

EU DENTAL LIAISON COMMITTEE

President: Dr Wolfgang Doneus



DLC Brussels office – internal memo

Wednesday 8 February 2006

Mercury in dental amalgam – update

SUMMARY

Below is a selection of amendments proposed by MEPs to the draft European Parliament resolution of Marios Matsakis on the Community mercury strategy. The amendments here are only the ones which relate to dental amalgam. For a full list, [go to the mercury page on the DLC website](#).

Amendment 32 by Martin Callanan is the one that the DLC supports. Please refer to Mr Callanan's amendment in your correspondence/discussions with MEPs, urging them to vote for it.

The other amendments tend to be even worse than the Matsakis report. **Amendment 33**, for example, calls for the Commission to propose legislation already during 2006 to ban amalgam, whereas Mr Matsakis had asked for this to happen in 2007. **Amendment 50** stresses that the use of amalgam in the 2nd and 3rd world must be reduced.

The need for DLC members to contact MEPs in the ENVI committee, and to explain the negative consequences of banning amalgam, is therefore great.

AMENDMENTS RELATING TO DENTAL AMALGAM

Amendment by Thomas Ulmer (EPP, Germany)

Amendment 10
Erwägung K a (neu)

Ka. in der Erwägung, dass zudem zu berücksichtigen sein wird, dass es zu einer hohen Freisetzung von Amalgam über den Atem, Stuhl und Urin kommt.

(Translation: whereas it is also to be taken into consideration that there is a higher release of amalgam via breath, stools and urine)

Amendment by Carl Schlyter (Greens, Sweden)

Amendment 11

Recital L

- L. ***whereas mercury in dental amalgam represents the second largest stock of mercury in society; whereas emissions from crematoria will be a significant source of mercury pollution for many years to come, unless abatement techniques that can considerably reduce these emissions are put into place very soon,***

Amendment by Thomas Ulmer (EPP, Germany)

Amendment 12

Erwägung P a (neu)

- Pa. in der Erwägung, dass des Weiteren auch die gesundheitliche Relevanz von Quecksilberquellen wie z.B. Amalgam, quecksilberhaltigen Impfstoffen und Desinfektionsmitteln unabhängig geprüft werden muss;***

(Translation: whereas the relevance to health of sources of mercury – e.g. amalgam immunity materials containing mercury and disinfectants – also have to be independently examined)

Amendment by Carl Schlyter (Greens, Sweden)

Amendment 30

Paragraph 10

10. Asks the Commission to ***suggest*** further measures, in the short term, to control ***and reduce*** mercury emissions from crematoria, given ***that dental amalgam represents the second biggest mercury stock in society and*** that this is an increasing and worrisome source of emissions;

Amendment by Martin Callanan (EPP, UK)

Amendment 32

Paragraph 11

11. ***Supports the Commission's proposal to ask the Medical Devices Expert Group to consider any potential hazards in the use of mercury in dental amalgam,*** and urges the Commission at the same time to take measures ensuring that the Community requirements regarding treatment of dental waste are properly applied;

Amendment by Carl Schlyter (Greens, Sweden)

Amendment 33

Paragraph 11

11. Asks the Commission to come forward by the end of **2006** with proposals to restrict the use of mercury in dental amalgams, given that viable non-mercury alternatives exist, urging at the same time the Commission to take measures ensuring that the Community requirements on treatment of dental waste are properly applied, ***and to investigate whether additional measures are needed to ensure that amalgam does not enter the waste stream;***

Amendment by Thomas Ulmer (EPP, Germany)

Amendment 50

Ziffer 27 a (neu)

- 27a. betont, dass zudem die Amalgamverwendung in den Ländern der 2. und 3. Welt verringert werden muss;***

(Translation: stresses that the use of amalgam in countries in the 2nd and 3rd world must be reduced)