallbehandlung.html)

### ▼ ART. 12: CONTAMINATED SITES

#### 12.1. Has the party endeavoured to develop strategies for identifying and assessing sites contaminated by mercury or mercury compounds in its territory?

☒ Yes

☐ No

Please elaborate

In Austria, historically contaminated sites have been systematically investigated since 1989. In 2020, 69.184 contaminated and abandoned sites were recorded in the database of the Federal Environment Agency. For 312 sites, a significant threat to the environment was identified, 168 sites (as of January 1, 2020) have already been secured and remediated. At seven contaminated sites, mercury was classified as a site-specific relevant contaminant. At two contaminated sites, significant localised contamination

of the groundwater was found. At three former sites, intensive contamination of the topsoil by mercury was detected. In addition, at another former chemical industry site in Tyrol, subsoil contamination by mercury is known, some of which has already been removed. The size, intensity and environmental impact of the remaining contamination are currently being investigated within the framework of the enforcement of the Austrian Contaminated Sites Remediation Act.

## **Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so**

For detailed information on the Austrian Contaminated Sites Programm see:  
<https://www.altlasten.gv.at/>

### **▼ ART. 13: FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND MECHANISM**

#### **13.1. Has the party undertaken to provide, within its capabilities, resources in respect of those national activities that are intended to implement the Convention in accordance with its national policies, priorities, plans and programmes?**

☒ Yes

☐ No

##### **Please specify**

Two reports about national status, programmes and developments entitled "Minamata Convention on Mercury in Austria" (2016 and 2021). Reference: [https://www.umweltbundesamt.at/studien-reports/publikationsdetail?pub\\_id=2401&cHash=49c40586ebc410dfec11e682e73f3a9f](https://www.umweltbundesamt.at/studien-reports/publikationsdetail?pub_id=2401&cHash=49c40586ebc410dfec11e682e73f3a9f)  
Furthermore, national stakeholders and decision makers are informed about Minamata developments on a regular basis.

**Please provide comments, if any.**

{Empty}

#### **13.2. Supplemental: Has the party, within its capabilities, contributed to the mechanism referred to in paragraph 5 of article 13?**

☒ Yes

☐ No

##### **Please specify**

The Global Environment Facility Trust Fund (GEF)  
Specific International Programme (SIP) for Minamata: US\$ 239.854,--

**Please provide comments, if any.**

{Empty}

#### **13.3. Supplemental: Has the party provided financial resources to assist developing-country parties and/or parties with economies in transition in the implementation of the Convention through other bilateral, regional and multilateral sources or channels?**

☐ Yes

☒ No

**Please specify**

Austria will make a contribution to support the participation of representatives of Indigenous groups at Minamata COP 4.2.

**Please provide comments, if any.**

{Empty}

**Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so**

{Empty}

**▼ ART. 14: CAPACITY-BUILDING, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER**

**14.1. Has the party cooperated to provide capacity-building or technical assistance, pursuant to article 14, to another party to the Convention?**

☐ Yes

☒ No

**Please specify**

Austria, as chair of the EU Common Forum on Contaminated Land, intends to stimulate capacity-building, technical assistance and technology transfer programmes between European Member States and developing country parties concerning Contaminated Sites management. First contacts have been established with Latin America countries.

**14.2. Supplemental: Has the party received capacity-building or technical assistance pursuant to article 14?**

☐ Yes

☒ No

**Please specify**

Austria is not a developing country party.

**Please provide comments, if any.**

{Empty}

**14.3. Has the party promoted and facilitated the development, transfer and diffusion of and access to, up-to-date environmentally sound alternative technologies?**

☐ Yes

☒ No

☐ Other

**Please specify**

It may be considered within the EU Common Forum on Contaminated Land as highlighted under 14.1 for remediation technologies of contaminated soil and groundwater.

**Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so**

{Empty}

**▼ ART. 16: HEALTH ASPECTS**

**16.1. Have measures been taken to provide information to the public on exposure to mercury in accordance with paragraph 1 of article 16?**

- ☒ Yes  
☐ No

**Supplemental: If yes, describe the measures that have been taken.**

The report "Minamata Convention on Mercury in Austria" includes data of Hg monitoring and is publicly available on Internet.

All air emission data is available on Internet:

<https://www.umweltbundesamt.at/umweltthemen/luft/luftschaedstoffe>

All Contaminated Sites data is available on Internet: <https://www.altlasten.gv.at/>

Human biomonitoring supports the assessment of human exposure to chemicals by measuring mercury, their metabolites or markers of subsequent health effects in body fluids or tissues. and many more ....

**16.2. Have any other measures been taken to protect human health in accordance with article 16?**

- ☒ Yes  
☐ No

**Supplemental: If yes, describe the measures that have been taken.**

The use of dental amalgam is restricted for sensitive groups in the Mercury Regulation (EU) 2017/852. Further tightening up of European Union law is envisaged for 2022.

Thiomersal (ethyl mercury), which was previously used as a preservative in inactivated vaccines, is currently not used in any vaccines intended for children in Austria; only two pandemic vaccines still contain thiomersal.

Mercury is regularly analysed in groundwater and surface water as part of the monitoring of water quality (GZÜV) in Austria.

In Austria, moss monitoring has been carried out at five-year intervals since 1995.

Since 1986, the bioindicator network of the Austrian Federal Forest Research Centre (BFW) has been providing data on mercury in spruce needles and in some cases litterfall of sessile oak and beech.

Current human data are collected as part of a research project at the Medical University of Vienna (Institute of Medical Genetics). The project focuses on the effects of mercury and methylmercury on the unborn child, the function of the placenta and the role of transport mechanisms as well as their genetic variations.

and many more ....



## **Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so**

{Empty}

### **▼ ART. 17: INFORMATION EXCHANGE**

#### **17.1. Has the party facilitated the exchange of information referred to in article 17, paragraph 1?**

☒ Yes

☐ No

**Please provide more information, if any**

The Contaminated Sites data is available on Internet: <https://www.altlasten.gv.at/>

Epidemiological information: <https://www.umweltbundesamt.at/ueber-uns/partnernetzwerke/hbm-plattform>

## **Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so**

Most of information exchange in line with Article 17 requirements is performed at EU level.

### **▼ ART. 18: PUBLIC INFORMATION, AWARENESS AND EDUCATION**

#### **18.1. Have measures been taken to promote and facilitate the provision to the public of the kinds of information listed in article 18, paragraph 1?**

☒ Yes

☐ No

**If yes, please indicate the measures that have been taken and the effectiveness of those measures**

PRTR – Pollutant Release and Transfer Register:

<https://www.umweltbundesamt.at/umweltthemen/industrie/daten-industrie/prtr>

## **Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so**

[https://www.bmk.gv.at/themen/klima\\_umwelt/chemiepolitik/international/quecksilber.html](https://www.bmk.gv.at/themen/klima_umwelt/chemiepolitik/international/quecksilber.html)

General information on the Minamata Convention on Mercury including a link to the official Website can be found on the official website of the Federal Ministry for Climate Action.

### **▼ ART. 19: RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND MONITORING**

**19.1. Has the party undertaken any research, development and monitoring in accordance with paragraph 1 of article 19?**

☒ Yes

☐ No

**If yes, please describe these actions**

Results of Hg-monitoring data in Austria: Study on "Implementing Minamata Convention on Mercury in Austria" (2020): [https://www.umweltbundesamt.at/studien-reports/publikationsdetail?pub\\_id=2401&cHash=49c40586ebc410dfec11e682e73f3a9f](https://www.umweltbundesamt.at/studien-reports/publikationsdetail?pub_id=2401&cHash=49c40586ebc410dfec11e682e73f3a9f)

**Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so**

{Empty}

**▼ COMMENTS**

**Part C: Comments regarding possible challenges in meeting the objectives of the Convention (Art. 21, para. 1)**

{Empty}

**▼ SUPPLEMENTAL – ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

**Supplemental: Part D: Comments regarding the reporting format and possible improvements, if any**

{Empty}