

MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY 2021



* Questions 3.3, 8.1 and 11.2 amended by Slovakia on 24 June 2022

REPORTING PERIOD:

16 August 2017 to 31 December 2020

▼ INFORMATION ON THE PARTY

1. Information on the party

Name of party

Slovakia

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

31 May 2017

Date of entry into force of the Convention for the party

29 August 2017

2. Information on the national focal point

Full name of the institution

Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic

Title of National Focal Point

Head of Environmental Risks and Biosafety Department

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

{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

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*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.

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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.

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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

Question: 3.3

The Slovak Republic does not have individual stocks of mercury or mercury compounds exceeding 50 metric tons and sources of mercury supply generating stocks exceeding 10 metric tons per year. The situation/condition in stocks under these limits is practically unchanged in yearly bases. No mercury from this stocks was not used during this reporting period.

Question 3.4:

The Slovak Republic does not have excess mercury available from the decommissioning of chlor-alkali facilities. In the past Slovakia had one chlor-alkali facility using mercury. The production in this facility was decommissioned in December 2017 and the measures related with decommission were finished in December 2019. All amount of mercury from this facility became a waste (under the Mercury Regulation No. 852/2017) and was disposed finally in stabilized and solidified form.

▼ 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.

All listed products in the Annex A (part one) of the Minamata convention are involved in related legislation (Mercury Regulation No 852/2017). It is not allowed the manufacture, import and export of these products after the phase-out date. The Mercury Regulation specified for some of these products stricter conditions and use earlier phase-out date.

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 National Action Plan for decreasing of use of dental amalgam was set out in 2019 in accordance of the Mercury Regulation.

The dental amalgam shall only be used in pre dosed encapsulated form (the 1st January 2019). Dental amalgam shall not be used for dental treatment of deciduous teeth, of children under 15 years and pregnant or breastfeeding women, except when deemed strictly necessary by dental practitioner (the 1st July 2018). The amalgam separators with retention level of at least 95% shall be used (the 1st January 2019).

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.

All mercury added products whose manufacture, import and export are not allowed under article 4 (part 5) are incorporated and regulated in Mercury Regulation No. 852/2017. The competent authorities manages and executes state supervision in these matters.

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.

Slovakia does not register any request from producers for manufacture of such mercury added products or from the distribution in commerce based on Mercury Regulation.

The competent authorities manages and executes state supervision in these matters.

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)

If yes, please provide information on these measures.

The relevant legislation for restriction such a use of this technology is the the Mercury Regulation. There was one facility during the reporting period. The production was terminated in the end 2020 and its decommission is under the administration process. According the Mercury Regulation this type of production is forbidden after the 31. December 2021.

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

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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 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

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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

Relevant legislation (the Act on Air, the Act on IPPC, the conclusions of BAT/BEP etc. e.g. relevant decrees) sets out measures aimed at reducing emissions and use monitoring to determination of

pollution. In the framework of granting operation permissions there are specified emission limits for new and existing technologies and equipment and demands for compulsory monitoring.

Progress

The amount of mercury emissions to environment is decreasing. Replacement of technologies using coal (boilers). Replacement and modernization of old technologies by new one with smaller mercury pollution.

▼ 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

Relevant legislation (the Act on Air, the Act on IPPC, the conclusions of BAT/BEP etc. e.g. relevant decrees) sets out measures aimed at reducing emissions and use monitoring to determination of pollution. In the framework of granting operation permissions there are specified emission limits for new and existing technologies and equipment and demands for compulsory monitoring.

Progress

The amount of mercury emissions to environment is decreasing. Replacement of technologies using coal (boilers) by new sources. Replacement and modernization of old technologies by new one with smaller mercury pollution.

▼ 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

Relevant legislation (the Act on Air, the Act on IPPC, the conclusions of BAT/BEP etc. e.g. relevant decrees) sets out measures aimed at reducing emissions and use monitoring to determination of pollution. In the framework of granting operation permissions there are specified emission limits for new and existing technologies and equipment and demands for compulsory monitoring.

Progress

The amount of mercury emissions to environment is decreasing. Replacement and modernization of equipment and technologies with smaller mercury pollution.

▼ 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

Relevant legislation (the Act on Air, the Act on IPPC, the conclusions of BAT/BEP etc. e.g. relevant decrees) sets out measures aimed at reducing emissions and use monitoring to determination of pollution. In the framework of granting operation permissions there are specified emission limits for new and existing technologies and equipment and demands for compulsory monitoring.

Progress

The amount of mercury emissions to environment is decreasing. Replacement and modernization of technologies with smaller mercury pollution.

▼ 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

Relevant legislation (the Act on Air, the Act on IPPC, the conclusions of BAT/BEP etc. e.g. relevant decrees) sets out measures aimed at reducing emissions and use monitoring to determination of pollution. In the framework of granting operation permissions there are specified emission limits for new and existing technologies and equipment and demands for compulsory monitoring.

Progress

The amount of mercury emissions to environment is decreasing. Replacement and modernization of technologies with smaller mercury pollution.

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

Slovakia has an internally linked system of legislation in which regulates the conditions for the construction and operability of new and existing emission resources and permissions (e.g. IPPC legislation, The Air Act, the Water Act, the Waste Act, ...)

The Environmental Impact Assessment Act is used in the process of the impact assessment of specified technologies and facilities to the environment and public health. This Act is used to assess all new and existing sources of pollution under the conditions of introducing new production processes and changes of used technologies, production processes and equipment.

▼ 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.

There is the legislation in place (Mercury Regulation and the Waste Act) which lays down the conditions for operation of facilities for temporary storage of mercury.

At present Slovakia does not have such a facility in its territory, because of low amount of such mercury. All temporary stored mercury is mainly the mercury from recycling and recovery facilities. These facilities dispose by operation permit with defined conditions for environmental sound interim storage of mercury product.

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.

The measures are established in the relevant legislation (Mercury Regulation and Waste Act) which regulates the disposal of mercury, mercury compounds and mercury containing waste. The Slovakia does not have the thresholds for mercury contaminated waste. All these waste are defined as a dangerous waste which determines the procedures of their disposal. In accordance with the legislation it is forbidden the deposition of liquid mercury as a waste without its processing and solidification.

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

If yes, if the information is available, how much waste consisting of mercury or mercury compounds has been subjected to final disposal under the reporting period? Please specify the method of the final disposal operation/operations.

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

The Slovakia has facilities for final disposal of mercury containing waste and does not have facilities for final disposal of liquid mercury as a waste, however conditions for mercury final disposal are defined in Waste Act.

▼ 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

Localities/contaminated sites, with relevant pollutants (not only mercury) are identified and included in publicly available database called „The Environmental Burden Information System (EBIS)“. Contaminated sites are gradually reviewed and remediated in accordance with polluter pays principle and in accordance with the relevant legislation (Act No. 409/2011, Act No. 569/2007 and Decree No. 51/2008). The main policy document in relation to contaminated sites is "The State Programme of Environmental Burden Remediation", work out for time period (2016 – 2021) and the programme for new period (2022–2027) is under the preparation process. The sites polluted by mercury are mainly caused by the old historical mining industry and metal processing, abandoned pesticide warehouses and landfills.

In the Slovak Republic, within the framework of the EBIS, contaminated sites are identified with concentrations of mercury above the relevant limits (above the indicative ID and intervention IT criteria according to the Internal Directive of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic for the development of a risk analysis of polluted territory). For soil and rock environment ID criteria = 2.5 mg/kg and IT criteria for residential zones = 10 mg/kg, for industry = 20 mg/kg. For groundwater ID = 2 µg/l, IT = 5 µg/l.

In the EBIS there are registered also so-called "likely ("probable") environmental burdens",

environmental burdens and rehabilitated and reclaimed localities. In the case of probable burdens, this is only a presumption based on indications (activity, predicted pollution releases and its manifestations, etc.). In the case of environmental loads (confirmed), there are also analyses showing increased concentrations of mercury in the rock environment and/or groundwater. In the case of old mining localities after restoration and re-cultivation there is residual contamination.

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

The Slovakia does not have "separate" financial resources for the implementation of the Minamata Convention obligations. There is a relevant legislation in place and competent authorities determined and the policies, activities and measures are performed within their competencies and also by the private sector. Further other environmental policies, strategies and action plans are in place, which help with fulfilment of the Minamata Convention obligations.

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

The Slovak Republic have not been able to contribute to the mechanism because of the budgetary constraints.

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

The Slovak Republic have not been able to contribute to the mechanism because of the budgetary constraints.

Please provide comments, 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. 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 Slovak Republic did not provide capacity-building or technical assistance because of the budgetary constraints.

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

☐ Yes

☒ No

Please specify

The Slovak Republic is not eligible to receive such a support.

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

The Slovak republic was not able to provide such a support because of the budgetary constraints and limited personal capacities.

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.

The Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic publishes the Report on state of the environment on yearly bases. The Report include information on mercury pollution in environmental elements (air, water, soil). The information on mercury pollution is public available for general public. These information can be used in the decision making process with the public participation.

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

☒ Yes

☐ No

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

The Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic elaborated the National Action Plan for minimization of dental amalgam use. The Strategy contains actions which protect health and vulnerable population such as children, pregnant and breasting women. There are also measures in place to protect the health of dental practitioners and promote the cleaner health services.

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

The Slovak Republic is a member of the European Union. There are expert working groups in place with the possibility for exchange of information and expertise and for creation and submission of new proposals for effective implementation of the Convention.

At national level cooperation among relevant ministries and stakeholders dealing with mercury issues and responsibilities are in place.

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

The Information on current state and development trends (in air, water and soil mercury pollution) are published in the Report on state of the Environment on yearly bases. This report is public available. Also the National Action Plan for decreasing of use of dental amalgam was set out by the Ministry of Health in 2019 and is public available (www.sazp.sk).

On the web page <https://www.air.sk> there are published information on some air pollution sources including mercury. The are in place any other databases such a pollutant release and transfer register, IPPC register, contaminated sites register, etc. All strategic documents for environment, government documents are public available.

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

In the area of dental amalgam Slovakia developed The National Action Plan for decreasing of use of dental amalgam in 2019 with concrete measures e.g. the dental practitioners are educated with new technics and products/filing not containing mercury; the educational program for future dentist was elaborated in line of decreasing of dental amalgam use.

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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