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INFORMATION NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury (COP-6) (Geneva, Switzerland, 3 - 7 November 2025) - Compilation of statements from the European Union and its Member States

Delegations will find, for information, in the Annex a compilation of statements from the European Union and its Member States as delivered during COP 6.

Sixth Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury (COP 6)

(Geneva, Switzerland, 3 - 7 November 2025)

- Statements from the EU and its Member States –

Item 1) Opening of the meeting

Mister President of the sixth Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention, Madam Executive Secretary, Distinguished Delegates,

I have the honor of addressing the sixth Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the President of the Conference of the Parties, the Bureau, the Executive Secretary and the Secretariat for their work to organize this meeting. We also thank Switzerland, our generous host country, for the warm welcome and hospitality.

The Minamata Convention stands as a testament to the power of multilateral cooperation in addressing a global challenge that knows no borders. It represents a powerful instrument in our collective efforts to prevent and reduce mercury pollution, which continue to pose significant risk to human health and the environment. We reaffirm that protecting human health and the environment is not just a duty but a shared responsibility. It is a collective commitment that must transcend political boundaries and national interests.

With that in mind we remain hopeful that we at this Conference of the parties again can make significant progress and take steps to further implement and develop the Convention. This includes strengthening the trade provisions by initiating a process to include mercury compounds under the export provisions established by the Convention and to phase out the use of mercury in the production of vinyl chloride monomers, as technically and economically feasible alternatives are available.

Over the course of previous Conferences of the Parties, we have engaged in constructive discussions regarding dental amalgam and we hope to make further progress on this important issue. In the European Union, we have followed a stepwise approach toward the elimination of dental amalgam—beginning with its prohibition for use in pregnant women and children, and has now been extended to a ban covering the general population, with exemptions only for specific medical uses.

We recall the importance of the gender action plan and hope also to take steps to further strengthen the synergies among the Multilateral Environmental Agreements, including with the global Biodiversity Framework and the BRS Conventions and also welcome the establishment of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution in this regard. In conclusion, we wish to reiterate our commitment to ensuring a successful outcome for this sixth Conference of the Parties. We are here to work collectively and constructively with the aim of translate our discussions into action in the effort to protecting human health and the environment

Thank you, Mister President.

Item 4) Matters for consideration or action by the Conference of the Parties

4a) Mercury supply sources and trade – draft Decision

Mr. President, the European Union and its Member States thank the Secretariat for preparing the meeting documents and for developing training materials.

We note that current mercury trade data is limited in its informative value due to uncertainties regarding the proper declaration of mercury, mercury-containing substances and mercury waste leading to the inaccurate use of the Harmonised Systems codes and consequent trade data discrepancies.

To address this, we believe it is necessary to develop global guidance for a consistent use of Harmonised System codes related to mercury and mercury compounds.

This guidance should be disseminated among exporting and importing companies to ensure the consistent application of Harmonised System codes in transboundary trade.

Furthermore, we agree to adopt the updated guidance on identifying significant stocks of mercury and on using import and export forms to assist Parties in managing mercury trade from primary sources, as outlined in Annex A.

We need to strengthen existing trade measures to curb demand and illegal trade.

In this context, we emphasize the importance of enhancing the capacity of national enforcement officers, including customs officers, in controlling national mercury trade, in line with the recommendations in the 2024 Factsheet on Trade prepared by the Secretariat.

We would like to thank the Secretariat for preparing a draft decision on mercury supply sources and trade.

Although we largely support the proposal, there are some points in the draft decision, namely paragraphs 5, 6 and 9 that we propose to modify.

We would welcome the opportunity to provide our text proposals. We stand ready to strengthen Article 3 of the Convention by starting a process to develop additional measures to effectively reduce supply and control trade in mercury on mercury compounds – CRP 2, the European Union and its Member wish to express concern regarding the trade in compounds, which appears to circumvent the restrictions meant to curtail the availability of mercury for unauthorized uses.

This practice poses a threat to the Convention’s objective - to protect health and the environment from emissions and releases of mercury - and requires urgent measures to minimize and, where feasible, eliminate the trade of mercury compounds.

We support intersessional work on potential additional measures aimed at reducing and, where feasible, eliminating the production and trade of mercury compounds.

The EU has prohibited the export of six mercury compounds and remains open to considering bans on additional compounds, contingent upon information on the availability of alternatives.

We thank Canada together with Australia, Japan and Norway for the CRP aimed at advancing efforts related to potential restrictions on mercury compound trade.

We generally support the adoption of the Canadian CRP and look forward to engaging with all Parties to discuss this CRP in a contact group.

Thank you.

4b) (i) Amendments to annex A

Mr. President, the European Union and its Member States thank the Secretariat for preparing the meeting documents and we are ready to engage in discussions on amending Annex A of the Convention, aimed at strengthening international restrictions on the manufacture, import, and export of dental amalgam.

In the EU, the Mercury Regulation prohibits the use and export from the EU of dental amalgam as of 1 January 2025. It also prohibits the import and manufacture of dental amalgam as of 1 July 2026. By way of derogation, the import, use and manufacture of dental amalgam is allowed for specific medical needs of the patient when deemed strictly necessary by the dental practitioner.

The prohibition of the manufacture, import and export of dental amalgam has been discussed since COP4. We stand ready to discuss possible options for the entry on dental amalgam.

Thank you.

4b) (ii) Cosmetics listed in part I of annex A

Mr. President, the European Union and its Member States express concern about the ongoing advertising of the production of mercury compounds for illegal uses, such as in skin lightening products.

We call upon Parties to implement stringent measures to cease the production, sale, and export of mercury compounds intended for use in cosmetics.

In relation to this issue, we believe there is a pertinent link to the discussions under item 4(a) on mercury compounds.

We acknowledge the CRP put forward by Gabon containing a draft Decision strengthening the work concerning mercury-added cosmetics; and we recognize that it could serve as a basis for further discussion.

I will not enter details. We have some comments

We note that several elements within the CRP require reformulation, further consideration, and streamlining. We look forward to discussions in the contact group.

Thank you.

4b) (iii) Consideration of the feasibility of mercury-free alternatives for manufacturing vinyl chloride monomer

Mr. President, vinyl chloride monomer (VCM) represents one of the largest remaining industrial uses of mercury. Several Parties made submissions to the Minamata Secretariat regarding mercury-free catalysts to produce VCM, which are technically and economically feasible.

In the EU, VCM production using mercury catalysts is prohibited since 1 January 2022.

We would like to recall that, in line with Part II of Annex B to the Minamata Convention, Parties shall not allow the use of mercury in VCM production five years after the Conference of the Parties has established that mercury-free catalysts based on existing processes have become technically and economically feasible.

Mr. President, the EU and its Member States believe that mercury-free catalysts based on existing processes have indeed become technically and economically feasible globally. Therefore, the EU and its Member States, co-sponsored by Norway and the United States, have submitted a CRP containing this conclusion in a draft decision.

We look forward to a discussion on the CRP containing the draft decision during a contact group.

We very much hope that the decision will be adopted at this COP.

Thank you.

4b) (iv) Extension of exemptions

Mr. President,

The European Union and its Member States wish to address the requests for an extension of exemptions as submitted by Thailand and Bangladesh. The COP should agree on a common understanding to address such requests.

We would therefore appreciate the support of the Minamata Secretariat in preparing a draft Decision text on this matter. We would also welcome guidance to bring further clarity on Article 6(6) of the Convention.

The exemption requests involve a wide range of mercury-added product categories – at a time when there are mercury-free alternatives. The mercury added products in question significantly contribute to mercury use and pose environmental and health risks.

While we understand that a transition period for certain mercury-added products was necessary, we have some reservations regarding the justification for extending exemptions, particularly concerning the criteria for the availability of mercury-free alternatives.

We stand ready to participate in a small group to consider the matter further.

Thank you.

4c) Artisanal and small-scale gold mining

Thank you, Mister President. The European Union and its Member States would like to thank the Secretariat for preparing this draft decision on artisanal and small-scale gold mining and would like to highlight the importance of addressing the use of mercury in the activities of artisanal and small-scale gold mining to reduce impacts on human health, land, ecosystems and biodiversity.

Mercury use in artisanal and small-scale gold mining is still ongoing and this use remain the largest source of global mercury emissions, calling for further efforts to significantly reduce mercury use in this sector. The European Union and its Member States appreciate the efforts made by the Minamata Secretariat to raise awareness regarding the importance of action to address mercury use in artisanal small-scale gold mining and support parties in the preparation of the national action plans.

The European Union and its Member States also appreciate the efforts of parties to develop, submit and implement their final national action plans.

We recognise the challenges in providing a review of the National Action Plan every three years. We therefore welcome and support the proposal to include a new section on review of the National Action Plan in the guidance document.

The European Union and its Member States also welcome the provisional guide on the effective engagement and participation of Indigenous Peoples, and local communities and other stakeholders in the review process.

We welcome the draft CRP from Brazil but would like to express some concerns with some paragraphs suggested.

Thank you.

4d) Mercury waste

Mr President,

Regarding the actions proposed in document UNEP/MC/COP.6/8 on mercury waste, the European Union and its Member States would like to express support for the following initiatives:

First, we endorse intersessional work between COP6 and COP7 to explore requirements for environmentally sound management options for mercury waste as per Article 11, paragraph 3(a) of the Convention.

We emphasize the importance of understanding the relationship between the Basel Convention guidelines as well as the new requirements under the Minamata Convention.

Second, in the review of mercury waste thresholds, we support the gathering of scientific and regulatory data to assess the effectiveness of current thresholds. We advocate for reports to be prepared for consideration at COP7, ensuring updates to decision MC-3/5 on mercury waste thresholds.

Third, we welcome cooperative actions with the Basel Convention to update the Basel Convention technical guidelines on the environmental sound management of waste consisting of elemental mercury and wastes containing or contaminated with mercury. While avoiding reopening core discussions, we fully support collaboration between the Basel and Minamata Convention Secretariats to incorporate decision MC-5/10 on the establishment of mercury waste thresholds appropriately in the updated guidelines.

The EU and its Member States would like to thank Japan for their CRP containing a proposal on advancing work on mercury waste management and support setting up intersessional work to engage with Parties and stakeholders between COP6 and COP7.

Thank you.

- 4e) Financial resources and mechanism**
 - i) Global Environment Facility**
 - ii) Specific International Programme to Support Capacity-Building and Technical Assistance**
 - iii) Review of the financial mechanism**

Thank you, Mister President.

The European Union and its Member States would like to thank the Secretariat for the updated information on matters relating to the Global Environment Facility. We are also thankful for the report from the Global Environment Facility Council to the Sixth Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention. The EU and its Member States take note of the information provided.

We believe that the Global Environment Facility holds a central position within the financial mechanism of the Convention. It plays an essential role in assisting Parties to meet their obligations.

The European Union and its Member States also take note of the information provided on the work undertaken within the Specific International Programme. It provides in a transparent manner the progress which has been made with the Specific International Programme since its inception.

The European Union and its Member States encourage Parties and other relevant stakeholders in a position to do so to increase efforts to increase the funding available in the specific trust fund, to support Parties in undertaking critical implementation efforts of the Specific International Programme.

We suggest leaving the choice on a prolongation of Specific International Programme to COP7, where the results from the 3rd review can contribute to a well-founded decision. Therefore, the draft decision on Financial Mechanism needs to be amended in paragraphs 8 and 9.

The European Union and its Member States would like to thank the Secretariat for the work undertaken in preparing for the third review of the financial mechanism and agree with the suggested terms of reference for this review.

In general, the European Union and its Member States encourage and promote increased funding to the financial mechanism from all stakeholders in a position to do so. We also encourage the Secretariat to continue its cooperation on the financial mechanism with the Global Environment Facility Council, especially considering the ninth replenishment of GEF in 2026.

The European Union and its Member States thank the Secretariat for preparing a draft decision related to this agenda item. Although we largely support the proposal, there are some points in the draft decision that we would propose being modified.

The EU and its Member States, Brazil, Norway and Switzerland have submitted a CRP with some suggested amendments to the draft decision on Financial Mechanism.

The CRP seeks to streamline the suggested draft decision while not anticipate the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility.

The CRP also aims to clean up some language that is pre-empting the decision on the Specific International Programme, a potential decision that shall be discussed at COP7.

We would like to welcome the distinguished colleague from Brazil to complement on the suggestions in the CRP.

Thank you.

4f) Capacity-building, technical assistance and technology transfer

Thank you, Mister President. The European Union and its Member States would like to thank the Secretariat for its work on capacity building, technical assistance and technology transfer. We would also like to express appreciation for the compiled desk study with the overview of alternative technologies under the Convention. The shared documentation forms a good basis for discussion.

The European Union and its Member States would also like to thank the secretariat for preparing a draft decision under this agenda item. Although we largely support the draft decision, we would like to add ‘subject to the availability of resources’ in paragraph 7. We will send this proposal for amendment in writing to the Secretariat.

Thank you.

4g) Implementation and Compliance Committee

Thank you, Mister President. The European Union and its Member States welcome the report from the Implementation and Compliance Committee, along with its valuable recommendations. We believe that the Committee’s recommendations give valuable guidance for the considerations of the COP under many agenda items, and we thank the Secretariat for incorporating the recommendations into various working documents.

The EU and its Members States highly appreciate the work of the Committee and consider it has a central role in the further development and implementation of the Convention.

Thank you.

4h) National reporting

Thank you, Mister President. The European Union and its Member States would like to thank the Minamata Secretariat for their effort in assisting Parties in fulfilling their reporting obligations, particularly through the innovative use of online reporting platforms and the provision of reporting guidance and video tutorial which help Parties to submit their national reports.

We welcome the high reporting rate of the second short national report.

The European Union and its Member States would like to emphasize the importance of the analysis of the second round of national reporting being available for COP7. While recognizing the intersessional period might be shorter than normal, we do not think it needs mentioning in the decision and propose to delete the text in square brackets in paragraph 2 of the draft decision.

In paragraph 2, we would like to suggest to change “*request* parties to submit their national report in timely manner” to “*invite* parties to submit their national report in timely manner”.

The European Union and its Member States support the call to parties that have received consent to export mercury to parties and/or to non-parties to provide copies of the consent form to the secretariat to show that the relevant requirements of article 3 have been met.

Thank you.

4i) Effectiveness evaluation

Thank you, Mister President. The European Union and its Member States welcome the work carried out by the Effectiveness Evaluation Group as well as the work of the Open-Ended Scientific Group.

We also welcome the preliminary draft outline of the first effectiveness evaluation report of the Minamata Convention contained in INF/22.

The European Union and its Member States support the draft decision in document UNEP/MC/COP.6/16, but suggest to change “request parties” to “invite parties” in paragraph 3.

We are strongly committed to finalize the first effectiveness evaluation at COP7 as it will be first landmark on the effects of implementing the Convention and encourage Parties to send in their national reporting in time for the use of the Effectiveness Evaluation Group in the preparation of this first effectiveness evaluation.

Thank you.

4j) Cross-cutting matters

i) Implementation of decision MC-5/1

Thank you, Mister President. The European Union and its Member States acknowledge that Indigenous Peoples, as well as local communities, are among the first to face the serious effects resulting from mercury pollution.

We welcome and support the important role of Indigenous Peoples, as well as local communities, in achieving the objective of the Minamata Convention and would like to thank the Secretariat for the work done to implement the decision from COP 5 and welcome the activities undertaken.

Several funding possibilities exist to strengthen and support effective engagement and participation of parties and observers, including Indigenous Peoples, that also can cover the work and meetings of the Minamata Convention. In the proposed draft decision, the European Union and its Member States therefore do not support the creation of a new funding mechanism.

Furthermore, the proposal to create an interim ad hoc advisory group is not clear at this stage, in particular regarding its potential impact on budget.

Therefore, we have some concerns with the draft decision in its current form, and stand ready to participate in further deliberations. We support enhancing and improving participation of and communication with representatives from Indigenous Peoples as well as local communities as agreed at COP5, but have concerns with how this is addressed in the draft decision and would welcome further consideration on the way forward.

Thank you.

ii) Implementation of decision MC-5/15

Thank you, Mister President.

The European Union and its Member States would like to thank the Secretariat for the work done to carry out activities during the biennium 2024–2025 to implement the gender action plan and for preparing the proposed list of activities that could be carried out by the Secretariat and Parties, during the biennium 2026-27. The European Union and its Member States support and place high importance on addressing women and children's health concerns in relation to mercury but note that the current draft decision focuses exclusively on 'the health of women and children' and does not cover the wider activities related to the gender action plan as agreed at COP5.

We would therefore seek clarification from the Secretariat on why the scope of actions presented for both biennia is narrower than the previous decision of COP 5 on this matter.

We propose to amend the draft decision to reflect the continued importance of implementing the agreed gender action plan in its entirety. Annex I of the draft decision would also need to be modified accordingly.

Thank you.

4k) Knowledge management

Thank you, Mister President.

The European Union and its Member States would like to express our appreciation for the commendable efforts by the Minamata Secretariat in advancing knowledge management and digitalization since the Convention entered into force, including during the biennium 2024-2025. These initiatives are instrumental in enhancing the effectiveness and implementation of the Convention.

The European Union and its Member States support encouraging the secretariat to continue cooperation and coordination activities with the Global Mercury Partnership, but suggest to include language to clarify that these activities will be carried out *subject to the availability of resources* in paragraph 5 of the draft decision.

The European Union and its Member States welcome the development of the Minamata Exchange Platform under the digital strategy and suggest to include possible prioritization of elements under the digital strategy in the contact group on Programme of Work and Budget, if needed.

Thank you.

4l) Mercury and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

Thank you, Mister President. The European Union and its Member States would like to commend the efforts of the Minamata Secretariat for preparing the roadmap on how the Minamata Convention and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework can support and complement each other in a mutually reinforcing manner. Such collaboration is essential for achieving our shared goals.

We welcome the road map, as it is laying out important steps in the fight against biodiversity loss and pollution.

The European Union and its Member States appreciate the work by the Secretariat on integrating actions to reduce mercury pollution into the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

We support the proposed draft decision, although we would like to propose a smaller amendment to paragraph 2 in order to make the text more simple. We propose to delete the listing of other parties, so paragraph 2 more simply states “2. *Encourages* parties, and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, to undertake the actions suggested in the road map; “We have sent this proposal in writing to the Secretariat.

Thank you.

Item 5) International cooperation and coordination

Thank you, Mister President. The European Union and its Member States would like to thank the Secretariat for the report on the activities carried out to cooperate and coordinate with other international entities, particularly in the chemicals and waste cluster.

The European Union and its Member States place high importance on the coordination and cooperation with other organisations and would like to highlight the proposed partnership with the newly established Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution.

We support both of the draft decisions prepared by the Secretariat under this agenda item but suggest to include language in the draft decision in document 21 paragraph 6 to clarify that the activities of the Secretariat will be carried out, subject to the availability of resources.

In the draft decision in document 21 para 6, we propose: “Requests the Secretariat, subject to availability of resources, to continue cooperation and coordination.”

Thank you.

Item 6) Programme of Work and Budget

Thank you, Mister President.

The European Union and its Member States would like to thank the Secretariat for providing a proposal of operational budgets for the two funding scenarios for the biennium 2026-2027.

The documents available provide for a good basis for further consideration in a contact group on budget and programme of work. Some matters need further clarification, in particular the staffing envelope, and we have suggestions for amendments to the proposed Draft Decision.

The European Union and its Member States note with concern the difficult financial situation of the Secretariat due to lack of payment of contributions by a minority of Parties. This situation, if not solved, may have consequences for the work programme and the functioning of the Secretariat.

The main priority is to adopt a cost-efficient and cost-effective budget that ensures the realization of the agreed activities adopted by the Parties at this and former COPs for the coming years through a sound and transparent management of the budget.

Thank you.

Item 7) Venue and dates of the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties

Thank you, Mister President, The European Union and its Member States support the draft decision but propose to add an additional para to facilitate the preparation of a High Level Segment, which I am willing to read out if you allow me?:

The para would read: *Further decides* that there will be a high-level segment of a duration of no more than one day's duration;

Thank you

CLOSING STATEMENT

Mr President, distinguished Delegates,

The European Union and its Member States would like to thank our host country Switzerland and the Executive Secretary and team for organizing and guiding us in this successful COP.

We congratulate you, Mr President and the members of the Bureau, for your leadership and steering throughout the week.

Over the past few days, together, we have collectively reaffirmed our commitment to this Convention and adopted important decisions, thanks to all delegations' engagement and constructive approach.

We are particularly pleased with the agreement reached on phasing out dental amalgam. This marks an important milestone in making mercury history – a step that will bring lasting benefits for human health and the environment globally.

Regarding Annex B to the Convention, we consider that mercury-free catalysts are now available for vinyl chloride monomer production and regret that the decision does not reflect consensus on establishing the technical and economic feasibility of mercury-free alternatives. This delays a much-needed decision to phase out the largest remaining use of mercury and mercury compounds in manufacturing processes.

We urge Parties that still use mercury and mercury compounds in VCM production to strengthen their efforts and remain confident that we at the next COP will establish the technical and economic availability of mercury-free catalysts.

We welcome strengthening cooperation with other international entities, particularly within the chemicals and waste cluster, through the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the new Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution.

We are pleased that the COP agreed to enhance the participation of, and engagement with, Indigenous Peoples as well as local communities in the Convention's work, and to further implement the Gender Action Plan.

We congratulate the new Members of the Bureau, the Implementation and Compliance Committee and the Governing Board of the Specific International Programme for their nominations.

Mr President, distinguished Delegates,

The EU and its Member States remain firmly committed to supporting ambitious measures to strengthen the global response to mercury pollution. We stand ready to continue working closely with all Parties, stakeholders, and observers as we move towards the next COP.

Let us carry forward the momentum built here at COP6 and turn our commitments into concrete action.

Thank you!
