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From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations
Subject: Outcome of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury (COP 2) (Geneva, 19 - 23 November 2018)
- Information from the Presidency and the Commission

Delegations will find in the [Annex](#), for information, a report from the Presidency and the Commission on the outcome of the abovementioned meeting.

Outcome of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury (COP 2) (Geneva, 19 - 23 November 2018)

- Information from the Presidency and the Commission -

The second Conference of the Parties (COP2) to the Minamata Convention on Mercury, which entered into force in August 2018 and already counts 101 Parties, was a successful meeting where all major objectives of the EU and its Member States were met. Good cooperation among most Parties made up for some difficulties during the plenary sessions, caused by political and procedural issues. Date and venue of the next COP (COP3) were agreed for November 2019 in Geneva.

The revised guidance on the environmentally sound interim storage of commodity mercury, providing flexibility for small stocks, was adopted. Other COP2 decisions concern:

- (i) Finalisation of the framework for carrying out, by 2023 the evaluation of the overall effectiveness of the Convention, including the development of terms of reference for global monitoring arrangements and the identification of gaps in globally comparable information and options to address these;
- (ii) Agreement on a process for developing mercury waste thresholds, including the applicability of the obligation of environmental sound management (ESM) for all waste consisting of/containing mercury or mercury compounds and the need for thresholds for contaminated mercury waste;
- (iii) Mercury releases into land and water for point-sources not addressed elsewhere in the Convention, requesting the development of draft guidance on methodologies for the preparation of inventories and a roadmap and structure for such future guidance;
- (iv) Sites contaminated by mercury or its compounds, requesting further work to finalise the draft guidance; and
- (v) Harmonized customs codes for mercury-added products, calling for the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership to work on approaches to develop guidance, in particular on the basis of existing national customs codes.

Intersessional work on mercury waste thresholds, effectiveness evaluation, releases and contaminated sites is now due to take place in preparation of COP3, due in November 2019. Furthermore, the Secretariat was tasked with preparing a document on the review of Annexes A (mercury-added products) and B (manufacturing processes in which mercury or mercury compounds are used) for consideration at COP3.

COP2 agreed on the Secretariat location in Geneva and its stand-alone nature, as well as on the proposal from the EU and its Member States to cooperate and share services with the Secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.

Regarding financial matters, the Memorandum of Understanding with the Global Environmental Facility was adopted. In line with the requirement of the Convention, COP2 also agreed on the process to enable the review of the financial mechanism at COP3. Furthermore, COP2 decided that non-Parties would not be eligible to apply for funding from the Specific International Programme (SIP), and that the SIP Governing Board will consist of 10 members from Parties. The relevance of using, as appropriate, regional, sub-regional, and national arrangements for technical assistance and capacity building, including existing regional and sub-regional centres, was emphasised, whilst the setting-up of ad hoc "Minamata regional centres" was successfully avoided. The Rules of Procedure for the Implementation and Compliance Committee were adopted. Continued cooperation with the World Health Organisation (WHO), the International Labour Organisation (ILO) as well as with all other relevant organisations, including the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC), was encouraged and strengthened. Finally, the COP approved a budget for 2019 of 4 080 374 USD and decided to draw the necessary amount from the available surplus, thereby allowing maintaining the 2019 contributions from the EU and all Parties at the same level as in 2018.