



August 22, 2005

John Buccini, Director
Mercury Programme, UNEP Chemicals
11-13 chemin des Anémones
Châtelaine, 1219, Geneva
Switzerland

Re: Governing Council Decision 23/9 IV : establishment of partnerships

John
Dear Mr. Buccini:

I am writing with regard to the letter from UNEP Chemicals of May 20, 2005. That letter describes outcomes of the 2005 Governing Council and invites countries to identify priority partnership areas.

Since the February 2005 Governing Council meeting, Environment Canada has been considering how our current and planned activities could contribute to the partnership and other initiatives described in the mercury decision. We have also discussed possible activities with other countries. We were pleased to participate in the partnership discussions on products and chlor-alkali in Portland, Maine, as well as the similar meeting on small scale and artisanal gold mining in Washington, DC. We note that partnership suggestions for these three areas are now included on the global mercury programme website.

Environment Canada, in consultation with other Canadian governmental and non-governmental stakeholders, has identified the following potential partnerships areas in which we would be interested to engage:

- Coal fired electricity generation
- Mercury fate and transport research
- Mercury in products
- Mercury cell chlor-alkali production

Below is a brief outline of upcoming activities that will contribute to each of these areas. We see these specific activities as additional to other more general activities such as sharing information and best practices related to these areas.

Coal fired electricity : Environment Canada, Health Canada and the Canadian Collaborative Mercury Research Network (COMERN) will participate in an October workshop being organized in Beijing, China.

Fate and transport research : Environment Canada is co-hosting an August 2005 workshop on mercury research in polar regions. Additionally, Environment Canada is exploring the pilot use of the UNEP emissions inventory toolkit with India, China and other interested countries and organizations.





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Mercury in products: Environment Canada is working with United States and Mexican counterparts to organize a Fall 2005 workshop in Mexico, under the auspices of the North American Commission for Environmental Co-operation.

Chlor-alkali production: Environment Canada will support activities being organized in Russia.

I am glad to note that country submissions in response to the May 20 letter are being posted on the website. We look forward to working to advance partnership activities with countries that have also prioritized the above areas. We will also be reviewing posted submissions to see if there are additional areas of mutual interest that could be pursued on a bilateral or regional basis.

Yours sincerely,

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