



Council of the
European Union

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LEGISLATIVE ACTS AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS

Subject: COUNCIL DECISION on the conclusion on behalf of the European Union
of the Minamata Convention on Mercury

COUNCIL DECISION (EU) 2017/...

of ...

**on the conclusion on behalf of the European Union
of the Minamata Convention on Mercury**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 192(1), in conjunction with point (a) of the second subparagraph of Article 218(6) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

Having regard to the consent of the European Parliament¹,

¹ Consent of ...[date] (not yet published in the Official Journal).

Whereas:

- (1) In accordance with Council Decision (EU) ... of 23 September 2013^{1*}, the Minamata Convention on Mercury ('the Convention') was signed on 10 October 2013 on behalf of the European Union, subject to its conclusion at a later date.
- (2) The Convention was adopted in Kumamoto on 10 October 2013. The Convention provides for a framework for the control and limitation of the use, and of anthropogenic emissions and releases, of mercury and mercury compounds to air, water and land, with a view to protecting human health and the environment.
- (3) Mercury is a substance characterised by its transboundary nature. Global action is therefore necessary to ensure the protection of individuals and of the environment within the Union as a complement to domestic measures.
- (4) The Seventh Environmental Action programme² establishes the long-term objective of a non-toxic environment and states that, for that purpose, action is needed to ensure the minimisation of significant adverse effects of chemicals on human health and the environment by 2020.

¹ Council Decision (EU) ... of 23 September 2013 on the signing, on behalf of the European Union, of the Minamata Convention on Mercury (OJ L ..., ..., p. ...).

* OJ: please insert in the text the number of the Decision in document st11995/13, and complete the corresponding footnote.

² Decision No 1386/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 November 2013 on a General Union Environment Action Programme to 2020 'Living well, within the limits of our planet' (OJ L 354, 28.12.2013, p. 171).

- (5) The 2005 Community Strategy Concerning Mercury, as reviewed in 2010, seeks to reduce mercury emissions, cut the supply and demand of mercury, protect against exposure to mercury, and promote international action on mercury.
- (6) The Council reaffirms its commitment, as expressed in its Conclusions of 14 March 2011, to the overall objective of protecting human health and the environment from releases of mercury and its compounds by minimising and, where feasible, ultimately eliminating global anthropogenic mercury releases to air, water and land. The Convention contributes to the achievement of those objectives.
- (7) In accordance with Article 30(3) of the Convention, the Union should, in its instrument of approval, declare the extent of its competence in respect of the matters governed by the Convention.
- (8) The Convention should be approved,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The Minamata Convention on Mercury is hereby approved on behalf of the European Union.

The Declaration of Competence required by Article 30(3) of the Convention is hereby also approved.

The text of the Convention and the Declaration of Competence are attached to this Decision.

Article 2

The President of the Council shall designate the person(s) empowered to deposit, on behalf of the Union, the instrument of approval provided for in Article 30(1) of the Convention, together with the Declaration of Competence.

Article 3

This Decision shall enter into force on the date of its adoption.

Done at ...,

For the Council

The President
