

## REPORTING PERIOD:

16 August 2017 to 31 December 2020

### ▼ INFORMATION ON THE PARTY

#### 1. Information on the party

**Name of party**

Czech Republic

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

19 June 2017

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

17 September 2017

#### 2. Information on the national focal point

**Full name of the institution**

Ministry of the Environment

**Title of National Focal Point**

Mr

**Name of National Focal Point**

Karel Bláha

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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**

Ministry of the Environment

**Title of contact officer**

Ms

**Name 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.**

Stocks of more than 50 metric tonnes of mercury other than mercury waste are not located within the territory of the Czech Republic.

Sources of mercury supply generating stocks exceeding 10 t were not identified.

**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.**

{Empty}

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

☒ Yes

☐ No

If yes, please explain the measures taken to ensure that the excess mercury was disposed of in accordance with the guidelines for environmentally sound management referred to in paragraph 3 (a) of article 11 using operations that did not lead to recovery, recycling, reclamation, direct re-use or alternative uses.

Legal obligation to treat mercury and mercury compounds, whether in pure form or in mixtures, from the chlor-alkali industry as a waste. Before its final disposal undertake conversion and, if applicable, solidification and storage in permanent storage facilities (Regulation (EU) 2017/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2017 on mercury, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1102/2008).

**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**

{Empty}

### 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

{Empty}

#### ▼ 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.**

Legal obligation (Regulation (EU) 2017/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2017 on mercury, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1102/2008). Stricter requirements for some mercury-added products are applied.

### 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.**

The Czech Republic applies all measures for dental amalgam that are listed in Part II of Annex A. Some of them comes from legal obligation, Regulation (EU) 2017/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2017 on mercury, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1102/2008:

- Only pre-dosed encapsulated dental amalgam is allowed
- the use of amalgam separators in dental facilities is mandatory
- collection and disposal of the resulting waste from dental facilities must be in accordance with sound waste management
- it is prohibited to use dental amalgam for dental treatment of deciduous teeth, of children under 15 years and of pregnant or breastfeeding women, except when deemed strictly necessary by the dental practitioner
- the obligation to have national plan concerning the measures to implement to phase down the use of dental amalgam.

Furthermore, amendments regarding insurance policies were also adopted in the Czech Republic in order to support the use of alternatives.

**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.**

It is addressed in the EU acquis by restriction of the placing of the mercury-added products on the EU market. The obligation to prevent the incorporation of mercury-added products into assembled products.

**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.**

Legal obligation (Regulation (EU) 2017/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2017 on mercury, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1102/2008).

"Economic operators shall not manufacture or place on the market mercury-added products that were not being manufactured prior to 1 January 2018.....The manufacture and the distribution in commerce of products not covered by any known use is prohibited unless an assessment demonstrates 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."

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

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**▼ 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)

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

According to EU law the mandatory decommissioning of mercury cells in the chlor-alkali industry took place until 11 December 2017 (in accordance with Commission Implementing Decision 2013/732/EU) and as from 11 December 2017 it is prohibited to use mercury in chlor-alkali production (regulation (EU) 2017/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2017 on mercury, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1102/2008).

### **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**

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▼ **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

Legal obligation. Directive 2010/75/EU requires that the BAT and BEPs are used to operate the concerned industrial installations. These instalations can operate only with permits based on Best Available Techniques (BAT).

#### 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

Legal obligation. Directive 2010/75/EU requires that the BAT and BEPs are used to operate the concerned industrial installations. These installations can operate only with permits based on Best Available Techniques (BAT).

#### 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

Legal obligation. Directive 2010/75/EU requires that the BAT and BEPs are used to operate the concerned industrial installations. These installations can operate only with permits based on Best Available Techniques (BAT).

#### 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

Legal obligation. Directive 2010/75/EU requires that the BAT and BEPs are used to operate the concerned industrial installations. These installations can operate only with permits based on Best Available Techniques (BAT).

#### 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

Legal obligation. Directive 2010/75/EU requires that the BAT and BEPs are used to operate the concerned industrial installations. These installations can operate only with permits based on Best Available Techniques (BAT).

#### 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?

Mon, 02/15/2021 – 00:00

Please indicate where this inventory is available

<https://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/cz/un/clrtap/inventories/>.

Attach

{Empty}

### 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 accordance with provisions of Directive 2010/75/EU of the European Parliament and the Council on industrial emissions (the Industrial Emissions Directive or IED)

**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**

The EU acquis and national law fully cover Art. 8 of the MC.

Directive 2010/75/EU of the European Parliament and the Council on industrial emissions (the Industrial Emissions Directive or IED) is the main EU instrument regulating pollutant emissions from industrial installations and requires that the BAT and BEPs are used to operate the concerned industrial installations. The point sources falling under one of the categories listed in Annex D are operated under conditions set in accordance with provisions of IED and these conditions including emission limit values are part of the integrated permit for operation of the facility.

**▼ 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

**Please indicate the measures taken to address releases from relevant sources and the effectiveness of those measures.**

Legal obligation. These point sources are covered by Directive 2010/75/EU. In accordance with that Directive, these point sources must operate on the basis of the BAT and the BEPs.

**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

**When was the inventory last updated?**

2021-03-31

**Please indicate where this inventory is available**

There is publicly accessible national electronic database IRZ – [www.irz.cz](http://www.irz.cz) , which compiles information reported by operators of significant industrial installations, on quantities of pollutants, including mercury and mercury compounds emitted, released or sent off to waste management facilities. IRZ is the national implementation of E-PRTR (the European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register). The register is regularly updated.

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

{Empty}

**▼ 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

**Please indicate the measures taken to ensure that such interim storage is undertaken in an environmentally sound manner and the effectiveness of those measures.**

Legal obligation (Regulation (EU) 2017/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2017 on mercury, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1102/2008), Interim storage of mercury and of the mercury compounds and mixtures of mercury listed in Annex I to this Regulation shall be carried out in an environmentally sound manner, in accordance with the thresholds and requirements set out in Directive 2012/18/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council (14) and in Directive 2010/75/EU)

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

{Empty}

**▼ 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.**

Legal obligation. In general waste management has to be carried out without endangering human health, without harming the environment (the EU acquis, Directive 2008/98/EC).

Particularly the mercury waste generated by the four most important sources of mercury waste (chlor-alkali production, the cleaning of natural gas, non-ferrous mining and smelting operations and mercury extracted from cinnabar ore) have to be disposed of and has to undergo appropriate conversion, and if applicable, solidification operations prior to permanent storage (Regulation (EU) 2017/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2017 on mercury, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1102/2008).

The EU acquis also transposes the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal.

**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**

{Empty}

**▼ 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**

There are methodologies and guidelines for identifying and assessing sites contaminated not only by mercury but also by other pollutants. Information on contaminated sites are collected and available in publicly accessible database SEKM ([www.sekm.cz](http://www.sekm.cz), only in Czech).

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

{Empty}

**▼ 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**

public and private financing sources

**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**  
contribution to GEF

**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**  
–

**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**  
The Czech Republic hosts Stockholm Convention Regional Centre (SCRC Czech Republic) This centre is providing expert support to the East European States covering not only persistent organic pollutants, but also heavy metals including mercury, endocrine disrupting chemicals and other emerging compounds.

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

☐ Yes

☒ No

**Please specify**  
not eligible

**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**

Special technology,, automated, mobile device was developed by czech company BOME in the cooperation with Technical University of Liberec for mercury stabilization.

**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.**

Safety and Health protection during work (work with instruments, equipment containing mercury or mercury compounds, or manipulation, industrial procedures where these compounds are used) is fully covered by the set of measures arising from legal obligations and internal security guidelines which are designed to eliminate potential health risk for employees.

Health-care services fully cover prevention, treatment and care in case of any exposure or poisoning by mercury and its compounds.

The National Institute of Public Health (NIPH) established under the Ministry of Health covers a spectrum of activities including creation of the basis for national public health policy, health promotion and protection, provision of methodical reference activities and monitoring related to public health, research of the environmental impact on human health, international collaboration, post-graduate education in medical fields and health-related education of the general public. Information on exposition of population is retrieved on a regular basis, human biomonitoring was performed including blood and/or urine mercury levels in children and adults; the outputs are publicly available on the NIPH´s website <http://www.szu.cz/tema/zivotni-prostredi/biologicky-monitoring> (in Czech), <http://www.szu.cz/topics/environmental-health/environmental-health-monitoring> (also in English).

**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.**

Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS)

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

„Phasing down of amalgam dental fillings is successful with lower amounts every year. A legislative amendment is needed for full Phasing-down or Phasing-out because only amalgam fillings are completely covered from dental care insurance.“

#### ▼ 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 Czech Republic is an active member of series of systems and databases serving for exchange of information. Food safety – risk from mercury, information from control and enforcement authorities (e.g. in case of limit values exceeding for certain products, followed by their take off the market) – poison information centre (<https://www.tis-cz.cz>) for cases of poisoning, how to deal with broken thermometers..),

– dental amalgam – national plan for phasing down its use published on website of the Ministry of Health (<https://www.mzcr.cz/wp-content/uploads/wepub/17577/38132/N%C3%A1rodn%C3%ADpl%C3%A1n%20-%20amalg%C3%A1m.pdf>)

– corporation within national administration for implementation of the Convention is ensured by the intersectoral Council dealing with chemicals

– Czech human biomonitoring mercury data from previous studies were provided within the Horizon 2020 project European Human Biomonitoring Initiative (HBM4EU) for geographical distribution and other types of the general population exposure assessments in Europe.

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

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#### ▼ 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

There is general legislation on public access to environmental information in the Czech Republic. In the Czech Republic, there is a relatively good public awareness of danger of mercury and mercury compounds and people are aware where to turn for particular information e.g. how to deal with broken thermometer, in case of accidental ingestion of mercury, or where to dispose waste products with mercury. This awareness comes from different channels starting with school education, information from the media, from state or autonomy administration, from Czech non-profit organizations. Public is also informed in case of accidental releases of pollutants and related risk. Information on emissions, releases of mercury or contamination sites with mercury are collected on the ground of legislation and are available in publicly accessible databases. There are also many educational and scientific articles and reports dealing with mercury. For example – Report on total

content of hazardous elements in agricultural soils (1998–2018) published by Central Institute for supervising and testing in Agriculture  
[https://eagri.cz/public/web/file/648852/RKP\\_AR\\_\\_1998\\_2018\\_Final.pdf](https://eagri.cz/public/web/file/648852/RKP_AR__1998_2018_Final.pdf), only in Czech)  
or results of human biomonitoring including blood, urine and hair mercury levels in children and adults are regularly published on the website of the National Institute of Public Health in Prague  
<http://www.szu.cz/tema/zivotni-prostredi/biologicky-monitoring> (in Czech),  
<http://www.szu.cz/topics/environmental-health/environmental-health-monitoring> (also in English).

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

{Empty}

### ▼ 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

– The data are provided by operators to established databases on emissions, releases and contaminated sites ([www.irz.cz](http://www.irz.cz), <https://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/cz/un/clrtap/inventories/>, <https://www.sekm.cz/portal/>). These databases are updated according to legislation, technical or scientific developments and methodologies. There are no inventories on use and consumption of mercury and its compounds in the Czech Republic.

– Mercury belongs to the elements whose monitoring in environmental and biological matrices is relatively well covered. Especially if its occurrence can directly relate to the potential risk for health. The obligations for Hg monitoring arise from legislation (food, esp. fish, drinking water, agricultural soils, agricultural crops, sludges, sediments). The food sampling system is carried out in the Czech Republic in accordance with the methodological requirements for the assessment of dietary exposure. The Czech Republic has established national Environmental Health Monitoring System (EHMS) coordinated by the National Institute of Public Health in Prague (NIPH). Since 1996 the regular human biomonitoring of mercury has been provided within this system. The matrices are blood and urine (children, adults), and hair (children, primiparas). The results are used to estimate long-term time trends as well as establish the reference points or background values for various population groups. They are linked to the other parts of EHMS – monitoring of mercury in urban air, drinking water and the whole food basket. E.g. for the period between 2017–2021 the exposure from drinking water did not exceed exposure limit set for non-carcinogenic effects on health. The average exposure was less than 1% of the exposure limit. The outputs are available in annual reports on the NIPH websites <http://www.szu.cz/tema/zivotni-prostredi/biologicky-monitoring> (in Czech), <http://www.szu.cz/topics/environmental-health/environmental-health-monitoring> (also in English). The measurements of gas mercury are also carried out within other networks and provided by other organizations. Czech hydrometeorological Institute performed monitoring at two background sites in the Czech Republic. Urban background site (the city Ústí nad Labem) and the rural background site – the National Atmospheric Observatory Košetice. Hg<sub>0</sub> is monitored in Ústí nad Labem. This monitoring started in 2005 and since 2015 it has used different AFS method, frequency is 1x per hour. Monitoring of gas mercury in Košetice started in 2006, manual measurements are according EMEP (The European Monitoring and Evaluation Programme) guidelines. Since 2011, bulk (wet plus partially dry deposition) Hg concentrations are also measured within EMEP network. Moreover, passive sampling of gas mercury also started here in 2020 within GAPs (Global atmosphere passive sampling) network. The station in Košetice is located in the Bohemian-Moravian Highlands and due to its location serves as the national background location and the background station for the Central Europe. Therefore, this station is involved in various international programs and projects. Right next to Košetice observatory, the atmospheric station Křešín u Pacova is located. This station is part of a network of atmospheric stations within the

European Research Infrastructure ICOS and consists of a 250-metre-high meteorological mast. Atmospheric Hg measurement, long term transport, is carried out using Tekran Model 2537B, Tekran Inc., Toronto, Canada.

– The Czech Republic established institute devoted to the issues relating to human health – the National Institute of Public Health (NIPH, <http://www.szu.cz/index.php?lang=2>). Its work covers a spectrum of activities including creation of the basis for national public health policy, health promotion and protection, provision of methodical reference activities and monitoring related to public health, research of the environmental impact on human health, international collaboration, post-graduate education in medical fields and health-related education of the general public. On a regular basis, human biomonitoring was performed including blood and/or urine mercury levels in children and adults; the outputs are publicly available on the NIPH's website <http://www.szu.cz/tema/zivotni-prostredi/biologicky-monitoring> (in Czech), <http://www.szu.cz/topics/environmental-health/environmental-health-monitoring> (also in English). There are several European projects in which institutions or organizations from the Czech Republic participate. During 2017–21 project HBM4EU run, which generated knowledge to inform the safe management about chemicals and protection of human health in Europe. (<https://www.hbm4eu.eu/>). Currently, there is European partnership for the assessment of risks from chemicals (2022–2029). The goal of PARC is the establishment of European centre for research and innovation in the field of chemical risk assessment.

– The Ministry of the Environment is guarantor for creation of methodologies relating to emissions, release and contaminated sites inventory, and is responsible for their updates.

– Information on monitoring data which are basis for the evaluation of fate of mercury is provided hereinbefore. Results from regular human biomonitoring of mercury allow estimation of long-term time trends as well as establishment of the reference points or background values for various population groups. The atmospheric station Křešín u Pacova, which is operated by the Global Change Research Institute – CzechGlobe, and consists of a 250-metre-high meteorological mast, is intended for better understanding of long-term transport of mercury. Atmospheric Hg measurement is carried out using Tekran Model 2537B, Tekran Inc., Toronto, Canada. This station is part of GMOS network (GMOS | Global Mercury Observation System).

– Information on commerce and trade of mercury and mercury compounds is collected. A reporting obligation of companies arises from the legislation.

– Mercury was used in the industrial processes only for chlor-alkali production in two factories. This technology was ceased in 2017 in compliance with the provisions of the EU law – Industrial Emissions Directive (2010) and the European Commission Decision (2013), which establish conclusions on the best available technologies (BAT) for the chlor-alkali production and ban the use of mercury technology as of December 11, 2017. It resulted in the conversion of mercury cell plants to membrane cell plants in one factory and in termination of the production of chlor-alkali in second factory

## **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**

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