

REPORTING PERIOD:

16 August 2017 to 31 December 2020

▼ INFORMATION ON THE PARTY

1. Information on the party

Name of party

Portugal

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

28 August 2018

Date of entry into force of the Convention for the party

26 November 2018

2. Information on the national focal point

Full name of the institution

Portuguese Environment Agency

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

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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

The Portuguese Geology Agency (DGEG – Direção-Geral de Energia e Geologia) confirms that there are no mercury mines in Portugal.

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.

Since there are no mercury mines in Portugal, and our industry has decommissioned the use of Hg a long ago, following the publication of the BAT Reference Documents, we saw no need to identify stocks of Hg exceeding 50 metric tons and sources of mercury supply generating stocks exceeding 10 metric tons per year.

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

Portugal didn't need to export Hg. The decommissioning of Hg use in Portugal (namely from chlor-alkali industry) has been made a long ago, following the publication of the BAT Reference Documents and the Hg waste has been properly disposed of.

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

Portugal didn't need to import Hg.

▼ 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.

As Portugal (PT) is a European Union Member State (EU MS), and since the manufacture, import or export of mercury-added products has been phased out in Europe a long time ago, PT took the appropriate measures at that time. Regulation EU 2017/852 is much more restrictive than the Convention.

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.

In PT, dentists are using Hg-free alternatives for dental restauration for a long time. Additionally, PT has set out a dental amalgam phase out in June 2020, in accordance with Article 10 Regulation EU 2017/852.

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.

These measures have been set out at an EU level (Regulation 2017/852, REACH Regulation, etc).

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.

The manufacture and distribution in commerce of Hg-added products has been forbidden at an EU level. (Regulation 2017/852, REACH Regulation, etc).

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

- ☐ 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

PT had one facility using Hg in VCM production. Nevertheless, it's use has been decomissioned a long time ago (and the Hg waste properly disposed of) since the publication of the BAT Reference Documents (BREF) on chlor-alkali production following European IPPC legislative measures.

▼ 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

There is no artisanal and small-scale gold mining in PT (information provided by PT Geology Agency (DGEG – Direção-Geral de Geologia e Energia)

▼ 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

PT has no new sources (as defined in paragraph 2 (c) of article 8)

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

PT had 3 Coal-fired power plants: Carregado, Sines and Pego. The Carregado power plant closed in 2010, the Sines power plant in january 2021 and the Pego power plant in november 2021.

Progress

These power plants were shut down as a measure to reduce air pollution, and prevent CO2 emissions.

▼ 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

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▼ 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

All our waste incineration facilities, but one, are IPPC facilities and, as such have to respect the Associated Emission Values (AEV) that are established in the BREF Documents. Our only waste incineration facilities that is not covered by IPPC (Recauchutagem Nortonha) is covered by chapter IV of the Industrial Emissions Directive (Directive 2010/75/EU) and by chapter IV of our national legislation that transposes Directive 2010/75/EU ("Decreto-Lei n.º 127/2013")

Progress

Since the first IPPC Directive (Directive 96/61 /EC) and its transposition into national law Decreto-Lei n.º 194/2000), the air emissions, and subsequently the Hg air emissions had a very big reduction.

▼ 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

Our cement clinker production facilities are IPPC facilities and, as such, have to respect the Associated Emission Values (AEV) that are established in the BREF Documents.

Progress

Since the first IPPC Directive (Directive 96/61 /EC) and its transposition into national law Decreto-Lei n.º 194/2000), the air emissions, and subsequently the Hg air emissions had a very big reduction.

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?

Please indicate where this inventory is available

<https://industry.eea.europa.eu/analyse/pollutant-and-sector>

Attach

- [PRT_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.

The identification of the relevant sources follows our National and European legislation, namely the Industrial Emissions Directive (Directive 2010/75/EU) and its transposition into national law ("Decreto-Lei n.º 127/2013")

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

PT doesn't have a national plan referred by itself – PT follows national and EU legislation, the industrial emissions legislation.

▼ 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

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

PT does not have interim storage of non-waste mercury and mercury compounds intended for a use allowed to a party.

▼ ART. 11: MERCURY WASTES

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

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

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

PT does not have Hg waste as it is listed in the table attached to the MC-3/5 Decision of the Conference of the Parties.

▼ 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

The following Technical Guidelines and Recommendations were made available on the Portuguese Environment Agency (APA) website to support operators and interested parties:

- (i) "Technical Guidelines – Reference Values for Soil" (APA, 2019);
- (ii) "Technical Guidelines – Soil Sampling Plan and Soil Monitoring Plan" (APA, 2019);
- (iii) "Technical Guidelines – Risk analysis and risk acceptability criteria" (APA, 2019);
- (iv) "Technical Guidelines – Reference matrices for presenting analytical results" (APA, 2020);
- (v) "Measures / Recommendations to be adopted concerning licensing, monitoring and inspection of urban operations – soil assessment and remediation" (APA, 2019);
- (vi) "Recommendation regarding the transmission of the property right of a contaminated or potentially contaminated soil" (APA, 2020).
 - A Soil Quality Atlas is currently under development to identify sites where potentially contaminating soil activities are carried out or have been carried out, contaminated sites and remediated sites, with any contaminant of concern, including mercury and mercury compounds.
 - The waste legislation already foresees the licensing of soil remediation projects.

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

Participation in technical working groups respecting chemical safety at multiple levels: national level, EU level, OECD level.

Please provide comments, if any.

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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

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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

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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 not aware of PT's cooperation, as a Party, providing capacity-building, technical assistance and technology transfer. Nevertheless, PT cooperated as part of the EU.

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

☐ Yes

☒ No

Please specify

.

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

PT has some Hg contaminated sites and has provided contributions in this matter (see answer to question 13.1). Apart from contaminated sites, our research community (namely Universidade de Aveiro, IST – Instituto Superior Técnico) has also participated in international technical working groups

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

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▼ 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.

As PT is the EU MS with the highest fish consumption per person (JRC data: <https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/news/how-much-fish-do-we-consume-first-global-seafood-consumption-footprint-published>), there are campaigns (targetting mainly vulnerable groups such as pregnant women) warning about the risk of Hg exposure by eating large quantities of some fish species.

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.

As already stated, the "Hg problem" in PT is the existence of contaminated sites. Regarding contaminated sites, the PT environment authorities have issued Guidelines respecting the construction sector, remediation operations, etc.

Our research community, namely ENSP – Escola Nacional de Saúde Pública, has done some research respecting Hg exposure due to fish consumption.

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

Through our research agencies (namely Universidade de Aveiro, IST and ENSP, already mentioned) PT has provided scientific, technical, information concerning mercury and mercury compounds, including toxicological, ecotoxicological and safety information; and epidemiological information concerning health impacts associated with exposure to mercury and mercury compounds (namely Hg waste), in close cooperation with the World Health Organization and other relevant organizations.

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
Provision to the public of available information of the risk of Hg exposure due to excessive consumption of certain fish species

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

If yes, please describe these actions

Modelling and geographically representative monitoring of levels of mercury and mercury compounds in vulnerable populations (eg: pregnant women) and in environmental media, including biotic media such as fish and seafood

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)

Regarding

▼ SUPPLEMENTAL – ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

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

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