



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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**NOTE**

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from: General Secretariat  
to: Delegations

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Subject: Review of the Community's Strategy concerning Mercury  
- Information from the Commission

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Delegations will find annexed a note from the Commission on the above subject, which will be dealt with under "other business" at the meeting of the Council (Environment) on 15 March 2010.

## **Review of the Community Strategy Concerning Mercury**

- The Commission adopted on 28 January 2005 the Community Strategy Concerning Mercury, COM(2005)20. The overall objective of the Strategy is to reduce mercury levels in the environment and human exposure. It specifies twenty actions in the areas of reducing emissions, reducing supply and demand, resolving the long-term fate of mercury stocks and surpluses, protecting against mercury exposure, improving understanding and promoting international action on mercury.
- The Strategy has been welcomed and supported by the European Parliament and the Council. Chapter 11 of the Strategy stipulates that the Commission will review the Strategy as a whole by the end of 2010.
- Work on the review of the Mercury Strategy has already started. All actions set out in the Strategy will be evaluated in terms of implementation and effectiveness, e.g. to what extent the basic aim of the Strategy is met.
- The Commission has asked a consultant to perform an evaluation. This work implies, in a first step, collecting all available information that will allow for taking stock of developments since the adoption of the Mercury Strategy, its implementation and effectiveness as well as of additional measures and activities taken at Member States Level.
- Due attention will also be given to developments at the international level, in particular to progress in negotiating a global legally binding instrument on mercury under the auspices of UNEP.
- On this basis, the Commission envisages adopting a Communication to the Council and the European Parliament during the fourth quarter of this year.
- Member States and other stakeholders will be involved in the review of the Strategy. A first meeting is tentatively scheduled for 18 June and will allow for a discussion of the consultant's preliminary findings.