

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

Malta

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

18 May 2017

Date of entry into force of the Convention for the party

16 August 2017

2. Information on the national focal point

Full name of the institution

Malta Competition and Consumer Affairs Authority

Title of National Focal Point

Mr.

Name of National Focal Point

Nathanael Ellul

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Mizzi House, National Road, Blata l-Bajda

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Web page

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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

▼ 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

If the party answered No above, please explain.

Malta does not have individual stockpiles of Mercury.

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

{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

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▼ 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 no, has the party registered for an exemption pursuant to article 6?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

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

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

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 no, has there been an assessment of the risks and benefits of the product that demonstrates environmental or health benefits? Has the party provided to the secretariat, as appropriate, information on any such product?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

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)

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

Please explain

We understand this question to be applicable to new sources of emissions which we do not have.

Attach relevant documentation

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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, 12/31/2020 – 00:00

Please indicate where this inventory is available

The inventory is accessible from the following link: <https://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/mt/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

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

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▼ 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 explain

From monitoring carried out in coastal and inland surface waters, MT is aware of the presence of mercury in our waters, for which exceedances with Environmental Quality Standards established under the EU Directive 2008/105/EC (amended by Directive 2013/39/EU) have been recorded in biota. In 2013 monitoring data exceedances were also recorded in the coastal waters' water column and sediment, however more recent monitoring in the water column and sediment (2017–2019) resulted in no exceedances in these matrices. There is limited data available on mercury in discharges.

Malta does not know enough about the potential sources of mercury in our waters and there is a high probability, based on literature findings that multiple sources, including transboundary issues, are contributing to the exceedances in mercury EQS. Malta is yet to understand what can be considered to be the natural occurring

background level of mercury in the Mediterranean and what could be contributing to increments in mercury found in our waters.

Under Malta's second Water Catchment Management Plan 2015 – 2021 , (Malta's River Basin Management Plan required as part of the EU Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC), a specific measure (Measure SWM10: Establish a Mercury Management Plan to enable the investigation of potential sources of mercury and potential mitigation measures) was established to further investigate the potential sources of mercury in the Maltese Water Catchment District. The implementation of this measure is currently underway.

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

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.

Malta, as an EU Member State and a Contracting Party to the Basel Convention, has put in place a comprehensive legal and administrative framework aimed at ensuring the environmentally sound management of all wastes (including wastes which might contain mercury), from generation to final treatment, including transboundary movements.

The main legal instruments in this regard, inter alia, include:

- The Waste Framework Directive, as transposed into the national legal framework by S.L. 549.63
- The Waste Shipment Regulation, transposing the Basel Convention, as implemented in Malta via S.L 549.65
- 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

In this context, it is to be noted that Malta does not generate large amounts of mercury containing/contaminated waste in view that:

- a) there are no major mercury industries, such as those referred to in article 5, and
- b) in line with EU legislation, many mercury contaminated/containing products have already/are being phased out.

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

To date priority has been given to presently known contaminated sites which are identified via other processes. The environmental permitting process of facilities falling within scope of the Industrial Emissions Directive 2010/75/EU (IPPC) and potentially/known contaminated sites, allows for a preliminary risk assessment to take place. Should the operations of a site or historical information indicate that mercury is/was being used or stored, mercury is included in the analytical suite of heavy metals requested to be monitored by the operators/owners concerned. Hence land testing is required to be carried out.

Once a site is identified to be contaminated following the monitoring carried out as part of the processes described above, remedial measures may be requested to be carried out. Remedial measures requested would then be dependent on the characteristics of the site, the environmental sensitivity of the area and future proposals on the after-use of such sites. Although Malta has identified certain sites which may be potentially contaminated, an inventory has not yet been developed.

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

national funds are allocated to oral disease prevention in line with the priorities as set out in the national plan

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

N/A

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

N/A

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

N/A

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

☐ Yes

☒ No

Please specify

N/A

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

N/A

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 National Action Plan to phase down Dental Amalgam

Ethical and Legal Obligations for Dental Practitioners with respect to Dental Amalgam:

[https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/dental-public-health-](https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/dental-public-health-unit/Documents/Publications%20for%20Dental%20Professionals/Ethical%20Obligations%20for%20Dental%20Professionals.pdf)

[unit/Documents/Publications%20for%20Dental%20Professionals/Ethical%20Obligations%20for%20Dental%20Professionals.pdf](https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/dental-public-health-unit/Documents/Publications%20for%20Dental%20Professionals/Ethical%20Obligations%20for%20Dental%20Professionals.pdf)

11

Restricting the Use of Dental Amalgam in Specific Patient Groups – Discussion Points for Dental Professionals:

[https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/dental-public-health-](https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/dental-public-health-unit/Documents/Publications%20for%20Dental%20Professionals/Discussion%20Points%20Dental%20Professionals.pdf)

[unit/Documents/Publications%20for%20Dental%20Professionals/Discussion%20Points%20Dental%20Professionals.pdf](https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/dental-public-health-unit/Documents/Publications%20for%20Dental%20Professionals/Discussion%20Points%20Dental%20Professionals.pdf)

Information campaigns to the general public on Dental Amalgam which are published on the Malta Competition and Consumer Affairs Authority website and from the Ministry for Health website:

<https://mccaa.org.mt/Section/Content?contentId=1133>

<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/dental-public-health-unit/Pages/publications.aspx>

[https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/dental-public-health-](https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/dental-public-health-unit/Documents/Leaflets/Amalgam%20under%2015.pdf)

[unit/Documents/Leaflets/Amalgam%20under%2015.pdf](https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/dental-public-health-unit/Documents/Leaflets/Amalgam%20under%2015.pdf)

<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/dental-public-health-unit/Documents/Leaflets/Amalgam%20Parents.pdf>

[https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/dental-public-health-](https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/dental-public-health-unit/Documents/Leaflets/Amalgam%20Pregnant%20Women.pdf)

[unit/Documents/Leaflets/Amalgam%20Pregnant%20Women.pdf](https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/dental-public-health-unit/Documents/Leaflets/Amalgam%20Pregnant%20Women.pdf)

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

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

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

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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

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

Information campaigns to the general public on Dental Amalgam which are published on the Malta Competition and Consumer Affairs Authority website and from the Ministry for Health website:

Information campaigns to the general public on Dental Amalgam which are published on the Malta Competition and Consumer Affairs Authority website and from the Ministry for Health website:

<https://mccaa.org.mt/Section/Content?contentId=1133>

<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/dental-public-health-unit/Pages/publications.aspx>

<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/dental-public-health-unit/Documents/Leaflets/Amalgam%20under%2015.pdf>

<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/dental-public-health-unit/Documents/Leaflets/Amalgam%20Parents.pdf>

<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/dental-public-health-unit/Documents/Leaflets/Amalgam%20Pregnant%20Women.pdf>

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

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▼ 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

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)

N/A

▼ SUPPLEMENTAL – ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

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

N/A