

From: Stefan Bernhard Eck
Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 6:32 AM
To: cab-sinkevicius-contact@ec.europa.eu
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Subject: EU Mercury Law calls for expeditious and full phase out of dental amalgam

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Honorable Commissioner Virginijus Sinkevičius

Dear Mr Andreas Mitsios and Mr Chris Allen

As a Member of the European Parliament (2014 – 2019) I was the Rapporteur for the Mercury Regulation EU 2017/852 repealing the Regulation (EC) No 1102/2008.

On the dental amalgam provision, first, I guided the bill through the ENVI Committee, where we voted the full phase-out of amalgam in one step by 31 December 2022.

Then on behalf of Parliament I led the negotiations with the Council of Europe in December 2016, including on the amalgam issue, which resulted in a three-stage approach to phasing out amalgam.

The Mercury Regulation was enacted into law in 2017, and the three stages focused on ending amalgam for children under 15years, pregnant women and breastfeeding women (2018).

Each Member State submitting its plan for further phasedown in use, including the phase-out if they so wished (2019); then the phase-out decision (2020).

In this law, here were my expectations:

- I expected that the Commission would use its expertise to determine how and when to end amalgam. The “if” was decided – amalgam use must end in Europe – but getting there needs your expertise.*
Thank you for your work and your expertise.
- The year 2030 was the farthest date out, and I anticipated that you could bring amalgam to a close sooner than that. I understand you have tentatively chosen 2025. Based on the success so far – the end of amalgam for vulnerable groups, four more countries announcing a phase-out and 70% of Member States are either below 10% use or announcing a phase out – the year 2025 is certainly reasonable. Indeed, the evidence suggests you could choose 2023 and still have a successful transition.*
- If we ban amalgam use but not also ban the trade, we would be disloyal to the ideals and the mission of the European Union. Europe must not continue as amalgam profiteer to African children. I ask you to end the manufacturing and trade of amalgam for Europe effective on the same day you end its use.*
- The marginal exceptions are just that, highly marginal; they can probably come from existing stocks of amalgam after 2025; by the time the stocks are depleted, the need for exceptions will also be over.*

Sincerely

Stefan Bernhard Eck

(Member of European Parliament 2014 - 2019)