

Report of the Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia regional preparatory meeting for the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury

22 and 23 October 2019, Tallinn, Estonia

1. Overview

The Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia regional meeting in Tallinn, Estonia, was attended by a total of twenty-eight participants. Among these, twenty participants represented nine governments (Armenia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova, Slovenia and the Russian Federation) in the region. The remaining eight participants represented one Stockholm Convention regional centre and five NGOs, in addition to the Minamata Secretariat. Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention Secretariat participated remotely in item 8 of the second day of the meeting.

The Research Centre for Toxic Compounds in the Environment (RECETOX), which is the Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in the Czech Republic (SCRC Czech Republic), supported the organization and logistics of the meeting as a partner. The meeting participants acknowledged the support provided by donors from Austria, Japan, the Philippines, Norway, and Sweden.

Bureau members of the CEE region, Ms. Svetlana Bolocan (Republic of Moldova) and Mr. Karel Bláha (Czech Republic) co-chaired the meeting.

2. Proceedings

The meeting was opened by the Co-Chairs. Opening remarks were also delivered by Mr. Eisaku Toda, Senior Programme Officer, Secretariat of the Minamata Convention.

A number of Parties and another government provided updates on their activities for the implementation of the Convention. The Secretariat provided an update of activities since COP2, and an overview of the general structure and programme for COP3. The Secretariat further introduced the documents for COP3. A number of clarifying questions were raised, to which the Secretariat responded and provided further information as necessary and requested.

An interactive and fruitful discussion took place throughout the meeting.

The Co-Chairs delivered the closing remarks.

The Deputy Secretary General of the Ministry of Environment of Estonia, Mr. Kaupo Heinma, made some welcoming remarks during the reception given by Estonia for the meeting participants in the evening.

Annex I – Provisional Agenda

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia regional preparatory meeting for the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury
22 and 23 October 2019, Tallinn, Estonia

The consultations will be co-chaired by the members who represent the region at the COP Bureau.

1) Opening of the meeting

Opening remarks will be delivered.

2) Adoption of the agenda

Adoption of the provisional agenda, and agreement on the conduct of the meeting in terms of working hours, work in plenary and smaller groups and whether selected sessions are open or closed.

3) Update of activities since the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury (COP2)

- (a) Overview of ratifications and Minamata Initial Assessments
- (b) Updates from Parties
- (c) Updates from non-parties

4) Overview of the general structure and programme for the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury (COP3)

Layout of the plan of activities for COP3, including the general ordering of agenda items, and issues for consideration which are not reflected in individual documents, and the organization of work.

5) Introduction of the documents for COP3

Documents will be presented in the structure of the COP3 agenda, which is provided in Annex I. A detailed COP3 document list is provided in Annex II.

Following the introduction of each document, there will be an opportunity for discussion to assist in preparing more detailed consideration of the issues and development, as appropriate, of regional positions. The meeting may choose to work in smaller groups to discuss issues in depth. Participation of observers (including representatives of IGOs and NGOs) will be at the discretion of the meeting.

- (a) **COP3 Agenda item 3**
 - COP.3/3 - Rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties: Consideration of rule 45 of the Rules of Procedure.
- (b) **COP3 Agenda item 5(a)(i)**
 - COP.3/4 – Review of Annex A and B to the Convention
- (c) **COP3 Agenda item 5(a) (ii)**
 - COP3/21 - Proposal to amend Annex A
- (d) **COP3 Agenda item 5(a)(iii)**
 - COP.3/5 – Approaches for customs codes to identify and distinguish non-mercury-added and mercury-added products listed in Annex A to the Convention.

- (e) **COP3 Agenda item 5(b)**
 - COP.3/6 - Report by the group of technical experts on guidance in relation to mercury releases
- (f) **COP3 Agenda item 5(c)**
 - COP.3/7 Outcome of the work of the group of technical experts on mercury waste thresholds
- (g) **COP3 Agenda item 5(d)**
 - COP.3/8 - Guidance on the management of contaminated sites
- (h) **COP3 Agenda item 5 (e)(i)**
 - COP.3/9 – Update on matters related to the Global Environment Facility
 - COP.3/9 Add.1 – Operation of the financial mechanism – Executive Summary
- (i) **COP3 Agenda item 5 (e)(ii)**
 - COP.3/10 - Overall report on the Specific International Programme to support Capacity-Building and Technical Assistance
 - COP.3/10 Add1- Governing Board of the Specific International Programme to support Capacity-Building and Technical Assistance
 - COP.3/10 Add1/REV- Governing Board of the Specific International Programme to support Capacity-Building and Technical Assistance
- (j) **COP3 Agenda item 5 (e)(iii)**
 - COP.3/11 - Review of the financial mechanism - Information provided by the GEF, the Specific International Programme, Parties and other relevant sources as identified in paragraph 11 of article 13
- (k) **COP3 Agenda Item 5(f)**
 - COP3/12 - Information received from existing regional, sub-regional and national arrangements on their capacity-building and technical assistance to support Parties in implementing their obligations under the Minamata Convention
- (l) **COP3 Agenda item 5(g)**
 - COP.3/13 - Report of the Implementation and Compliance Committee
- (m) **COP3 Agenda item 5(h)**
 - COP.3/14 - Report of the ad hoc technical expert group for the effectiveness evaluation
- (n) **COP3 Agenda item 5(i)**
 - COP.3/15 - Financial rules for the Conference of the Parties and any of its subsidiary bodies
- (o) **COP3 Agenda item 5(j)**
 - COP.3/16 – Proposal by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme on cooperation between the secretariat of the Minamata Convention and the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions
- (p) **COP3 Agenda item 5(k)**
 - COP3/17 - Information in relation to mercury emissions resulting from the open burning of waste
- (q) **COP3 Agenda item 6(a)**
 - COP3/18 - cooperative activities with the World Health Organization and the International Labour Organization

- (r) **COP3 Agenda item 7**
 - COP3/19 - Report on the main activities of the secretariat in the intersessional period
 - COP3/20 - Programme of work and budget for the biennium 2020–2021

- (s) **COP3 Agenda item 8**
 - COP3/22 - Venue and Date of the fourth meeting of the Conference of Parties
 - COP3/22Add1 - Venue and Date of the fourth meeting of the Conference of Parties

Discussion of key issues amongst countries, led by the co-chairs. The meeting may choose to work in smaller groups to discuss issues in depth. Participation of observers (including the secretariat, representatives of IGOs and NGOs) will be at the discretion of the meeting.

6) Logistic preparations for COP-3

Registration, events and exhibitions, admission of observers.

7) Issues not covered in COP-3 agenda

- Reporting – First short report by 31 December 2019
- Supply and trade – Obligation of Parties to identify stocks and supply sources, import consent
- Artisanal and small-scale gold mining – updates on national notifications and national action plans
- Emissions – Use of guidance document on best available techniques, best environmental practices and emissions inventory

8) Updates from the Chemicals and Waste Cluster

- (a) Update from the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Secretariat
- (b) Update from United Nations Environment Programme Chemicals and Health Branch, including SAICM
- (c) Updates from Intergovernmental Organizations

9) Other matters

Any other matters that may be raised.

10) Closure of the meeting

The meeting will close with final remarks.

Annex II – List of Participants

Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regional Preparatory Meeting for the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury *Tallinn, Estonia* 22 and 23 October 2019

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Total participants: 28 participants

Governments: 9 countries / 20 participants

Regional Centres: 1 Regional Centre / 1 participant

NGOs: 5 NGOs / 5 participants

Secretariat of the Minamata Convention: 2 participants

I. GOVERNMENTS

ARMENIA

1. Ms. Anahit ALEKSANDRYAN
Head of Hazardous Substances and Waste Policy
Division
Ministry of Nature Protection
Governmental Building 3
Republic Square
0010 Yerevan, Armenia
Tel.: +374 11 818 519
Email: anahit.aleksandryan@yahoo.com

CROATIA

2. Ms. Romana GRIZELJ
Senior Expert Advisor
Section for Ecology, Ministry of Health
Ksaver 200a
10010 Zagreb, Croatia
Tel: +385 14 60 75 80
E-mail: romana.Grizelj@miz.hr

3. Ms. Virna MILINOV
Senior Expert Advisor
Directorate for Environmental Impact Assessment and
Sustainable Waste Management, Sector for sustainable
waste management, Division for permits and
transboundary movement of waste
Ministry of Environment and Energy
Radnička cesta 80
10000 Zagreb, Croatia
Tel: +385 1 37 17 206
E-mail: virna.milinov@mzoe.hr

CZECH REPUBLIC

4. Mr. Karel BLÁHA
Director
Department of Environmental Risks and Ecological
Damage
Ministry of Environment
Vršovická 65
10010 Praha 10
Czech Republic
Tel.: +420 602 658 882
Email: karel.blaha@mzpc.cz

ESTONIA

5. Ms. Birgit PARMAS
Head of Department
Environmental Technology Department
Ministry of Environment
Narva mnt 7a
15172 Tallinn Estonia
Tel: (+372) 626 2974
E-mail: birgit.parmas@envir.ee

6. Ms. Mari-Liis UMMIK
Adviser
Environmental Technology Department
Ministry of the Environment
Narva mnt 7A
15172 Tallinn
Estonia
Tel.: +372 626 2863
E-mail: Mari-liis.ummik@envir.ee

7. Ms. Kaupo Heinma
Chief specialist Deputy Secretary General
Management
Ministry of Environment
Narva mnt 7a
15172 Tallinn Estonia
Tel.: +372 626 2846
Email: kaupo.Heinma@envir.ee

8. Ms. Kristo Kleemann
Chief specialist
Public Health Department
Ministry of Social Affairs
Suur-Ameerika 1
10122 Tallinn
Estonia
Tel.: +372 626 9151
Email: Kristo.kleemann@sm.ee

9. Ms. Kristel Lopsik
Senior Officer
Environmental Technology Department
Ministry of the Environment
Narva mnt 7A
15172 Tallinn
Estonia
Tel.: (+372) 626 2860

10. Ms. Liina Tarkus
Senior Officer
Environmental Technology Department
Ministry of the Environment
Narva mnt 7A
15172 Tallinn
Estonia
Tel.: (+372) 626 0745
Email: liina.tarkus@envir.ee

11. Mr. Rene Rajasalu
Adviser
Environmental Technology Department
Ministry of the Environment
Narva mnt 7A
15172 Tallinn
Estonia
Tel.: +372 626 2862
Email: rene.rajasalu@envir.ee

12. Ms. Annaliisa Jäme
Senior Officer
EU and International Co-operation Department
Ministry of the Environment
Narva mnt 7A
15172 Tallinn
Estonia
Tel.: +372) 56936067
Email: annaliisa.jame@envir.ee

13. Marilin LUTSOJC
Officer
EU and International Co-operation Department
Ministry of the Environment of Estonia
Narva maantee 7a
15172 Tallinn
Estonia
Tel: (+372) 6262844
E-mail: karoliine.maeots@envir.ee

14. Karoliine MÄEOTS
Senior Officer
EU and International Co-operation Department
Ministry of the Environment of Estonia
Narva maantee 7a
15172 Tallinn
Estonia
Tel: (+372) 6262844
E-mail: karoliine.maeots@envir.ee

LATVIA

15. Ms. Kristīne KAZEROVSKA
Senior Expert
Pollution Prevention Division, Environmental Protection
Department
Ministry of the Environmental Protection and Regional
Development
Peldu iela 25
LV-1494 Riga
Latvia
Tel.: (+371) 67 026 516
Email: kristine.kazerovska@varam.gov.lv

16. Ms. Silvija Nora KALNINS
Deputy Director
Environmental Protection Department
Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional
Development of the Republic of Latvia
Peldu iela 25
LV-1494 Riga
Latvia
Tel.: (+371) 67026450
Email: silvija.kalnins@varam.gov.lv

MOLDOVA

17. Ms. Svetlana BOLOCAN
Head
Department of Waste Management and Chemical
Policies
Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and
Environment

9, Constantin Tanase St.
MD-2005 Chisinau
Republic of Moldova
Tel: + (373 22) 20 45 25
Email: svetlana.bolocan@madrm.gov.md

MONTENEGRO

18. Ms. Jelena KOVACEVIC
Head of Department for industrial pollution control and
chemicals management
Directorate for Waste Management and Communal
Development
Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism
IV Proleterske Brigade 19
81000 Podgorica, Montenegro
Tel: (+382) 20 446 237
Email: jelena.kovacevic@mrt.gov.me

SLOVENIA

19. Mr. Alojz GRABNER
Director
Chemicals Office
Ministry of Health
Ajdovscina 4
Si-1000 Ljubljana
Slovenia
Tel.: +386 1 400 6257
Email: k.alojz.grabner@gov.si

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

20. Mr. Alexander ROMANOV
Deputy Director General
Scientific Research Institute for atmospheric air
protection (SRI Atmosphere JSC)
7, Karbyshev st., St.Petersburg, 194021, Russian
Federation
Tel: +7-8123725785
Email: alexann.rm@gmail.com

II. REGIONAL CENTRES

Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity Building and the Transfer of Technology, the Czech Republic (SCRC)

21. Ms. Kateřina ŠEBKOVÁ
Director of the National Centre for Toxic Compounds
and of the Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in the
Czech Republic
RECETOX
Faculty of Science, Masaryk University
Kamenice 753/5
625 00 Brno
Czech Republic
Tel: +420 549 493 063
E-mail: katerina.sebkova@recetox.muni.cz

III. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment

22. Ms. Gohar KHOJAYAN
Communication Specialist Communication
24 B Baghramyan Street
0019 Yerevan
Armenia
Tel.: 37410523604
Email: gohar.khojayan@gmail.com

PA Independent Ecological Expertise

23. Mr. Oleg PECHENIUK
Chairman
Association Independent Ecological Expertise
app.1, h.30, microdistrict 7
city Bishkek,
Kyrgyz Republic
Tel: +996 312 578372
Email: Op_67@mail.ru, expertise@eco-expertise.org

EEB/Zero Mercury Working Group

24. Ms. Elena LYMBERIDI-SETTIMO
EEB Project Manager 'Zero Mercury Campaign' / ZMWG
International Coordinator
Health and Environment European Environmental
Bureau (EEB)/ Zero Mercury Working Group
14-16 Rue des Deux Eglises
B-1000, Brussels
Belgium
Tel: (+32) 2 2891301
Email: elena.lymberidi@eeb.org

Greenpeace Czech Republic

25. Ms. Nikol KREJČOVÁ
Junior Coal campaigner
Greenpeace Czech Republic
Greenpeace International
Ottho Heldringstraat 5
1066AZ Amsterdam
Netherlands
Tel.:
Email: Nikol.krejcovova@greenpeace.org

World Alliance for Mercury-Free Dentistry

26. Mr. Florian SCHULZE
European Coordinator
World Alliance for Mercury-Free Dentistry 316 F St.
NE, Suite 210
20002 Washington, DC
United States of America
Tel.: +49 17 8 18 12 729
Email: florian.schulze@envmed.org

IV. MINAMATA SECRETARIAT

27. Mr. Eisaku TODA
Senior Programme Officer
Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury
International Environment House I
17 chemin des Anémones
CH-1219 Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland
Tel.: +41 22 917 84 39
Email: eisaku.tod@un.org

28. Ms. Sandra RUECKER
Administrative Programme Officer
Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury
International Environment House I
17 chemin des Anémones
CH-1219 Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland
Tel.: +41 22 917 25 83
Email: sandra.ruecker@un.org