



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
ENVIRONMENT
Directorate G - Sustainable Development and Integration
The Director

*Dimitri / Brenda / Glenda
PV - this one requires
follow through
(I think.)*

Brussels, 21 April 2009
ENV.G.2/GS D(2009) 62935

Dear Sir

May I first congratulate you and your staff to the successful outcome of the 25th session of the Governing Council regarding chemicals and in particular mercury. The Commission as well as the EU Member States are pleased to see that the negotiation process on a multilateral agreement on mercury will now get underway, after four years of unfruitful attempts.

The European Commission has already supported the work of UNEP on mercury over the last few years, in particular the most useful activities of the Ad-hoc Open Ended Working Group. We do hope that we will be able to contribute to the upcoming negotiation process, too and to that end we are currently seeking the support of the European Parliament and our Member States.

May I underline that the European Commission also supports the parts of GC Decision 25/5 not directly related to the negotiation process, namely the recognition of partnerships as an instrument for immediate action in priority areas as highlighted in point 20 and the need for interim activities mentioned in point 25.

We are committed to achieving the objectives of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership and would like you to take this letter as the European Commission's formal adherence to the Partnership. In this context, EU Member States have asked the Commission to take on the role as EU member of the Partnership Advisory Group and we are happy to respond positively to this request.

Now, as negotiations on a legally binding instrument are to commence, it is helpful to take stock of what partnerships have delivered so far and how they can contribute even more efficiently to the reduction of the use and the emissions of mercury. The recent first meeting of the Partnership Advisory Group was a good step in this direction.

The Commission is already involved in two projects that are relevant to the partnership approach. We recently signed specific contribution agreements with two UN bodies (UNEP and UNIDO) on clearly defined projects in the field of mercury. These are a project on "Reducing Mercury Emissions from Coal combustion in the energy sector" to which the Commission is contributing nearly €1 million and one on "Global Identification and Evaluation of polluted sites" to which an allocation of €580,000 has


Mr Per Bakken
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been made. We value both as important activities in the context of UNEP's mercury programme.

"Mercury releases from coal combustion" as well as "Artisanal and small-scale gold mining" are among the partnership areas as defined in the Overarching Framework for the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership. We therefore think that the two projects we already support qualify well as contributions to those partnerships. The coal combustion project lists South Africa, India, China and Russia as potential partners, with notes that there could also be benefits for other developing countries and countries with economies in transition. The project dedicated to polluted sites cover toxic legacies in more general terms, but mercury is undoubtedly one of the substances that will receive attention in the execution of the project which will strengthen the capacities of developing countries.

We will consider financing projects of similar importance also in future.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Timo Makela', written in a cursive style.

Timo Makela

Bcc: S.Blanco, J.Hanna, F.Wakenhut, H.Stielstra, L. Du Breil de Pontbriand, K.Tullius

UNEP GLOBAL MERCURY PARTNERSHIP

INFORMATION ON BECOMING A PARTNER

This information sheet is intended to provide an overview of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Global Mercury Partnership for prospective partners. Further information is available at the following web address: <http://www.chem.unep.ch/mercury/default.htm>

What is the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership?

The UNEP Global Mercury Partnership is a voluntary and collaborative relationship amongst various parties, governmental, non-governmental, public and private, in which all participants agree to work together in a systematic way to achieve the goal of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership.

The UNEP Global Mercury Partnership complements and supports the implementation of UNEP Governing Council Decision 24/3.

As of June 2008, the following partnership areas have been initiated:

- artisanal and small scale gold mining;
- mercury cell chlor alkali production;
- mercury air transport and fate research;
- mercury in products;
- mercury releases from coal combustion; and
- mercury waste management.

Other partnership areas are in the process of being considered and initiated.

What is the Overall Goal of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership?

The overall goal of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership is to protect human health and the global environment from the release of mercury and its

compounds by minimizing and, where feasible, ultimately eliminating global, anthropogenic mercury releases to air, water and land.

What does joining the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership mean for prospective partners?

- Supporting the overall goal of the Partnership.
- Contributing resources or expertise to the development and implementation of partnership activities.
- Networking with other organizations/agencies/individuals addressing mercury issues.

How does an organization join the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership?

To become a partner, interested entities or individuals should submit a letter to UNEP signifying their support for the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership and their commitment to achieving its goal, and specifying how they will contribute to meeting the goal of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership.

Such letters should be submitted to:

**Head, UNEP Chemicals Branch, DTIE
11-13, chemin des Anémones
CH-1219 Châtelaine - Geneva, Switzerland
Fax: (+41 22) 797 3460
E-mail: mercury@chemicals.unep.ch**

In submitting this letter, UNEP asks partners to also complete the attached registration form. Participation to the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership will be confirmed by UNEP through a letter of confirmation.

Your letter of support will be posted on the UNEP Chemicals web site.

UNEP GLOBAL MERCURY PARTNERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM *

Partnership Area	<p>Please check partnership areas that your organization intends to contribute to:</p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> artisanal and small scale gold mining <input type="checkbox"/> mercury cell chlor alkali production <input type="checkbox"/> mercury air transport and fate research <input type="checkbox"/> mercury in products <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> mercury releases from coal combustion <input type="checkbox"/> mercury waste management </p> <p>Please indicate in your support letter how your organization intends to contribute to each of the indicated partnership areas.</p>
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Organization Name	European Commission
Name, Functional Title of Representative	Gernot Schnabl Principal Administrator
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Website/URL	
Type of Organization	<p> <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regional economic integration organization <input type="checkbox"/> Non-government Organization <input type="checkbox"/> Industry <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific community <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify: _____ </p>

* UNEP Global Mercury Partnership Registration Forms are to be accompanied by a letter to UNEP signifying support for the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership and commitment to achieving the partnership goal. The support letter should specify how the organization intends to contribute to meeting the goal of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership. Please submit the support letter and registration form to:

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 11-13, chemin des Anémones
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