



World Alliance for Mercury-Free Dentistry
Weltverband für Quecksilberfreie Zahnbehandlung
Alleanza Mondiale per un'Odontoiatria Senza Mercurio
Światowy Sojusz dla Stomatologii Wolnej od Rtęci
l'Alliance Mondiale pour une Dentisterie sans Mercure
Världssalliansen för kvicksilverfri tandvård
Alianza Mundial por una Odontología Libre de Mercurio

Making EU Dental Amalgam History

The European Union's three-step route to phasing out amalgam use

To implement the Minamata Convention on Mercury, the new European Union rule is taking pro-active steps acts to transition to dental industry to mercury-free filling materials.

Consuming fully 90 tonnes in 2010, Europe is the world's #1 user of dental mercury.¹ (Amalgam use is very heavy in some Member States and non-existent in others.) Much of this dental mercury enters the environment via unsound pathways, polluting (1) air via cremation and sludge incineration; (2) water via dental clinic releases and human waste; (3) soil via landfills, burials, and fertilizer.²

To its great credit, the new European Union rule will go a long way towards reducing mercury pollution. It has a three-step process for phasing out amalgam use in the EU:

- 1. Ban amalgam for children:** As of 1 July 2018, amalgam is banned for children under 15, pregnant women, and breastfeeding women. In early 2018, Member States must adjust government programs and insurance to cover this change in dentistry.
- 2. Develop national plans:** As of 1 July 2019, each Member State must adopt a plan to phase down amalgam use further. The World Alliance for Mercury-Free Dentistry and our civil society partners in the Member States are available to assist governments prepare and implement such plans.
- 3. Evaluate phase-out options:** As of 30 June 2020, the European Commission must submit its recommendation on phasing out amalgam entirely by a date certain. We believe by that point, Europe will be ready to end the use of this major and unnecessary source of anthropogenic mercury.

As the EU moves forward to protect European children from direct and indirect exposure to dental amalgam's mercury, we urge European delegates to support efforts to extend these protections to children in developing countries during the COP process.

For assistance, please contact the World Alliance for Mercury-Free Dentistry's EU team

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¹ AMAP/UNEP, *Technical Report for the Global Mercury Assessment* (2013), <http://www.amap.no/documents/doc/technical-background-report-for-the-global-mercury-assessment-2013/848>, p.103

² Concorde East West, *The Real Cost of Dental Mercury* (March 2012).

http://www.zeromercury.org/index.php?option=com_phocadownload&view=file&id=158%3Athe-real-cost-of-dental-mercury&Itemid=70