

FIRST FULL NATIONAL REPORTS OF THE MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY 2021



* Part E of Article 3 and question 13.3 amended by Greece on 22 June 2022

REPORTING PERIOD:

16 August 2017 to 31 December 2020

▼ INFORMATION ON THE PARTY

1. Information on the party

Name of party

Greece

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

10 June 2020

Date of entry into force of the Convention for the party

8 September 2020

2. Information on the national focal point

Full name of the institution

Independent Authority for Public Revenue – General Chemical State Laboratory – Directorate of Energy, Industrial and Chemical Products

Title of National Focal Point

Head of Directorate

Name of National Focal Point

Dr Eftychia Dima

Mailing address

16 An. Tsoha str.
GR-11521 Athens
Greece

Telephone number

+30 2106479250

Fax number

{Empty}

E-mail

environment.gcsI@aade.gr

Second E-mail

e.dima@aade.gr

Web page

<https://www.aade.gr/gcsI>

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

▼ 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.

{Empty}

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

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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.

At the moment there are 36tn mercury stored in the facilities of Hellenic Petroleum in Thessaloniki from the decommissioning of the former operating Chlor-Alkali unit.

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

By implementing national hazardous substances regulations and from the environmental inspections undertaken in relevant facilities/industries, no new individual stocks of mercury or mercury compounds, exceeding 50 metric tons and sources of mercury supply generating stocks exceeding 10 metric tons per year located within the national territory, have been identified for the reporting period, according to the relevant provision. At the moment there are 36tn mercury stored in the facilities of Hellenic Petroleum in Thessaloniki from the decommissioning of the former operating Chlor-Alkali unit, as mentioned in answer of question 3.4.

▼ 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.

Implementation of Regulation 852/2017 (L 137), art.5

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.

National Plan 'ANTIPAS' concerning the measures to phase out the use of dental amalgam
<https://diavgeia.gov.gr/decision/view/6%CE%A8%CE%9F%CE%9B465%CE%A6%CE%A5%CE%9F-%CE%A984>

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.

Implementation of EU legislation such as:

- Regulation 1907/2006 (REACH) annex XVII, entries 18,18a, 30, 62, 75,
- Directive 2006/66/EC /66/EC on batteries and accumulators and waste batteries and accumulators
- Directive 2011/65/EU on the restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment

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.

Implementation of Regulation 852/2017 (L 137), art.8

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.

Implementation of Regulation 852/2017 (L 137), art.7

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

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

If yes, please provide information on these measures.

Implementation of Regulation 852/2017 (L 137), art.7

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)

If yes, please provide information on these measures.

Implementation of Regulation 852/2017 (L 137), art.7

SODIUM OR POTASSIUM METHYLATE OR ETHYLATE

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

If yes, please provide information on these measures.

Implementation of Regulation 852/2017 (L 137), art.7

PRODUCTION OF POLYURETHANE USING MERCURY-CONTAINING CATALYSTS

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

If yes, please provide information on these measures.
Implementation of Regulation 852/2017 (L 137), art.7

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

If yes, please provide information on the steps.
Implementation of Regulation 852/2017 (L 137), art.9

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

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▼ 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 power plants

There are no new sources of emissions

☒ Coal-fired industrial boilers

Coal-fired industrial boilers

There are no new sources of emissions

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

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

There are no new sources of emissions

☒ Waste incineration facilities

Waste incineration facilities

There are no new sources of emissions

☒ Cement clinker production facilities

Cement clinker production facilities

There are no new sources of emissions

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

Please explain

There are no new sources of emissions

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

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

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

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

{Empty}

▼ 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

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▼ 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.

In accordance also with the article 7 of Regulation 852/2017 (L 137), the environmentally sound storage of mercury, mercury compounds and chemicals is assessed through the environmental impact assessment procedure of projects and installations falling within the scope of EIA Directive. Specific terms and conditions are set to environmental permits according to material safety data sheets (MSDS) and Best Available Techniques.

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

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▼ 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.

Implementation of Regulation 852/2017 (L 137) (relevant articles 11, 12, 13, 14) and implementation of the Regulation (EC) 1013/2006 on shipments of waste.

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

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▼ 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

At the moment there is no specific strategy or policy in place to identify and assess sites contaminated with mercury/mercury compounds, but such issues are dealt within the general legislative framework for contaminated sites from hazardous waste. A special study for determining / investigating each case is required in accordance with the administrative procedure for the restoration of sites contaminated from hazardous waste

A first study on the investigation, evaluation and reclamation of uncontrolled contaminated sites and facilities from industrial and hazardous waste was completed in 2009 (relevant web link: https://ypen.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/legacy/Files/Perivallon/Diaxeirisi_Apovlitwn/Odigoi_Meletes_Protypa/07.pdf). A project on the recording and initial risk assessment of contaminated sites from industrial and hazardous waste in the region of Attica and several prefectures was completed in 2017. Further investigation is needed to conclude on the hazard of these contaminated sites. There is no evidence that these sites were contaminated with mercury (compounds).

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

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▼ 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

Greece is providing at national level the necessary resources for the implementation of the Minamata Convention.

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

Greece is annually contributing to the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund.

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

Greece does not contribute at a national level to programs in developing countries and/or parties with economies in transition.

Please provide comments, if any.

{Empty}

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

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▼ **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

We are willing to contribute if such assistance is asked

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

☐ Yes

☒ No

Please specify

No such assistance was needed

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

We are willing to contribute if asked

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 General Chemical State Laboratory (GCSL) of the Independent Authority for Public Revenue, organises seminars or online events in order to inform the public on dangerous chemicals including mercury.

(Latest online event <https://youtu.be/AqEatyU2J8U>)

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.

Ministry of Health has issued a circular to the dentists and oral health service providers of public and private sectors informing on the obligations regarding the use, separation and retention of dental amalgam as well as the handling, collection and management of amalgam waste that derive from 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.

(link:

<https://diavgeia.gov.gr/decision/view/%CE%A899%CE%9D465%CE%A6%CE%A5%CE%9F-%CE%A6%CE%A7%CE%A1>)

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

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▼ 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
{Empty}

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

{Empty}

▼ 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
Information day was held by the GCSL for the general public

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
Greece participates to relevant activities resulting from EU legislation

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

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▼ 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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