

**MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT
OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC**

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Dear Director,

Referring to your letter of 20 May 2005 on the implementation of the UNEP Governing Council decision 23/9 IV on the mercury programme I have the honour to inform you that the Czech Republic considers the issue of sound management of chemicals including mercury as one of the most important on national, regional and global levels. The experts of the Czech Republic are actively involved in elaborating and development of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and also in developing of the European Union Mercury Strategy. The Czech Republic has already provided or is providing official development assistance to some countries to reduce the risks of negative impacts of mining activities on the environment (e.g. Zambia, Namibia, Kyrgyzstan, Serbia and Montenegro) but not so specifically oriented on reducing mercury pollution or risks from production and consumption.

The Czech Republic is not planning a specific bilateral partnership on mercury with developing countries or countries with economy in transition. But the Czech Republic, as the EU member state, is open for participation in the EU multilateral partnership initiatives and will support such activities through the allocation and approval of necessary financial and experts resources on the EU level.

The Czech Republic, that in November 2004 initiated during the 16th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer a Ministerial round-table to discuss illegal chemicals trade in the context of international chemicals management (see Prague Declaration on enhancing co-operation among chemicals related multilateral environmental agreements), is ready in co-operation with, inter alia, UNEP Chemicals to continue with such initiative.

The Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic is proposing to organise during the International Conference on Chemicals Management in Dubai in February 2006 a side event devoted not only to the prevention of illegal trade in chemicals but also to sound chemicals management including of mercury. The first concept of such side event was already preliminary discussed with H.E. Mrs. Viveka Bohn, Ambassador of Sweden for Environment, Chair of the Preparatory Committee of SAICM, and Mrs. Monique Barbut, Director of the DTIE UNEP. The Czech Republic will be honoured to co-operate closely on this subject also with the UNEP Chemicals Division in Geneva.

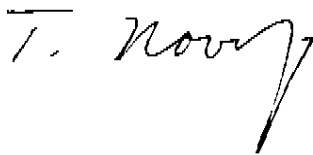
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Please accept, Mr. Director, the assurances of my highest consideration.



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