

EU DENTAL LIAISON COMMITTEE

President: **Dr Wolfgang Doneus**



Proposed amendment of the EU DLC to point 11 of Marios Matsakis' draft report on the Community strategy concerning mercury (COM(2005)20)

Matsakis draft report Point 11	Proposed amendment Point 11
<i>Asks the Commission to come forward by the end of 2007 with proposals to restrict the use of mercury in dental amalgams, given that viable non-mercury alternatives exist, and urges the Commission at the same time to take measures ensuring that the Community requirements regarding treatment of dental waste are properly applied;</i>	<i>Supports the Commission's proposal to ask the Medical Devices Expert Group to consider 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;</i>

Justification

No adverse health effects of dental amalgam have ever been proved and there is worldwide scientific consensus that amalgam is safe. Whilst alternatives to dental amalgam exist, they have considerable disadvantages, being much more expensive and less durable, so that restricting the use of amalgam would neither be in the interests of patients' oral health nor in the financial interests of health systems.