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BBFU = Bundesverband der Beratungsstellen für Umweltgifte, insbesondere Schwermetalle, Amalgam und Holzschutzmittel e.V.

[Translation: Federal Association of information centres for environmental toxins, in particular amalgam, heavy metals and wood preservatives (registered society)]

NGO strategy meeting, EEB offices, Brussels, May 26, 2007

I am the speaker of the BBFU, a patients organisation. It is our goal to bring together local organisations in Germany, who want to give advice in case of poisoning by dental amalgam and other toxins.

Patient's situation

a) If you go to a doctor, because you have a chronic disease with symptoms of mercury poisoning, and he/she is a normal standard health care professional, then it is very likely that the doctor will not find the underlying cause, because he does not search for it. You will be treated just for your symptoms, and even if your physical condition worsens, you will get no help.

b) If you go to a doctor and tell him, that you are potentially mercury poisoned, then he will look at you very curious. He will try to persuade you, that you better throw away this idea, and if you argue, your amalgam fillings could be the cause, then the doctor will be sure, that you better go to a psychologist, who could help you with your pathological fear of amalgam. If you, the patient, have strong arguments, then you can get a so-called "epicutane allergy test" from the dermatologist, to check the cutano-allergic potential against mercury. But it is very likely that the test result will be negative.

If you suffer from strong, long lasting headache and ask a neurologist, the desolate result will be the same. He will tell you, that mercury poisoning is extremely rare, and this fact causes the lack of diagnostics for such problems. There is simply spoken no necessity for further examinations. Headaches may have a lot of causes. Usually they are not found, and in most cases you will be treated with antidepressive drugs.

c) With this background the patient looks for more information and happily meets the NGO's and their activities against mercury. He will read in the **invitation to this conference**:

"Mercury is highly toxic, causing damage to the nervous system and is particularly harmful to the development of unborn children. It accumulates in the bodies of humans and wildlife, and can become more concentrated as it moves up the food chain, especially in certain types of fish. Mercury travels long distances through the atmosphere, and has contaminated the global food supplies at levels posing a significant risk to human health."

No mention of allergic reactions, the only "symptom" known by the established medicine, and no mention of amalgam, the main source of chronic mercury poisoning.

What is going on here? Do we live in different worlds? Let's have a closer look:

- The first world is the patients world: for example, he used to have amalgam fillings and had symptoms relevant to chronic mercury poisoning. If he is still clever enough and focussed on the goal to regain health, then he will get different tests, which make him sure, that he should be poisoned. Then he let safely drill out the fillings und get a detoxification therapy. Sometimes very soon, for some patients after long time, he will be happy to be (nearly) free of symptoms and will get a great improvement of health and an empty purse. Health improvement assumes, that the poison hasn't made severe damage to the patient's health.
- The second world is the world of established medicine. Dentist organisations speak about 150 years of experience with an extremely low adverse effect rate. Practitioners, if not environmentally specialiced, neurologists and dermatologists regard chronic mercury poisoning as extremely unlikely and rare. They know, that, if there would exist a poison, then they should find it in blood or urine with a lab test. But the lab doesn't find any mercury. Therefore there can't be mercury. Therapies are not necessary. In line with this our German supreme courts declare, that the patients health improvements cannot be generalised, they are just anecdotal.

- The third world is the world of the UN, EU, of administrations and NGO's. They fight a strong war against mercury use in the industry and against environmental pollution by mercury, **because they know about the toxic effects on the CNS**. But for a long time they have ignored the huge amounts of mercury installed just some centimeters apart from the brain, the most sensitive part of our body. Citation from an UNEP Report 2002: *"However, the Working Group for this Global Mercury Assessment, in line with its mandate, focused on environmental exposures to mercury and their adverse effects on health, and did not review or assess the potential effects of exposures to elemental mercury vapour from dental amalgams or the possible conversion to other mercury forms in the body. Moreover, the Working Group did not reach any conclusions about whether or not dental amalgams cause adverse effects."*

But fortunately now the EU has included dental amalgam into her mercury strategy.

How can we bring these three worlds together? Maybe it helps to look at the facts and reality:

- Dental amalgam in the teeth is the strongest mercury exposure to man, much more than exposure from fish, from soil, water and air. Evidence: see WHO Environmental Health Criteria.
- Mercury is a persistent pollutant. It is stored – not only in the food chain - in the body, mainly in the CNS, for decades. It is very simple to distinguish junk science from real science: junk science, and this the majority, ignores this fact.
- Due to this storage effect it is useless to measure excreted mercury, because mercury in urine does not do any harm and it reflects harm very bad. Harm is done by mercury in the tissue and body cells, mainly in nerve cells. As long as the doctor has no access to the cells, he can not recognize the disease, he will be blind for the cause. But most doctors are happy with their blindness.
- Due to this blindness of the established medicine no figures are available, which truly reflect the extent of diseases caused by dental amalgam.

If the EU would manage to phase out the use of dental amalgam, this would be a very important, but only first step. Our patients organisation BBFU claims three points:

1. Complete ban of dental amalgam.

Note: If you argue, that a lot of patients live well with their amalgams: established medicine has no way to find out the endangered patients. Despite all progress which was made in the last decades – chronic mercury poisoning is too complex for the established medicine.

2. Health insurances – public and private – have to pay for diagnosis, for the removal of amalgam fillings and for detoxification.

3. Diagnosis and therapy of chronic mercury poisoning has to be taught in medical schools and universities and it has to be registered in the ICD, the International Classification of Diseases.

Thank you for your attention.

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