



Australian Government

Department of the Environment and Heritage

Mr John Buccini
Director
UNEP Chemicals
11-13, chemin des Anémones
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Geneva
SWITZERLAND

Subject: GC decision 23/9 IV on mercury programme – progress on development of pilot partnerships as one approach to reducing the risks to human health and the environment from the release of mercury to the environment.

Dear Mr Buccini

I refer to your letter of 20 May 2005 requesting Governments to identify, in consultation with stakeholders, pilot partnerships to address mercury pollution in accordance with decision 23/9 IV and requesting financial support to ensure effective implementation of this decision.

The Australian Government is investigating potential areas for mercury partnerships and is currently consulting with stakeholders to determine the most appropriate areas to focus attention and resources. We intend to provide a submission in response to your request, but will not be able to meet your deadline of 1 September 2005. I regret this delay and anticipate we will be in a better position to report on progress by about December 2005.

At this time, the Australian Government is unable to provide financial support to the UNEP Mercury Programme. We will advise you if this situation changes.

Yours sincerely

Mark Hyman
Assistant Secretary
Environment Protection Branch
6 September 2005