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ASSESSMENT OF THE LEGISLATION AND OF THE CAPACITIES OF MAIN INSTITUTIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MINAMATA CONVENTION IN ALBANIA

Project: Minamata Initial Assessment for Albania

Assessment of the legislation and of the capacities of main institutions for the implementation of Minamata Convention in Albania

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Abbreviations:

ASGM	Artisanal and small-scale gold mining
BAT	Best Available Technology
BEP	Best Environmental Practices
BREF	BAT Reference Documents
CCTC	Chemicals Collection and Treatment Center
CLP	Regulation (EC) No. 1272/2008 on the classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures
CLRTAP	Convention of Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution
CoP	Conference of the Parties
DCM	Decision of Council of Ministers
FNS	Faculty of Natural Sciences
GDC	General Directorate of Customs
GDM	General Directorate of Metrology
IFSV	Institute for Food Safety and Veterinary
INSTAT	Institute of Statistics
IOMC	Inter Organisation Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals
IPEN	International POPs Elimination Network
IPH	Institute of Public Health
MEI	The Ministry of Energy and Industry
MIA	Minamata Initial Assessment
MoE	Ministry of Environment
MoH	Mnistry of Health
NAMMD	National Agency for Medicinal Products and Medical Devices
NEA	National Environment Agency
BP	Biocidal product
PRTR	Pollutant Release and Transfer Register
REACH	Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals
SIEFW	State Inspectorate of Environment, Forestry and Water
UT	University of Tirana
WEEE	DCM on waste of electric and electronic equipment

Introduction

Mercury is a heavy metal that is present in nature. Exposure to mercury can affect the neurological development of the foetus and high levels of mercury in the blood are associated with decreased fertility, brain and nervous damage, and heart disease in adults. Liquid mercury easily evaporates and can be transported to remote distance, where it can be deposited. It is bioaccumulated in the food chain, especially in aquatic organisms, posing a serious problem for food safety. Even in low concentrations, mercury poses a risk to health and the environment. While mercury releases for natural causes, such as volcanoes, are uncontrollable, the purpose of the Minamata Convention is to control the anthropogenic sources of mercury.

The Minamata Convention on Mercury has been named after Minamata, a city in Japan where an incident with serious health and environmental impacts occurred in the 1950s due to the discharges of methylated mercury in the Minamata Bay and the Shiranui Sea, Japan. As a result of the consumption of fish and other marine products where methyl mercury was bioaccumulated, thousands of people suffered from severe poisoning, more than 1700 died or suffered severe disabling and malformations.

This incident and other similar were the cause for launching efforts for an international agreement to protect the health and the environment from the effects of mercury.

The Minamata Convention was adopted by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on October 10, 2013 in Japan, after discussions at five sessions of the Intergovernmental Committee. The Minamata Convention, hereinafter referred to as the Convention, entered into force on August 16, 2017.

Albania signed the Minamata Convention on Mercury on 09.10.2014, which was sanctioned through DCM no. 663, dated 08.10.2014, which approved in principle this Convention. Within the Minamata Initial Assessment Project, Albania intends to speed up preparations for the ratification of the Minamata Convention and the fulfilment of the obligations stemming from this ratification.

This report consists in identifying and assessing the existing relevant legislation and the capacity in the country to address the obligations of the Convention and in identifying shortcomings that need to be addressed before ratification.

Assessment of the existing Albanian legislation related to the implementation of Minamata Convention and identification of gaps

International chemical conventions

Albania has signed the Minamata Convention on mercury on 09.10.2014.

Rotterdam Convention, Basel Convention and Stockholm Convention, are ratified by the Albanian Parliament through laws, in compliance with Article 122 of the Constitution of Albania, and so does the Convention of Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution and five protocols of CLRTAP. Two other protocols of CLRTAP are under procedure of ratification - Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), and Protocol on Heavy Metals.

EU *acquis* approximation in the Albanian legislation on chemicals

Recently Albania has approximated at a great extent the EU chemicals legislation, including REACH and CLP. The obligation of Albania for the approximation of the Albanian legislation on the environment with the EU derives from the Article 108 of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the European Union and Albania. The recently approved chemicals legislation is listed below:

- Law No. 27/2016 on chemicals management, of 17.03.2016;
- Decision of the Council of Ministers (DCM) No. 488 of 29.6.2016 "on the classification, labelling and packaging of chemicals;
- Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 489 of 29.6.2016 "on the approval of the list of substances of very high concern (SVHC) and of the criteria for the inclusion of the substances in the SVHC list, and of the issuing of a conditioned authorization for continuing the use of SVHCs;
- Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 665 of 21.9.2016 "on the export and import of hazardous chemicals".

It is also prepared the draft of a DCM "On the restrictions of the manufacture, placing on the market and use of certain hazardous chemicals and articles".

The adoption of the Regulation (EC) No. 1102/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council "On banning of exports of metallic mercury and certain mercury compounds and mixtures and the safe storage of metallic mercury" is foreseen in the National Plan for the European Integration 2016-2020, approved with the Decision of Ministerial Council No. 74, of 27.1.2016, as part of approximation of the Albanian legislation with the *acquis communautaire* on chemicals. In the case there is already a new proposal for a regulation on the mercury, which will repeal the Regulation (EC) No. 1102/2008, the position of Albania is to go for the most recent version.

Information on other relevant legislation related to chemicals at all stages of lifecycle can be found in the National Profile of Chemicals Management, update of 2012[1].

1 http://chemicals.al/doc/profili_kombetar_en_2012.pdf

Methodology for the analysis of the Albanian legislation related to Minamata Convention

The outlook and methodology of this assessment of the existing Albanian legislation related to the implementation of Minamata Convention is based on the IOMC Minamata Initial Assessment Report Suggested Structure and Contents, May 2016[2] and on the NRDC Checklist of legal authorities to implement Minamata Convention on Mercury[3].

A table is prepared for each article of the Convention, putting together and comparing the requirements of the Convention with the relevant legislation in place in Albania. At the final row of each table, a comment/conclusion is made on the relevant legislation, how far it fulfils the requirements of the Convention (and EU draft Regulation on mercury) and remaining gaps. The respective tables are given at the Annex 1**.** to this report. The summary of the findings of the analysis of the Albanian legislation relevant to Minamata Convention is given below.

Summary of findings of the analysis of the Albanian legislation related to Minamata Convention implementation and related recommendations

The findings of the analysis of the Albanian legislation relevant to Minamata Convention are summarised below. These findings and the recommendations for filling the identified gaps are listed according to the relevant Article, while the detailed analysis for each Article can be found at the Annex 1 to this report, as mentioned above.

ARTICLE 3 - MERCURY SUPPLY SOURCES AND TRADE

There are no known existing or new primary mercury mining or stocks of mercury or mercury compounds exceeding 50 metric tons (MT), and mercury supply generating stocks exceeding 10 MT/yr in Albania. This is a preliminary statement, which needs to be confirmed by the mercury inventory.

Some provisions related to import and export of mercury and some mercury compounds are already covered by the Law No. 10 277, dated 13.05.2010 on the accession of the Republic of Albania to the Rotterdam Convention "On the procedure of prior informed consent for some hazardous chemicals and plant protection products in international trade" and DCM Nr. 665, dated 21.09.2016 on import export of hazardous chemicals.

Rules for banning the export of metallic mercury, compounds and certain mercury mixtures, safe storage of metallic mercury and specific criteria for the storage of metallic mercury considered as waste are planned to be prepared under the Law No. 27/2016 On chemicals management, dated 17.03.2016. These rules and criteria will be developed in compliance with the proposed Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on Mercury and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1102/2008 and according to the requirements of Minamata Convention.

2 UNDP: Minamata Initial Assessment Report- suggested structure and content, May 2016.

3 https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/int_15101301a.pdf

ARTICLE 4 - MERCURY-ADDED PRODUCTS

With respect to part I of Annex A ”Mercury added products” of Minamata Convention regarding the phase-out of the manufacture, import or export of mercury containing products, some provisions on mercury content in batteries and accumulators are in place in Albania through DCM No 866 of 04.12.2012 “On batteries, accumulators and their waste”.

Some provisions related to the mercury containing electrical components and fluorescent lamps are in place from DCM No. 957 of 19.12.2012 “On the waste of electrical and electronic equipment”. These provisions are mostly related to the waste management of these components, including the proper labelling, and promote the replacement of heavy metals with suitable alternatives.

Ministry of Environment has prepared a Draft DCM on the restrictions on the manufacture, placing on the market and use of certain hazardous chemicals and articles, which fully approximates Annex XVII of REACH Regulation 1907/2006. This draft DCM is to be adopted soon. At Annex 1 of this draft, chapter 1: “List of banned and restricted substances”, are included mercury compounds, mainly as biocidal products and mercury in measuring devices, such as thermometers, manometers, etc. (See Annex 1 to this assessment, point on Article 4)

Pesticides (plant protection products) undergo a registration process in Albania before being imported or put on the market. Only pesticides containing active ingredients allowed in EU are allowed to be registered in Albania. A similar situation is for biocidal products, which legislation is under revision. Yet, an explicit ban of mercury containing pesticides and biocides, similarly with the one required by the Minamata Convention and the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on mercury and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1102/2008 could be part of the legal measures for the implementation of Minamata Convention

With respect to part II of Annex A ”Mercury added products” on measures to be taken to phase down the use of dental amalgam, it was not found any legislation in place in Albania on dental amalgam. Based on the mercury inventory, it is needed the preparation of provisions to phase down the dental amalgam. Depending on the results of the inventory, as a minimum, could be considered the measures provided by the proposed Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on Mercury and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1102/2008, that are the use of dental amalgam only in encapsulated form and that dental facilities be equipped with amalgam separators to retain and collect mercury containing amalgam residues.

Rules for reducing mercury in products are planned to be prepared under the Law No. 27/2016 “On chemicals management” of 17.03.2016, in compliance with the proposed Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on Mercury and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1102/2008 and according to the requirements of Minamata Convention.

ARTICLE 5 - MANUFACTURING PROCESSES IN WHICH MERCURY OR MERCURY COMPOUNDS ARE USED

Law no. 10448 of 14.7.2011 “On the environmental permitting” establishes measures for permitting the operation of certain groups of polluting activities, measures designed to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions to the air, water and land from such activities, including measures concerning waste as well.

Albania planes to prepare relevant legal acts and the national action plan on mercury addressing the above listed provisions and other requirements of the Convention, including also the prohibition of any mercury use in those industrial processes (Annex B) to meet all Convention obligations related to such processes under Article 5.

ARTICLE 7 – ARTISANAL AND SMALL-SCALE GOLD MINING

It was not found any ASGM related legislation in Albania.

ARTICLE 8 - EMISSIONS

Albania has in place the legislation addressing the emissions to the air. Law no. 10448 of 14.7.2011 "On the environmental permitting" revised, which establishes measures for permitting the operation of certain groups of polluting activities, measures designed to prevent or, reduce emissions to the air, water and land from such activities, including measures concerning waste. According to the law on environmental permitting, the industrial operators have the obligation to monitor and report the environmental emissions of their activities based on the conditions set in the respective environmental permit. Article 5 of this law foresees the preparation of Best Available Technologies (BAT) in Albanian language according to the EU BAT Reference Documents (BREF-s) or other reference documents for the specific activities in the country.

Albania has ratified the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution and has partially transposed the Regulation of the Council and the European Parliament EC/166/2006 on the European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register amended by Regulation 596/2009. In frame of these international commitments, as well as in frame of IPA 2013 project "Technical Assistance for Institution Building of the Ministry of Environment in Enforcing Environmental and Climate Acquis (IBECA) ", a Draft Ministerial Guidance on BAT for cement manufacture and other industries will be prepared.

Best available techniques/best environmental practices (BAT/BEP) taking into account any difference between new and existing sources listed in Annex D of the Minamata Convention (coal-fired power plants, coal-fired industrial boilers, non-ferrous metal smelting and roasting processes, waste incineration, and cement production) will be adopted by Conference of the Parties at its first meeting, according to point 8 of Article 8 of the Convention. These, together with the support in determining goals and setting emission limit values will be a big help for Albania from the Convention.

ARTICLE 9 - RELEASES

Albania has in place the legislation addressing the releases of the pollutants. Law no. 10448 of 14.7.2011 "On the environmental permitting", revised, establishes measures for permitting the operation of certain groups of polluting activities, measures designed to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions to the air, water and land from such activities, including measures concerning waste as well.

Article 5 of the law 10448 of 14.7.2011 foresees the preparation of Best Available Technologies (BAT) in Albanian language according to the EU BAT Reference Documents (BREF-s) or other reference documents for the specific activities in the country.

The legislation on the integrated pollutant release and transfer register is in place in Alba-

nia. DCM no. 742 of 9.9.2015 " On functioning and management of the PRTR, and approval of the list of activities and pollutants that are subject to this register..." establishes the integrated pollutant release and transfer register (PRTR) in Albania in the form of a publicly accessible electronic database.

CoP will adopt guidance on (a) BAT/BEP, taking into account any difference between new and existing sources and the need to minimize cross-media effects, and on (b) the methodology for preparing inventories of releases. These guidance documents need to be taken into consideration and adopted in the national legislation / discharge norms.

ARTICLE 10 – ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND INTERIM STORAGE OF MERCURY, OTHER THAN WASTE MERCURY

According to the Law No. 27/2016 of 17.03.2016 "On chemicals management", it is stipulated that rules for the safe storage of metallic mercury will be approved by the Council of Ministers.

The above-mentioned rules can be based on the guidelines on environmentally sound interim storage of mercury and mercury compounds intended for an allowed use (for a Party), which will be adopted by CoP taking into account relevant guidelines under Basel Convention (point 3 of Article 10 of the Convention).

ARTICLE 11 – MERCURY WASTES

In the Albanian Law No. 10 463 of 22.9.2011 "On integrated waste management" it is given the definition of temporary storage, and are given the bases for the proper temporary storage of hazardous waste. Technical rules for packing and labelling of hazardous waste in the process of collection, transport and temporary storage are to be approved by a DCM.

According to the Law No. 27/2016 "On chemicals management", it is predicted that specific criteria for the storage of metallic mercury considered as waste will be approved by the Council of Ministers.

The rules for mercury waste management can be based on the guidelines on environmentally sound management of mercury waste which will be reviewed and updated from the CoP in close cooperation with the relevant bodies of Basel Convention (point 4 of Article 11 of the Convention).

ARTICLE 12 – CONTAMINATED SITES

In Albania there is already in place the legal basis for the prevention of new environmental hotspots, as well as for addressing the responsibility on the pollution, for the rehabilitation of polluted sites and for costs.

Law No. 10 431, of 9.6.2011 "On environmental protection" according to the principle "the polluter pays" defines the obligations and responsibilities of the new waste producers, in order to avoid the creation of new hotspots of the process industries.

CoP shall adopt guidance on site identification and characterization, engaging the public, human health and environment risk assessment, options for managing the risks, evaluation of benefits and costs and validation of outcomes.

This guidance needs to be taken into account when developing the national action plan on identifying and assessing contaminated sites from mercury and its compounds and on related risk management.

ARTICLE 13 – FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND MECHANISMS

As for the access to financial resources available under the Convention financial mechanism, since July 2016 UNDP- Albania has started the implementation of the current project "Minamata Initial Assessment for Albania" with the financial support of the Global Environment Fund (GEF).

ARTICLE 14 – CAPACITY BUILDING, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

There are provisions for capacity building in areas related to the Convention Implementation, like environment, health care, but there is no specific legislation in place in Albania on capacity building and technical assistance on implementation of Minamata Convention. Based on the capacity assessment that will be carried out in frame of this MIA project, capacity building will be planned as part of Minamata Action Plan.

ARTICLE 16 – HEALTH ASPECTS

Following the results of mercury inventory, which will be prepared in frame on Minamata Initial Assessment, the compilation of a strategy and relevant action plan to identify and protect populations at risk regarding mercury and its compounds, particularly vulnerable populations may emerge as a need; developing health guidelines on exposure reduction, setting targets for Hg exposure reduction and public education would be of great value.

Obligations of the employer for the education and information of employees on the occupational hazards at workplace and on preventive measures are already required by the Law No. 10 237 of 18.2.2010 "On the safety and health at work" and the deriving Decisions of Council of Ministers , e.g. DMC on Chemical Agents at workplace. Exposure Limit Values for mercury and divalent inorganic compounds of mercury including mercuric oxide and mercuric chloride (measured as mercury) at the workplace are given at Annex I of this DCM.

Although it is established a system for the continuing professional education of human resources in health care system, it is needed to strengthen the institutional and health professional capacities for the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and monitoring of health risks related to the exposure to mercury and its compounds. This action can be particularly necessary in the area near former soda alkali plant in Vlora, where the pollution might yet be relevant (the results of mercury inventory can confirm this proposal).

ARTICLE 17 – INFORMATION EXCHANGE

There is a general provision at point 1 of Article 32 "Information system for chemicals" of the Law No. 27/2016 "On chemicals management", 17.03.2016 on the exchange of information with international institutions on chemicals, which is based on the provisions of the agreements ratified by the competent authority of the Republic of Albania.

There are also provisions on information exchange in frame of other Chemical Conventions ratified by Albania. Yet, a specific information exchange for the Minamata Convention is

needed and it is a requirement of the Convention that a national focal point should be designated for this purpose.

ARTICLE 18 – PUBLIC INFORMATION, AWARENESS AND EDUCATION

Law No. 27/2016 On chemicals management, of 17.03.2016, Law No. 10 431, of 9.6.2011 "On environmental protection", Law No. 119/2014 of 18.09.2014 "On the Right of Information", Law No. 146/2014 of 30.10.2014 "On public informing and consultation", Law No. 8672, of 26.10.2000 "On adhering of Albania in Aarhus Convention" offer an adequate bases regarding the right to know, transparency, and require public authorities to promote information, awareness and educate the public about environmental protection and sustainable development, potential risks from the use of hazardous chemicals, etc.

Law No 10 431, of 9.6.2011 "On environmental protection" asks for support and organization of education and training for environmental protection and sustainable development, through the educational system**, scientific research**, forms of learning of the education and training throughout life.

ARTICLE 19 – RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND MONITORING

Chapter VI "Environmental monitoring" of the Law No. 10 431, dated 9.6.2011 "On Environmental Protection" stipulates that the monitoring of the state of the environment includes monitoring the impact of environmental pollution on human health. National Environment Agency prepares annual programs of environmental monitoring, which includes heavy metals.

The same law asks for support and organization of education and training for environmental protection and sustainable development, through the educational system**, scientific research**, forms of learning of the education and training throughout life.

The research and monitoring as per Article 19 of the Convention need to develop further.

ARTICLE 21 – REPORTING

Reporting to the CoP through the Secretariat on the measures taken to implement the provisions of the Convention is an obligation and shall be provided according to the time and format that will be decided by the CoP.

Assessment of the capacities of the main institutions for the implementation of the Minamata Convention in Albania

Methodology and assessment process

Based on the terms of reference published by UNDP Albania for "National expert on assessment of policy and national capacity under the "Minamata Initial Assessment for Albania", a methodology was developed for capacity assessment, which purpose was to identify relevant Institutions and other stakeholders in the country and to assess their existing capacities versus those needed for the implementation of the Minamata Convention.

Based on the proposed methodology, capacity assessment started with a meeting of stakeholders, which took place on June 14 at Tirana International Hotel. The purpose of the meeting was to acquaint participants with the obligations and requirements of the Minamata Convention, to familiarize them with the methodology of capacity assessment for its implementation and to receive opinions on this methodology.

A questionnaire based on the requirements of the Minamata Convention was used as a primary tool for collecting basic information on national capacities on mercury management. The questionnaire was reviewed at the above-mentioned introductory meeting with representatives of relevant institutions and organizations and was distributed via electronic mail to 49 institutions and organizations. Questionnaires were completed by 20 institutions / organizations. The data obtained from the questionnaires, in cases of need, were supplemented or clarified through direct communication with the persons who had completed them. The results obtained are summarized in this report. Based on the institutional analysis and suggestions from the participants in this activity, the relevant recommendations were also prepared.

Annex 2 of this report, based on the IOMC publication - Minamata Initial Assessment Report - Proposal of structure and content, May 2016[4], presents the functions of institutions / organizations according to the articles of the Convention in a summarized way.

Analysis of institutions involved in mercury management

According to Law 27/2016 "On the management of chemicals", cooperation between ministries, customs and inspectorates is required; this is a natural requirement, given the multidisciplinary nature of chemicals management. In order to enable the cooperation of the institutions involved in the management of chemicals, the law requires the establishment of an Inter-Sectoral Committee on Chemical Safety, which acts as an advisory forum for policy coordination and decision-making, exchange of information and mutual control without a mandate for binding decision-making. The committee has not yet been established.

In the framework of the preparations for the ratification of the Minamata Convention, with the aim of providing institutional and administrative support for the implementation of the

4 IOMC (Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals): Minamata Initial Assessment Report- suggested structure and content, May 2016.

project, by the Order of the Minister of Environment Nr. 106, of 20.05.2016 "On the establishment of the Steering Committee for Minamata Initial Assessment Project in Albania" was established the respective Committee as a supervisory body for the implementation of the project with representatives of the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Water Administration, Ministry of Energy and Industry, Ministry of Economy, Trade, Tourism and Entrepreneurship, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Health, National Environment Agency, Faculty of Natural Sciences (FNS) and Civil Society.

This Committee has all the capacity to initiate political discussions and define the national strategy and concrete steps for the ratification of the Minamata Convention.

A summary of the institutions and other organizations involved in various fields of mercury management is given in *Table 1*:

Table 1: Stakeholders involved directly or indirectly in various aspects related to mercury

Category	Main possible uses	Stakeholders
1. **Sources, supply and trade**	Import and use	The General Directorate of Customs Ministry of Energy and Industry Ministry of Environment Ministry of Economic Development, Tourism, Trade and Entrepreneurship Institute of Statistics (INSTAT)
2. **Products with added mercury**	The use of mercury in thermometers, sphygmomanometers, barometers, hygrometers, manometers Possible pharmaceutical uses Vaccins	Ministry of Health (Directorate of Hospitals, Directorate of Pharmaceuticals, Directorate for Cosmetic Products) National Agency of Medicines and Medical Devices The General Directorate of Customs Administration of hospitals Ministry of Environment
	Batteries, except as specified in Part I of Annex A Switches and Relays as specified in Part I of Annex A Compact fluorescent lamps and linear fluorescent lamps High pressure mercury vapor lamps Cold cathode Fluorescent lamps and external electrode fluorescent lamps (CCFL and EEFL) for electronic screens	Ministry of Environment The General Directorate of Customs Ministry of Economic Development, Tourism, Trade and Entrepreneurship Chambers of Commerce and Industry Market Surveillance Inspectorate (safety of non-food products) General Directorate of Metrology

Category	Main possible uses	Stakeholders
	Possible uses in cosmetics	Ministry of Health Importers of cosmetic products State Health Inspectorate
	Possible uses in paints (eg anti-fouling paint)	Ministry of Health (Biocidal products) Ministry of Environment The General Directorate of Customs Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure Chambers of Commerce and Industry
	Dental amalgam	Ministry of Health Association of Albanian Dental Distributors Suppliers of dental materials Dental clinics
3. **Manufacturing processes where mercury or mercury compounds are used**		Ministry of Energy and Industry Ministry of Environment National Environment Agency
4. **Emissions and discharges**	PRTR	Ministry of Environment National Environment Agency
5. **Mercury waste Temporary storage of mercury**		Ministry of Energy and Industry Ministry of Environment National Environment Agency
6. **Contaminated sites**	Former Soda Factory - Vlora	Ministry of Environment Ministry of Energy and Industry Municipality Vlorë, Regional Health Directorate Vlorë
7. **Health aspects**		Ministry of Health Institute of Public Health Regional Health Directorate Vlorë

Category	Main possible uses	Stakeholders
8. **Monitoring, research**		National Environment Agency UT/ Faculty of Natural Sciences Albanian Geologic Service
9. **Exchange of information, information, public awareness**		Ministry of Environment Ministry of Health EDEN Centre REC- Regional Environmental Centre Other NGOs Institute of Public Health

The most important institutions in Albania regarding the aspects of implementing the Minamata Convention are as follows:

Ministry of Environment (MoE) established in 2001 drafts national environmental strategies and policies; MOE is the competent authority that drafts legislation on chemicals management, as well as relevant policies and action plans. The MoE is the focal point for the Stockholm Convention, the Rotterdam Convention, the Basel Convention, the Minamata Convention and the Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution Convention (CLRTAP). Law no. 27/2016, of 17.03.2016 "On the management of chemicals" plans the preparation by the MoE and the adoption of rules for the ban on export of metal mercury, compounds and some mercury mixtures, for safe storage of metal mercury, and specific criteria for the storage of metal mercury considered as waste.

In accordance with the law no. 27/2016 "On chemicals management", at MoE was established in 2016 the Chemicals Office as a central public institution. The Chemicals Office has a range of responsibilities, such as the preparation of legal acts of the law on chemicals, law enforcement surveillance, inter-institutional coordination and international cooperation on chemicals management, the establishment and maintenance of the national chemicals register, authorization of the use of hazardous substances, helpdesk information for producers, importers, users for their responsibilities and obligations under this law, etc. The Office is also responsible for meeting the obligations of other conventions and international agreements on chemicals management (Stockholm Convention, Rotterdam Convention, and CLRTAP Protocols).

The National Environmental Agency (NEA) was established in 2014, pursuant to Law no. 10431, of 9.6.2011 "On environmental protection". NEA is a central public institution, independent in decision-making, exercising jurisdiction throughout the territory of Albania. NEA is the competent authority for determining the conditions for the respective environmental permits, and has, *inter alia*, these functions: the drafting of the national environmental monitoring program and the monitoring of the state of the environment, the preparation and publication of annual reports on the state of the environment; conducting environmental pollution measurement services; establishment and management of the environmental information system; establishment and management of the Pollutant Release and Transfer Register; providing environmental information to the public involved in the environmental decision-making process.

The Ministry of Energy and Industry (MEI) administers natural resources in the country and defines the policies related to them. MEI is the competent authority for licensing activities related to chemicals classified as hazardous.

The General Directorate of Customs (GDC) under the Ministry of Finance is responsible for controlling and enforcing rules related to import and export.

The Ministry of Health (MoH) is the competent authority for drafting primary and secondary legal acts in the field of health care. The MoH is responsible for obtaining information on the safety and risks of hazardous chemicals for the purpose of drafting preventive curative measures, especially in cases of health emergencies. This ministry has a network of institutions at the center and base: Public Health Directorates in 24 districts and Regional Health Directorates in 12 districts.

Sources, supply and trade of mercury

There are no mercury stocks exceeding 50 tonnes and there are no supplies or industrial processes that generate mercury stocks under the responsibility of the Ministry of Energy and Industry, besides the former Soda-PVC landfill. According to MEI, there is no import or export of mercury to or from the Republic of Albania. There is no mercury source in Albania; some sporadic cases in the Koman region were evidenced by geological studies of the 70s to 80s but these cases were not considered as sources due to the insignificant amount of mercury in them.

According to DCM no. 665, dated 21.09.2016 "On the export and import of hazardous chemicals", the **General Directorate of Customs** should report annually to the Chemicals Office the previous year's data on the import and export of hazardous chemicals. Even exporters and importers should report to the Ministry of Environment each year the imported and exported quantities of hazardous chemicals. GDC owns a database of sources of supply of chemicals.

There is currently no monitoring for imported or exported mercury quantities, but the National Environment Agency, as the case may be, requires information from GDC regarding mercury trade. The data serve to draft the Environmental Status Report.

Mercury added products

The Ministry of Environment will draft legislation regarding the prohibition of the production, import and export of mercury products listed in Part A of Annex A of the Minamata Convention, as well as for the gradual elimination of the use of dental amalgam and discouragement of production and distribution of new products of mercury, as foreseen in Law no. 27/2016 of 17.03.2016 "On the management of chemicals".

There are no companies manufacturing mercury-added products in Albania; it can be mentioned the existence of some battery recycling plants.

There is currently no monitoring for mercury import or export, but theNEA, as the case may be, requires information from the GDC regarding mercury trading.

The capacity to control the implementation of the relevant legislation is very low regarding this specific.

The **Ministry of Health** is the competent authority for drafting the legjislation in the field of health care, among which on dental services and cosmetic products. Also, MoH issues trade authorization for medical devices and import authorization for biocide products. MoH capacities regarding the evaluation and authorization of biocidal products are limited and so far it has no experience with e.g. antifouling paints, which may also contain mercury. It is needed the building of the capacity of the relevant staff. The secondary legal basis to enable the implementation of the Law 95/2015 "On Biocide Products and Services in Public Health" regarding the assessment of BP and their authorization is not yet approved.

Pursuant to point 2 of Article 13 of Law no. 26/2017 for cosmetic products should be approved by DCM a list of prohibited or restricted substances for cosmetic products.

Secondary legislation on cosmetic products and biocidal products needs to be completed and State Health Inspectorate needs to be informed and built on new legal requirements for cosmetic products, biocidal products and medical devices.

The **National Agency for Medicines and Medical Devices** (NAMMD) is an institution under the Ministry of Health specialized in the analysis, registration, control of medicines and inspection of pharmaceutical activities and registration of medical devices. There is no database for previously imported mercury containing medical equipment that can be stocked in stockpiles and there is no report on mercury content. A special inspectorate has been set up for the medical devices under Law 89/2014 "On Medical Devices".

Dental amalgam continues to be imported, although its use seems to be limited.

The **Institute of Public Health** (IPH) has limited capacities regarding the evaluation of biocidal products. These capacities are sufficient for estimating BPs used in public health, such as insecticides, rodenticides or disinfectants, but not for the evaluation of other types of biocidal products, such as antifouling dyes, which potentially may also contain mercury.

The **Market Surveillance Inspectorate** contains a sector that, among other things, is responsible for controlling the implementation of legislation on the safety of non-food products.

The **General Directorate of Metrology** performs the calibration / verification of instruments / measuring devices, namely mercury thermometers and possesses several thermometers (10 pieces) that are used for laboratory measurements. Almost all the temperature labs in the GDM, which are mainly testing laboratories of food products, thenvironment, etc., have glass mercury-based thermometers in use.

As far as mercury barometers are concerned, GDM does not have any information if such equipment is in use in Albania. So far DPM did not have any requests to calibrate or verify such equipment.

The role DPM can play in this process is of informative character, informing its clients of the Minamata Convention's requirements regarding mercury-containing products in order to remove thermometers or other mercury containing devices (barometers, etc.) and substitute them with other alternatives.

In the INSTAT database on foreign trade by products, product groups that may be related to mercury are "Chemical and Plastic Products" and "Machinery, Equipment and Spare Parts", which do not enable any guess about the quantities of certain chemicals.

The **Association of Albanian Dental Distributors** seems to have had no communication with MoE about the issue of amalgam discharge of dental clinics. In dental clinics, the use of amalgam separators should be included. It is necessary to set national targets aimed at preventing dental caries and promoting health, minimizing the need for tooth restoration, and promoting the use of best environmental practices in dental facilities to reduce mercury and mercury discharges into the water and land.

Generally, there is a lack of knowledge and awareness about the health and environmental problems of mercury in products.

Manufacturing processes where mercury or mercury compounds are used

The **Ministry of Energy and Industry** is the competent authority for licensing activities related to chemicals classified as hazardous. During the process of imposing restrictions on the use of hazardous chemicals, MEI has a coordinating and consultative role with business and other stakeholders for the optimum development of the manufacturing industry in environmentally friendly conditions.

After the 90s, the former Soda-PVC plant in Vlora was closed and cleaned-up, and in the industrial processes of enrichment of chrome and copper mercury it is no longer used.

The National Environmental Agency as the institution that prepares environmental permits has information on industrial activities in the country, but does not have a list of activities related to mercury in particular.

There is no small scale gold mining activity (ASGM) in Albania, so there is no need for capacity building for this purpose.

Emissions to air and discharges to land and water

With regard to mercury air emissions and discharges to land and water, the Ministry of Environment drafts legislation and policies on emissions control / reduction and use of best available techniques and best environmental practices (BAT / BEP) or emission limit values (ELVs) for new sources. The implementation of BAT / BEP is a requirement of the applicable law on environmental permits. MM establishes the national system for air discharges and coordinates the work with NEA for reporting to the LRTAP Convention.

NEA monitors the environment and issues environmental permits for industrial activities. Within the Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution Convention (CLRTAP), an inventory of heavy metal discharges, including mercury emissions for the period 1990-2015, was developed based on the EMEP methodology. Within the PRTR there is a national database for discharges in water and land reported by industrial operators.

NEA performs monitoring as well as analyzes and reports the data. The data are reported to CLRTAP, the European Environment Agency and are included in the National Environment Report. The PRTR Register is managed by the National Environmental Agency and is expected to become visible to the public in September 2017.

Pursuant to the PRTR Convention, are specified the types of activities that have to report on mercury releases and its compounds (as Hg) on land, air and water. So far, despite the legal

obligation to report, only a very small number of operators report discharge data. Capacities of industrial operators related to the control of mercury discharges are low.

The National Environment Agency still has low technical capacity to address mercury emissions to the air, water or land during setting environmental permit conditions as well as regarding emissions inventories and mercury emissions.

The Environmental Inspectorate is the competent authority for controlling the environmental permit conditions, including the obligation to report emissions to waters and land. The capacities of the Environmental Inspectorate and industrial operators related to controlling the emissions of mercury and controlling the implementation of the relevant legislation are low.

Temporary storage of mercury

The MoE will develop national legislation and policies regarding the temporary storage of mercury and its compounds taking into account relevant guidelines developed under the Basel Convention and the additional requirements for temporary storage that may be adopted by the Conference of the Parties of Minamata Convention.

Mercury waste

Legislation related to integrated waste management has been prepared by the Ministry of Environment under EU directives. To date, there is no sub-legal act specifically designed for mercury waste management.

(**Hazardous) Chemicals Collection and Treatment Center (CCTC)** is a MEI subordinate institution established by DCM no. 843, of 14.10.2015, "On the closure of the Industry-Mining Supply Enterprise (NFIM) and the Establishment of the Hazardous Chemicals Collection and Treatment Center. CCTC is the former NFIM, which since 2005 has served as a storage site for some of the hazardous chemicals inherited from the former industry prior to the 1990s, of those found in MEI's dependent facilities and former industries of that period, currently under the jurisdiction of MEI on the status of enterprises in liquidation until their full privatization.

Former Nitrogen Fertilizer Enterprise, Fier, in liquidation, monitors two landfills with hazardous waste (Arsenic Waste Landfill, Fier and Mercury Waste Landfill, Vlora). Funding for the maintenance and storage of Mercury Waste Landfill in Former Soda PVC is made by the State Budget through MEI budget planning.

NEA is responsible for the transfer of waste, including hazardous waste. Since 2015, waste transfer registers have been established. There is no national data base on mercury waste management.

Laboratories at the Department of Chemistry of FNS of the University of Tirana and other laboratories use mercury-based chemicals or have limited amounts of mercury or its salts from previous uses. Work has to be done to ensure that storage of mercury and its compounds intended for a permitted use is made environmentally friendly.

There is no control over the storage, manipulation and disposal of mercury waste from the laboratories of the institutions.

Contaminated sites

MoE compiles national environmental legislation and policies. It plays a coordinating role with donors to facilitate the financing of projects that reduce the risk from contaminated sites.

The most polluted area in Albania, the area of the former Soda PVC plant in Vlora, was cleaned by a Dutch-funded project that was completed in 2011 and the contaminated site waste has been collected at the "Hazardous Waste Landfill Of Ex- Soda PVC Plant ", on a surface of 15,000 m^2, which is monitored, stored and maintained by a MEI subsidiary in liquidation. The Ex-Soda PVC Plant Landfill Monitoring Reports are submitted every 4 months to the NEA from the former Enterprise / Liquidation Plant of nitrogen Fertilizers, Fier, which is charged by MEI to monitor and store the Landfill of Vlora.

The area of the Ex- Soda Plant in Vlora is therefore considered as rehabilitated but there is no monitoring by the NEA regarding the situation after rehabilitation. Capacities at NEA are low both technically and financially.

The Regional Health Directorate in Vlora does not have the appropriate technical and human capacity to monitor mercury or its health effects in the population of the Ex- Soda PVC Plant area.

The **EDEN Center** has been working since 2011 within some projects on the Ex- Soda PVC Plant, Vlore. Mostly the projects consisted in the study of the mercury levels in fish and in the inhabitants of the area. These projects have been implemented with the financial support of IPEN under the "Zero mercury" program and the tests have been carried out in the BRI laboratory (Biodiversity Research Institute, Portland, Maine, USA). The purpose was awareness raising among residents about the risks they are facing living in a polluted site, as well as the creation of updated data and the impact to relevant institutions to take further steps to clear the area and remove the residents from that area.

Resources and financial mechanisms

Ministry of Environment Initiates and coordinates projects that are covered by the state budget in accordance with medium-term budget programs, also initiates and coordinates projects with foreign funding.

No feasibility study has been yet carried out for the implementation of the Convention obligations. It is necessary to carry out such a study, on the basis of which identify possible projects to be financed in this regard.

Health aspects

The Ministry of Health has as mission to draft and implement policies and strategies in the healthcare sector. There is no program or strategy in Albania for identifying and protecting populations in risk, nor any education program to prevent occupational mercury exposure. Also, there is lack of sufficient institutional and health professional capacities for the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and monitoring of health risks related to mercury or mercury compounds exposure. The Department of Health and Environment at IPH has conducted in the 90s studies on mercury in hair, but in recent years such studies are lacking. This is

also related to the limited capacities of the IPH Laboratory that analyzes heavy metals to conduct mercury analysis.

The EDEN Center has been engaged through several projects in the area of the Ex-Soda PVC Plant, Vlora in order to raise awareness among residents about the risks posed by the area's mercury contamination and the awareness of the relevant institutions to take further steps to clean up the area, as well as for the removal of residents from that area. The EDEN Center thinks that it has sufficient capacity to handle and monitor health risks.

There is a lack of an education and information strategy for particularly in risk communities and the general public.

Exchange of information, awareness and education

Legislation related to other chemical conventions ratified by Albania also contains provisions for the exchange of information. However, an exchange of information specifically for the Minamata Convention is necessary and it is a requirement of the Convention that a national focal point should be assigned for this purpose.

The Ministry of Environment is the competent authority for exchanging information and raising public awareness of environmental issues. For this purpose, MoE has its website, the environmental bulletin and at the same time organizes awareness raising campaigns on various environmental issues. The information sector cooperates with the technical sector covering the Conventions and has the capacity to organize awareness campaigns. However, there is a need to increase the technical capacity and information related to mercury as well as the organization of awareness campaigns in this regard.

The Office of Chemicals is tasked, inter alia, with information of the general public on the risks arising from chemicals when considered necessary for the protection of human health or the environment.

As a politicy-making institution, the Ministry of Health regulates through legal and sub legal acts the promotion and facilitation of providing information to the public on public health issues in general and on the factors affecting it.

The Institute of Public Health has a special department on health promotion that needs to be more involved in awareness of mercury issues, taking into consideration that the health system seems to be the most relevant, with biocides, medical devices, cosmetic products as well as health aspects in the system.

There are shortcomings in the provision of information to civil society and the general public, as well as the involvement of civil society in concrete actions for environmental risk management.

There have been civil society efforts, such as studies and publications of the EDEN Center and its awareness-raising activities on mercury, particularly in the polluted area of the Ex-Soda PVC Plant, which would be good to replicate and expand. There is lack of publications on mercury; there is no information about the mercury in school curricula. There is no training material to increase institutional and professional capacity.

Research, development and monitoring

The National Environmental Agency carries out monitoring of the state of the environment, within which chemical analyzes of contaminants, including heavy metals, are carried out. In this context, mercury is also analyzed in surface waters. The NEA Laboratory does not perform sampling and analysis of mercury in air and the laboratory is not accredited for determination of mercury.

Ministry of Energy and Industry has a coordinating and consultative role according to the needs and requirements of institutions that monitor health and the environment, including the role of subordinate institutions such as the Albanian Geological Service for monitoring of groundwater; National Agency for Natural Resources to monitor emissions from the mining industry in water and land; Chemicals Collection and Treatment Center for the safe storage and disposal of hazardous chemicals administered by MEI, the former Nitrogenous Fertilizer Plant, Fier, which monitors two landfills with hazardous waste (Arsenic Waste Landfill, Fier and Mercury Waste Landfill, Vlore). The Albanian Geological Service Laboratory performs groundwater monitoring but does not conduct mercury analyzes.

The Institute for Food Safety and Veterinary (IFSV) carries out monitoring on biota (fish, mollusc and fishery products as well as waters in mollusc farming areas). The internal control of the plants is performed monthly. The tests are carried out at the IFSV Heavy Metal Laboratory. Regularly is monitored for more than 15 years the mollusc production area of the Butrint Lagoon, for 2 years has been monitored the area of bivalve mollusc production in Shengjin Bay. From January 2017, monitoring of 3 new areas of natural growth of bivalve molluscs is envisaged: Karavasta area, Shkumbin-Spille, Durrës Bay. Fishery products are regularly analyzed based on manufacturers' requirements. Since December 2015, IFSV does not cover this service due to the failure of AAS-instrument operation. It is envisaged buying a new absorber, and is foreseen that this service will resume in 2018. Shortcomings are observed in the monitoring of freshwater fisheries (rivers, lakes) and there is no monitoring of waters in aquaculture reserves. After the resumption of the monitoring, it would be necessary to extend it to the entire territory of Albania.

The Faculty of Natural Sciences of the University of Tirana (FSHN / UT) in cooperation with the University of Vlora has carried out monitoring of mercury levels in the air through biomonitoring in the framework of the international project ICP-Vegetation. The mercury analyzing laboratory has high-level analytical and human capacities but is not accredited.

Scientific research institutions may have studies in this field but lacks coordination and cooperation with the competent authorities to make their data public. Strengthening coordination and involvement of scientific institutions in mercury monitoring projects in the environment is a necessity.

In general, there is a lack of technical capabilities of mercury monitoring and testing in various environmental matrices and human exposure indicators. Even those few labs that carry out mercury chemical analyzes are not accredited for this analyte. There is a need for accreditation of laboratories carrying out mercury chemical analyzes.

Civil society has also been engaged in study projects on mercury. The EDEN Center has conducted a mercury level survey on fish and residents at Ex-Soda-PVC Plant in Vlora, the tests were conducted at the Biodiversity Research Institute, Portland, Maine, USA.

Conclusions and recommendations

In Albania there are a number of institutions and organizations that are engaged in the mercury problematic, especially in the context of polluted areas, environmental monitoring and emissions and discharges inventories (PRTR).

In the framework of the preparations for the ratification of the Minamata Convention, in order to provide institutional and administrative support for the implementation of the project, is established in May 2016 the Steering Committee of the Minamata Initial Assessment Project in Albania by an order of the Minister of Environment. This committee has extensive representation from relevant central institutions, academia and civil society and seems to have all the capacity to initiate political discussions and define the national strategy and concrete steps for ratification of the Minamata Convention.

No feasibility study has been carried out yet for the implementation of the Convention obligations. It is necessary to carry out such a study, on which basis possible projects to be financed in this regard will be identified. According to Article 20 of the Convention, it is possible to consider the possibility of preparing an action plan after the Minamata initial assessment.

As noted by the respective analysis of the legislation, the legal basis of chemicals that addresses the obligations of the Convention on mercury should be completed, what should be followed by an analysis by all relevant institutions of the obligations deriving from the Minamata Convention and taking measures for their fulfilment.

Certain Articles of the Convention, such as the extraction of metal mercury or the small scale gold mining, are not relevant for Albania and do not require capacity building.

The National Environment Agency which issues environmental permits for operators that have mercury discharges into water or land have low technical capacity to address this issue while setting environmental permit conditions. Capacities of industrial operators related to the control of mercury discharge are low and the degree of compulsory reporting is very low. It would be necessary that NEA prepares a list of activities related to mercury and is enforced the legal obligation for reporting on emissions and discharges of industrial operators.

Nearly lack completely the technical capacities of environmental, health and market surveillance inspection authorities in addressing mercury. Training activities are also needed for the customs authorities regarding the customs control for the import and export of mercury and mercury compounds.

This analysis shows that the number of qualified personnel in the institutions and in the inspection authorities is insufficient in terms of technical capacity.

To complement the aforementioned shortcomings, a modular training program for mercury and the fulfilment of the Minamata Convention provisions, would need to be adapted for all concerned stakeholders according to the Convention articles.

The polluted area of the Ex- Soda PVC Plant has been rehabilitated in 2011, but since this action, with the some exceptions of civil society efforts, no monitoring has been done to

assess the risks to health and the environment, to identify populations at risk, especially for vulnerable populations. In this context, more efforts should be made to ensure that health care in the already rehabilitated area of Ex-Soda PVC-Vlora is appropriate for the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and monitoring of populations affected by mercury or its compounds exposure. There is no program or strategy for identifying and protecting populations *at risk* from mercury, nor any educational program to prevent occupational mercury exposure.

In addition to this area, other areas near cement factories, waste incinerators, and near the melting of non-ferrous metals would deserve the same attention as to the assessment of the risks to the health of the inhabitants. Also, there is lack of sufficient institutional and professional capacities for prevention, diagnosis, treatment and monitoring of health risks associated with exposure to mercury and mercury compounds. A feasibility study and an action plan for this purpose would be appropriate.

The National Environmental Agency as the institution that prepares environmental permits has information on industrial activities in the country, but does not have a list of activities related to mercury in particular.

Generally, there is lack of knowledge and awareness about the health and environmental problems of mercury in products.

Identification of mercury in products through their labelling for its content would enable decreasing the risk of exposure due to the lack of knowledge of the presence of a hazardous element, in case e.g. the breaking of a mercury containing lamp, and would affect the proper management of these products at the end of the life cycle, thus reducing people's exposure and environmental pollution.

There is a lack of an education and information strategy for vulnerable communities in particular and the general public.

Secondary legislation on cosmetic and biocidal products needs to be completed and the State Health Inspectorate needs to be informed and trained on the implementation of the new legal requirements on cosmetic and biocidal products.

Waste of dental clinics is not collected and treated in a differentiated way. In dental clinics, the use of amalgam separators should be introduced as a criterion. Establishing national targets aiming at preventing dental caries and promoting health, minimizing the need for tooth restoration, and promoting the use of best environmental practices in dental facilities to reduce mercury and mercury discharges into water and land would help to gradually eliminate dental amalgam or minimize mercury exposure.

Laboratory infrastructure for mercury analysis seems inadequate, laboratories have material and financial deficiencies, and all laboratories that potentially analyze mercury in environmental matrices are not accredited for this index. There is an immediate need to strengthen analytical capacities, without which the risk assessment and monitoring of many activities related to the implementation of the Minamata Convention are not possible. Of course, there is a need for accreditation of labs for mercury analysis. There is no control over the storage, manipulation and disposal of mercury waste from the laboratories of the institutions. The preparation of a manual for this purpose would help to avoid the

discharge to water of hazardous chemicals waste from the analytical activities of chemical laboratories. The scope of coverage of this manual could be far wider and cover other hazardous chemicals as well.

There are already two landfills for hazardous waste in Albania, one of which is located in the Ex- Soda PVC area, for mercury waste.

It is necessary to regulate with by-laws the responsibilities of the relevant institutions for the exchange of information regarding the health impacts of exposure to mercury and its compounds, in close cooperation with WHO and other relevant organizations, as well as awareness regarding mercury exposure.

Shortcomings are noted in the provision of information to civil society and the general public, as well as the involvement of civil society in concrete actions for environmental risk management. It is required the commitment of the responsible institutions in the health and environment system to enable the public's awareness and information of the public on the problematic of mercury.

It is imperative to strengthen coordination and involvement of scientific institutions in mercury monitoring projects in the environment.

Annex 1: Policy and Regulatory Measures in Place and Remaining Gaps related to Minamata Convention implementation

ARTICLE 3 - MERCURY SUPPLY SOURCES AND TRADE	
Succinct summary of provisions relevant to Albania	- Not allow new primary mercury mining - *Phase out existing primary mercury mining within 15 years* - Obtain information on stocks of mercury or mercury compounds exceeding 50 metric tons (MT), and mercury supply generating stocks exceeding 10 MT/yr - In accordance with Article 3.5(b), ensures that excess mercury from decommissioning chlor-alkali plants is disposed of in accordance to environmentally sound management guidelies (see para 3a of article 11) - Not allow the export of mercury unless the importing country provides written consent, the mercury is for an allowed use or environmentally sound storage, and all other conditions of Article 3.6 are met - Not allow the import of mercury without government consent, ensuring both the mercury source and proposed use are allowed under the Convention (and applicable domestic law).
Policy and regulatory measures in place that enable the country to comply with the above listed provisions:	
Title and reference/ number of relevant Regulatory Measure	**Aspects addressed by policy/Regulatory measure:**
Law No. 27/2016 On chemicals management, 17.03.2016	This is a frame Law that transposes partly REACH and CLP EU Regulations. At point 3 of Article 23 “Prevention and reduction of environmental pollution from chemicals” of this law it is stipulated that, for the reduction of pollution and gradual elimination till the complete ban of mercury shall be induced measures to ban exports, to reduce mercury in products, processes, and in industries which use, discharge or emit mercury to the atmosphere or release in uncontrolled way technologic waste containing mercury, the responsibility for storage and safe disposal of mercury. At point 4 of the same Article, it is stipulated that **rules for banning the export of metallic mercury, compounds and certain mercury mixtures, safe storage of metallic mercury and specific criteria for the storage of metallic mercury considered as waste will be approved by the Council of Ministers with the proposal of the minister responsible for the environment.**

<table>
<tr><td>Law No. 10 277, dated 13.05.2010 on the accession of the Republic of Albania to the Rotterdam Conv.</td><td>Mercury compounds are included at Annex III: Chemicals that are subject to PIC procedure. One of the items of this Annex are Mercury compounds, including inorganic mercury compounds, alkylic mercury compounds, alkyloxyalkylic compounds and arylic mercury compounds.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Decision of Ministerial Council Nr. 665, dated 21.09.2016 “On the export and import of hazardous chemicals”</td><td>The objective of this Decision is consistent with the objective of the Rotterdam Convention, adopted by Law no. 10277, dated 13.05.2010, “On accession of the Republic of Albania in the Rotterdam Convention On the procedure of Prior Informed Consent for certain hazardous chemicals and products for plant protection in international trade.”

This decision transposes the Regulation (EC) no. 649/2012 of the European Parliament and the Council, dated July 4, 2012, concerning the export and import of dangerous chemicals

At Part 1 “List of chemicals subject to export notification procedure” of Annex I “List of hazardous chemicals and articles” of this DCM, mercury compounds are included at item 112: “Mercury compounds including inorganic mercury compounds, and arylic, alkyloxyalkyl, alkylic compounds of mercury, with the exception of mercury compounds that are listed in Annex V” .

At Part 3 “‘List of chemicals subject to the PIC procedure in the frame of the Rotterdam Convention” of Annex I, at item 21 there are included “Mercury compounds, including inorganic mercury compounds, alkylic mercury compounds, alkyloxyalkylic compounds and arylic mercury compounds”

At Table. 2 “Other chemicals prohibited to be exported, besides those listed in Appendices A and B to the Stockholm Convention on POPs” of Annex IV “Chemicals and hazardous items prohibited to be exported”, there are included items as follows:

<table>
<tr><th>Nr.</th><th>The description of the chemical / items that are prohibited to export</th><th>Additional data, where possible
(eg. the chemical name , EC, CAS No.)</th></tr>
<tr><td>2.</td><td>Mercury compounds, excluding compounds exported for research and development purposes, for medical purposes or analysis.</td><td>Cinnabar Mineral, Mercury Chloride (I)Hg_2Cl_2,
No. CAS 10112-91-1,
Code NK 2852 10 00
Mercury oxide (II)
HgO, No. CAS 21908-53-2;</td></tr>
</table>
</td></tr>
</table>

			Code NK 2852 1000
	3.	Metallic mercury and mixtures of metallic mercury with other substances, including alloys of mercury, with a mercury concentration of at least 95% of the total weight.	No. CAS 7439-97-6 Code NK 2805 40

Outstanding regulatory or policy aspects that would need to be addressed/developed to ensure compliance with the Convention's provisions (only in relation to binding provisions):

There are no known existing or new primary mercury mining or stocks of mercury or mercury compounds exceeding 50 metric tons (MT), and mercury supply generating stocks exceeding 10 MT/yr in Albania. This is a preliminary statement, which needs to be confirmed by the mercury inventory.

Some provisions related to import and export of mercury and some mercury compounds are already covered by the Law No. 10 277, dated 13.05.2010 on the accession of the Republic of Albania to the Rotterdam Convention "On the procedure of prior informed consent for some hazardous chemicals and plant protection products in international trade" and DCM Nr. 665, dated 21.09.2016 on import export of hazardous chemicals.

Rules for banning the export of metallic mercury, compounds and certain mercury mixtures, safe storage of metallic mercury and specific criteria for the storage of metallic mercury considered as waste are planned to be prepared under the Law No. 27/2016 On chemicals management, dated 17.03.2016, in compliance with the proposed Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on Mercury and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1102/2008 and according to the requirements of Minamata Convention.

ARTICLE 4 - MERCURY-ADDED PRODUCTS	
Succinct summary of provisions relevant to Albania	- Not allow the manufacture, import, and export of products listed in Part I of Annex A not otherwise excluded following the phase out date listed in the Annex - Phase down the use of dental amalgam through two or more measures listed in Part II of Annex A - Take measures to prevent the incorporation of products listed in Part I of Annex A (i.e., switches and relays, batteries) into larger, assembled products - Discourage the manufacture and distribution of new mercury product types
	Annex A Part I: Products subject to Article 4, paragraph 1

Mercury-added products [5]
Batteries, except for button zinc silver oxide batteries with a mercury content < 2% and button zinc air batteries with a mercury content < 2%
Switches and relays, except very high accuracy capacitance and loss measurement bridges and high frequency radio frequency switches and relays in monitoring and control instruments with a maximum mercury content of 20 mg per bridge, switch or relay
Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) for general lighting purposes that are ≤ 30 watts with a mercury content exceeding 5 mg per lamp burner
Linear fluorescent lamps (LFLs) for general lighting purposes: (a) Triband phosphor < 60 watts with a mercury content exceeding 5 mg per lamp; (b) Halophosphate phosphor ≤ 40 watts with a mercury content exceeding 10 mg per lamp
High pressure mercury vapour lamps (HPMV) for general lighting purposes
Mercury in cold cathode fluorescent lamps and external electrode fluorescent lamps (CCFL and EEFL) for electronic displays: (a) short length (≤ 500 mm) with mercury content exceeding 3.5 mg per lamp (b) medium length (> 500 mm and ≤ 1 500 mm) with mercury content exceeding 5 mg per lamp (c) long length (> 1 500 mm) with mercury content exceeding 13 mg per lamp
Cosmetics (with mercury content above 1ppm), including skin lightening soaps and creams, and not including eye area cosmetics[1], where mercury is used as a preservative and no effective and safe substitute preservatives are available

	Pesticides, biocides and topical antiseptics
	The following non-electronic measuring devices except non-electronic measuring devices installed in large-scale equipment or those used for high precision measurement, where no suitable mercury-free alternative is available: (a) barometers; (b) hygrometers; (c) manometers; (d) thermometers; (e)sphygmomanometers
	Annex A Part II: Products subject to Article 4, paragraph 3 Measures to be taken by a Party to phase down the use of **dental amalgam** shall take into account the Party's domestic circumstances and relevant international guidance and shall include two or more of the measures from the following list: (i) Setting national objectives aiming at dental caries prevention and health promotion, thereby minimizing the need for dental restoration; (ii) Setting national objectives aiming at minimizing its use; (iii) Promoting the use of cost-effective and clinically effective mercury-free alternatives for dental restoration; (iv) Promoting research and development of quality mercury-free materials for dental restoration; (v) Encouraging representative professional organizations and dental schools to educate and train dental professionals and students on the use of mercury-free dental restoration alternatives and on promoting best management practices; (vi) Discouraging insurance policies and programmes that favour dental amalgam use over mercury-free dental restoration; (vii) Encouraging insurance policies and programmes that favour the use of quality alternatives to dental amalgam for dental restoration; (viii) Restricting the use of dental amalgam to its encapsulated form; (ix) Promoting the use of best environmental practices in dental facilities to reduce releases of mercury and mercury compounds to water and land.

5 Date after which the manufacture, import or export of the products shall not be allowed (phase-out date) is 2020

Policy and regulatory measures in place that enable the country to comply with the above listed provisions:	
Regulatory Measure	**Aspects addressed by policy/Regulatory measure:**
DCM No 866 of 04.12.2012 "On batteries, accumulators and their waste"	The decision aims to a) establish rules for the placing on the market of batteries and accumulators; b) prohibit the placing on the market of batteries and accumulators containing hazardous substances; c) maximize the separate collection of waste batteries and accumulators; d) promote a high level of recycling; d) reduce the quantities of waste batteries and accumulators that destroyed together with mixed municipal waste; f) improve the environmental performance of all economic operators involved in the life cycle of batteries and accumulators. At Chapter VI "Ban on the placing on the market", point 1, it is stipulated that it is forbidden to put on the market batteries or accumulators, whether or not installed in equipment containing mercury more than 0.0005% of their weight. This limit shall not apply to button bateries, containing mercury not more than 2% of their weight. Manufacturers of batteries, and button accumulators and batteries containing more than 0,0005 % Hg... have to label them with chemical symbol of metals.
DCM No 957 of 19.12.2012 on the waste of electrical and electronic equipment	DCM on waste electrical and electronic equipment fully transposing Directive 2002/96/EC, determines that the Ministry of Environment and the ministry responsible for economy encourage the design and produce of electrical and electronic equipment, which take into account and facilitate dismantling and recovery, in particular the reuse and recycling of waste electrical and electronic equipment, components and their materials. Regarding to the treatment of waste of electrical and electronic equipment, Annex II defines that must be removed **mercury**-containing components as keys light, changing lamps or lighting. Producers that place in market Electrical and Electronic Equipment, shall minimize dumping of WEEE in the same place with mixed household waste, to facilitate their separated collection, label them with the symbol defined in Annex IV of the DCM on WEEE In particular for the protection of children's health biodisponibility (soluble extract have toxicological significance) that derives from the use of toys as target should not exceed the levels of 0.5 μg **mercury.**

	Regarding the **Mercury-containing electrical components** and Mercury-containing fluorescent lamps, Annex 2.2 of DCM on WEEE specifies the substitution of products containing one or more intentionally added heavy metals or if a suitable alternative exists, the minimization or substitution in products of one or more intentionally added heavy metals; Regarding the **Mercury-containing electrical components and Mercury-containing fluorescent lamps**, paragraph VI of DCM on WEEE specifies the provision of product information including labelling to ensure that users are informed of the content of one or more intentionally added heavy metals and of the need for safe use and waste handling; Regarding the Mercury-containing electrical components and Mercury-containing fluorescent lamps, paragraph V of DCM on WEEE specifies the use of economic incentives or voluntary agreements to reduce or eliminate the content in products of the heavy metals
Law No. 27/2016 On chemicals management, 17.03.2016	This new Law is a frame Law that transposes partly REACH and CLP EU Regulations. At point 3 of Article 23 “Prevention and reduction of environmental pollution from chemicals” of this law it is stipulated that “In the reduction of pollution and gradual elimination till the complete ban of mercury are included measures to ban exports, **to reduce mercury in products**, processes, and in industries that use, discharge or emit mercury to the atmosphere or release in uncontrolled way technologic waste containing mercury, the responsibility for storage and safe disposal of mercury”.

	Draft DCM on the restrictions on the manufacture, placing on the market and use of certain hazardous chemicals and articles.	The draft DCM stipulates restrictions on manufacturing, placing on the market and use of certain chemicals and articles, hazardous to human health and the environment. This draft Decision transposes Annexes XVII and VI of Regulation (EC) No. 1907/2006 of Parliament and the European Council dated 18 December 2006 on the Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH). Annex I of this draft consists of 2 chapters. Chapter I of this Annex lists 64 substances or groups of substances. Mercury and mercury compounds and mercury belong to Annex I, Chapter 1 “List of baned and restricted substances”: 18: Mercury Compounds will not be placed on the market, or used, as substance or in mixtures, where the substance or mixture is intended for use: a) in preventing adverse actions by microorganisms, plants or animals on shipping body, - cages, floats, nets and any other equipment used for fishing or aquaculture of oysters; - any device or apparatus partially or totally merged / submerged, b) wood preservation; c) strong saturation of industrial textiles and yarns provided for fabrication; d) wastewater treatment, regardless of their use. 18.a: Mercury 1. Mercury will not be placed on the market: a) in thermometers that measure body temperature; b) in other measuring devices provided for sale to the general public (such as manometers and thermometers not intended to measure the temperature of the body). 2. The restriction referred to in point 1 shall not apply to measuring devices that were in use before 1 July 2019. 3. The restriction referred to points 1, b, shall not apply to: a) measuring devices since 1 December 2014 have an age more than 50 years; b) barometers (except barometers that meet the criteria under paragraph (a)) above, until 1 July 2019; 4. measuring devices containing mercury below, intended for industrial and professional use will not be placed on the market after 1 July 2019:

	barometers; hygrometers; manometers; sfigmomanometers; measuring instruments used in pletismograph; tensiometers; thermometers and other uses non-electrical thermometric; Restrictions will also apply to measuring devices which are already placed on the market if they intended to be filled with mercury. 5. The limitation in paragraph 4 shall not apply to: a) sphygmomanometers to be used: (I) in epidemiological studies which are under way on the date corresponding to 15 days after publication of this decision in the Official Gazette, (II) as reference standards in clinical validation studies of sphygmomanometers not containing mercury; b) thermometers aimed only to perform tests in accordance with the standards require the use of mercury thermometers until July 1, 2019; c) mercury cells with triple points, which are used for the calibration of platinum resistance thermometers. 6. measuring devices that use mercury below, aimed at professional and industrial use will not be placed on the market after 1 July 2019: a) pikncometers containing mercury; b) mercury metering devices for the determination of softening point. Restrictions referred to in point 4 and 6 shall not apply to: a) measuring devices more than 50 years old in December 2014. b)measuring devices which are to be displayed in public exhibitions for cultural and historical purposes.
Decision of Ministerial Council Nr. 665, dated 21.09.2016 "On the export and import of hazardous chemicals"	The objective of this Decision is consistent with the objective of the Rotterdam Convention, adopted by Law no. 10277, dated 13.05.2010, "On accession of the Republic of Albania in the Rotterdam Convention On the procedure of Prior Informed Consent for certain hazardous chemicals and products for plant protection in international trade." This decision transposes the Regulation (EC) no. 649/2012 of the European Parliament and the Council, dated July 4, 2012, concerning the export and import of dangerous chemicals At **Annex IV** "Chemicals and hazardous items prohibited to be exported", **Table. 2** "Other chemicals prohibited to be exported, besides those listed in Appendices A and B to the Stockholm Convention on POPs" of this DCM, there are included **Cosmetic soaps containing mercury.**

Outstanding regulatory or policy aspects that would need to be addressed/developed to ensure compliance with the Convention's provisions (only in relation to binding provisions):
With respect to part I of Annex A "Mercury added products" of Minamata Convention regarding the phase-out of the manufacture, import or export of mercury containing products, some provisions on mercury content in batteries and accumulators are in place in Albania through DCM No 866 of 04.12.2012 "On batteries, accumulators and their waste". Some provisions related to the mercury containing electrical components and fluorescent lamps are in place from DCM No. 957 of 19.12.2012 on waste electrical and electronic equipment, bur these provisions are mostly related to the waste management of these components, including the proper labelling, although the replacement of heavy metals with suitable alternatives is promoted. Ministry of Environment has prepared a Draft DCM on the restrictions on the manufacture, placing on the market and use of certain hazardous chemicals and articles, which fully approximates Annex XVII of REACH Regulation 1907/2006. This draft DCM is to be adopted soon. At Annex 1 of this draft, chapter 1: "List of banned and restricted substances", are included mercury compounds, mainly as biocidal products and mercury. Pesticides (plant protection products) undergo a registration process in Albania before being imported or put on the market. Only active ingredients allowed in EU are allowed to be registered in Albania. A similar situation is for biocidal products, which legislation is under revision. Yet, an explicit ban of mercury containing pesticides and biocides, similarly with the one required by the Minamata Convention and the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on mercury and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1102/2008 could be part of the legal measures for the implementation of Minamata Convention With respect to part II of Annex A "Mercury added products" on measures to be taken to phase down the use of dental amalgam, it was not found any legislation in place in Albania on dental amalgam. Based on the mercury inventory, it is needed the preparation of provisions to phase down the dental amalgam. Depending on the results of the inventory, as a minimum, could be considered the measures provided by the proposed Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on Mercury and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1102/2008, that are the use of dental amalgam only in encapsulated form and that dental facilities be equipped with amalgam separators to retain and collect mercury containing amalgam residues. Rules for reducing mercury in products are planned to be prepared under the Law No. 27/2016 On chemicals management, dated 17.03.2016, in compliance with the proposed Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on Mercury and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1102/2008 and according to the requirements of Minamata Convention.

ARTICLE 5 - MANUFACTURING PROCESSES IN WHICH MERCURY OR MERCURY COMPOUNDS ARE USED	
Description of Article:	
Succinct summary of provisions relevant to Albania	- Not allow the use of mercury or mercury compounds in the manufacturing processes listed in Part I of Annex B - Restrict (as specified in the Annex) the use of mercury in the processes listed in Part II of Annex B - Not allow new facilities from using mercury in the processes listed in Annex B, except facilities using mercury catalysts to produce polyurethane - For facilities with processes listed in Annex B, identify and obtain information on mercury or mercury compound use; and control mercury emissions to air, and releases to land and water - Discourage new uses of mercury in industrial processes
	Annex B: Manufacturing processes in which mercury or mercury compounds are used Part I: Processes subject to Article 5, paragraph 2 - Chlor-alkali production, phase out date 2025 - Acetaldehyde production in which mercury or mercury compounds are used as a catalyst, phase out date 2018 Part II: Processes subject to Article 5, paragraph 3: - Vinyl chloride monomer production - Sodium or Potassium Methylate or Ethylate - Production of polyurethane using mercury containing catalysts

Policy and regulatory measures in place that enable the country to comply with the above listed provisions:	
Regulatory Measure	**Aspects addressed by policy/Regulatory measure:**
Law no. 10448, dated 14.7.2011 "On the environmental permitting" revised;	There are no industrial activities as described in Annex B currently carried out in Albania. Nevertheless, the industrial activities described in Annex B of the Convention are regulated. Law no. 10448, dated 14.7.2011 "On the environmental permitting" has transposed the Directive 2008/1/EC "On the integrated pollution prevention and control" (IPPC) as amended by Directive 2009/31/EC, and Directive 2001/80/EC "On the limitation of emissions of certain pollutants into the air from large combustion plants" as amended by Directive 2009/31/EC and many other permitting principles for a vast number of EC/Directives, creating the basis for the new permitting system in Albania. This law establishes measures for permitting the operation of certain groups of polluting activities, measures designed to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions to the air, water and land from such activities, including measures concerning waste as well. According to the national legislation requirements, the industrial operators have the obligation to monitor and report the environmental emissions of their activities based on the conditions set in the respective environmental permit.

Outstanding regulatory or policy aspects that would need to be addressed/developed to ensure compliance with the Convention's provisions (only in relation to binding provisions):
Law no. 10448, dated 14.7.2011 "On the environmental permitting" establishes measures for permitting the operation of certain groups of polluting activities, measures designed to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions to the air, water and land from such activities, including measures concerning waste as well. Albania planes to prepare relevant legal acts and the national action plan on mercury addressing the above listed provisions and other requirements of the Convention, including also the prohibition of any mercury use in those industrial processes (Annex B) to meet all Convention obligations related to such processes under Article 5.

ARTICLE 7 – ARTISANAL AND SMALL-SCALE GOLD MINING	
Succinct summary of provisions relevant to Albania	- Take measures to reduce, and where feasible, eliminate mercury and mercury compound use, emissions (to air), and releases (to land and water) associated with ASGM Annex C: Artisanal and small-scale gold mining
Policy and regulatory measures in place that enable the country to comply with the above listed provisions:	
Regulatory Measure	**Aspects addressed by policy/Regulatory measure:**
	It was found no ASGM related legislation in Albania
Outstanding regulatory or policy aspects that would need to be addressed/developed to ensure compliance with the Convention's provisions (only in relation to binding provisions):	
It was found no ASGM related legislation in Albania	

ARTICLE 8 - EMISSIONS	
Succinct summary of provisions relevant to Albania	-Take measures to control emissions, optionally prepare a national plan setting out measures to be taken to control emissions and its expected targets, goals and outcomes; - Require the use of best available techniques/best environmental practices (BAT/BEP) for new (as defined in Article 8.2(c)) sources listed in Annex D - Require one or more measures as below to mercury emissions control/reduce from existing sources listed in Annex D, which shall be operational at the source within 10 years - Require monitoring/reporting and otherwise **establish a mercury emissions inventory for sources** listed in Annex D: (a) A quantified goal for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources; (b) Emission limit values for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources; (c) The use of best available techniques and best environmental practices to control emissions from relevant sources; (d) A multi-pollutant control strategy that would deliver co-benefits for control of mercury emissions; (e) Alternative measures to reduce emissions from relevant sources.
	Annex D: List of point sources of emissions of mercury and mercury compounds to the atmosphere Point source category: - Coal-fired power plants; - Coal-fired industrial boilers; - Smelting and roasting processes used in the production of non-ferrous metals (lead, zinc, copper and industrial gold); - Waste incineration facilities; - Cement clinker production facilities.

Policy and regulatory measures in place that enable the country to comply with the above listed provisions:	
Regulatory Measure	**Aspects addressed by policy/Regulatory measure:**
Law no. 10448, dated 14.7.2011 "On the environmental permitting" revised;	This law establishes measures for permitting the operation of certain groups of polluting activities, measures designed to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions to the air, water and land from such activities, including measures concerning waste as well. According to the national legislation requirements, the industrial operators have the obligation to monitor and report the environmental emissions of their activities based on the conditions set in the respective environmental permit. Article 5 of the law 10448, dated 14.7.2011 foresees the preparation of BATs in Albanian language according to the EU BREF-s (BAT Reference Documents) or other reference documents for the specific activities in the country.
DCM no. 742 of 9.9.2015 " On functioning and management of the PRTR, approval of the list of activities and pollutants that are subject to this register, .."	This DCM establishes the integrated pollutant release and transfer register (PRTR) in Albania in the form of a publicly accessible electronic database. This decision partially transposes the Regulation of the Council and the European Parliament EC/166/2006 on the European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register amended by Regulation 596/2009. Also, this decision addresses the requirements of the Protocol on PRTR, ratified by Albania through the Law no. 9548, dated 01.06.2006 "On accession of the Republic of Albania to the Protocol on Pollutants Release and Transfer Register"
Law No. 9425 of 6.10.2005 "On the adhering of the Republic of Albania to the 1979 Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution".	One of the obligations under the CLRTAP is the development of the air emission inventory. Albania has developed the emission inventory according to the Guidelines for Reporting Emission Data under the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution, the EMEP/EEA Air Pollutant Emission Inventory Guidebook 2009 and the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories. Among other pollutants, the inventory includes **Mercury**.

	In frame of the EU IPA 2013 Project "Technical Assistance for Institution Building of the Ministry of Environment in Enforcing Environmental and Climate Acquis (IBECA) " (EuropeAid/135700/DH/SER/AL), by 2017 is going to be developed a Draft Ministerial Guidance on BAT for cement manufacture, brick manufacture & poultry farms.

Outstanding regulatory or policy aspects that would need to be addressed/developed to ensure compliance with the Convention's provisions (only in relation to binding provisions):

Albania has in place the legislation addressing the emissions to the air. Law no. 10448, of 14.7.2011 "On the environmental permitting" revised, which establishes measures for permitting the operation of certain groups of polluting activities, measures designed to prevent or, reduce emissions to the air, water and land from such activities, including measures concerning waste. According to the law on environmental permitting, the industrial operators have the obligation to monitor and report the environmental emissions of their activities based on the conditions set in the respective environmental permit.

Article 5 of this law foresees the preparation of Best Available Technologies (BAT) in Albanian language according to the EU BAT Reference Documents (BREF-s) or other reference documents for the specific activities in the country.

Albania has ratified the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution and has partially transposed the Regulation of the Council and the European Parliament EC/166/2006 on the European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register amended by Regulation 596/2009. In frame of these international commitments, as well as in frame of an IPA 2013 project "Technical Assistance for Institution Building of the Ministry of Environment in Enforcing Environmental and Climate Acquis (IBECA) ", a Draft Ministerial Guidance on BAT for cement manufacture and other industries will be produced.

Best available techniques/best environmental practices (BAT/BEP) taking into account any difference between new and existing sources listed in Annex D of the Minamata Convention (coal-fired power plants, coal-fired industrial boilers, non-ferrous metal smelting and roasting processes, waste incineration, and cement production) will be adopted by Conference of the Parties at its first meeting, according to point 8 of Article 8 of the Convention. These, together with the support in determining goals and setting emission limit values will be a big help for Albania from the Convention.

ARTICLE 9 - RELEASES	
Succinct summary of provisions relevant to Albania	- Identification of the relevant point source categories no later than three years after entry into force of the Convention for Albania - Take measures to control releases, possibly prepare a national plan for it. The plan must be submitted to CoP within four years after entry into force of the Convention for Albania. - Require reporting or otherwise obtain information as needed to identify significant sources of mercury/ mercury compound releases to land or water, and to maintain an inventory of releases from the sources identified - Take as appropriate one or more measures as below to control/reduce mercury and mercury compound releases to land and water from significant sources: (a) Release limit values to control and, where feasible, reduce releases from relevant sources; (b) The use of best available techniques and best environmental practices to control releases from relevant sources; (c) A multi-pollutant control strategy that would deliver co-benefits for control of mercury releases; (d) Alternative measures to reduce releases from relevant sources. A national plan may be prepared.

Policy and regulatory measures in place that enable the country to comply with the above listed provisions:	
Regulatory Measure	**Aspects addressed by policy/Regulatory measure:**
Law no. 10448, of 14.7.2011"On the environmental permitting"	Under the Law no. 10448, dated 14.7.2011 "On the environmental permitting", private companies/operators, which have been subject to an environmental permit ('A' and/ or 'B') are obliged to perform the self-monitoring procedures through certified monitoring structures/ laboratories, according to the specifications and conditions foreseen in the environmental permit, as well as the environmental permitting legislation in force, and to submit the report to the National Environmental Agency. This law establishes measures for permitting the operation of certain groups of polluting activities, measures designed to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions to the air, water and land from such activities, including measures concerning waste as well.
DCM No.742 of 9.9.2015 "On functioning and management of the PRTR, approval of the list of activities and pollutants that are subject to this register..."	This DCM establishes the integrated pollutant release and transfer register (PRTR) in Albania in the form of a publicly accessible electronic database. This decision partially transposes the Regulation of the Council and the European Parliament EC/166/2006 on the European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register amended by Regulation 596/2009. Also, this decision addresses the requirements of the Protocol on PRTR, ratified by Albania through the Law no. 9548, dated 01.06.2006 "On accession of the Republic of Albania to the Protocol on Pollutants Release and Transfer Register "
DCM No 46 of 29.01.2014 "On the set up and functioning of the State Inspectorate of Environment, Forestry and Water (SIEFW); and	The State Inspectorate of Environment, Forestry and Water **(SIEFW)** is the main inspection structure of the Ministry of Environment (MoE) involved in monitoring and enforcement of environmental legal requirements. The main duties of SIEFW related to the above mentioned PRTR Decision no.742, dated 09.09.2015, are: to control the compliance of the activities with environmental legislation in general; to inspect and monitor the compliance of the operators with the environmental permit; to take measures against the operators that do not comply with the environmental legislation including reporting obligations (administrative, penalty, permit revoke, etc.). The NEA exercises its jurisdiction in the whole territory of the Republic of Albania through the Regional Environmental Agencies.

DCM no. 138, of 19.11.2012 “On the new structure of the National Environment Agency (NEA)”	Some of the main functions of the NEA are: implementation of procedures related to environmental permitting and environmental impact assessment, as well as the implementing of the environmental liability principle; monitoring the state of environment on the main environmental indicators (according to DCM No 1138 of 18.11.2009 “On the rules and procedures on the National Monitoring Programme”)<, setting up and management of the Environmental Information System and PRTR.

Outstanding regulatory or policy aspects that would need to be addressed/developed to ensure compliance with the Convention’s provisions (only in relation to binding provisions):

Albania has in place the legislation addressing the releases of the pollutants. Law no. 10448, of 14.7.2011 “On the environmental permitting” revised, establishes measures for permitting the operation of certain groups of polluting activities, measures designed to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions to the air, water and land from such activities, including measures concerning waste as well.

Article 5 of the law 10448, dated 14.7.2011 foresees the preparation of Best Available Technologies (BAT) in Albanian language according to the EU BAT Reference Documents (BREF-s) or other reference documents for the specific activities in the country.

The legislation on the integrated pollutant release and transfer register is in place in Albania. DCM no. 742 of 9.9.2015 “ On functioning and management of the PRTR, and approval of the list of activities and pollutants that are subject to this register...” establishes the integrated pollutant release and transfer register (PRTR) in Albania in the form of a publicly accessible electronic database.

CoP will adopt guidance on (a) BAT/BEP, taking into account any difference between new and existing sources and the need to minimize cross-media effects, and on (b) the methodology for preparing inventories of releases. These guidance documents need to be taken into consideration and adopted in the national legislation / discharge norms.

ARTICLE 10 – ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND INTERIM STORAGE OF MERCURY, OTHER THAN WASTE MERCURY	
Succinct summary of provisions relevant to Albania	Take measures to ensure interim storage of mercury and its compounds intended for a use allowed to a Party is conducted in an environmentally sound manner, taking into account relevant guidelines developed under the **Basel Convention** and additional requirements for interim storage that may be adopted by the Conference of the Parties (COP)
Policy and regulatory measures in place that enable the country to comply with the above listed provisions:	
Regulatory Measure	**Aspects addressed by policy/Regulatory measure:**
Law No. 27/2016 of 17.03.2016 "On chemicals management",	This is a frame Law that transposes partly REACH and CLP EU Regulations. At point 4 of Article 23 of this Law it is stipulated that rules for banning the export of metallic mercury, compounds and certain mercury mixtures, **safe storage of metallic mercury** and specific criteria for the storage of metallic mercury considered as waste will be approved by the Council of Ministers with the proposal of the minister responsible for the environment.
Law Nr.8216, of 13.5.1997 on accession of the Republic of Albania to the Basel Convention	Basel Convention is ratified by Albania
Law No. 10 463 of 22.9.2011 "On integrated waste management"	This Law establishes the definition for "Temporary storage", which is keeping in one place in order to maintain the waste for a period not more than a year without performing operations that lead to changing the nature or composition of the waste. Also Article 25 of this Law stipulates that hazardous waste is collected, transported and stored temporarily only when is packaged and labelled in accordance with this law. Rules for packing and labelling of hazardous waste in the process of collection, transport and temporary storage are to be approved by a DCM.

Outstanding regulatory or policy aspects that would need to be addressed/developed to ensure compliance with the Convention's provisions (only in relation to binding provisions):
According to the Law No. 27/2016 of 17.03.2016 "On chemicals management", it is predicted that rules for the safe storage of metallic mercury will be approved by the Council of Ministers The above-mentioned rules can be based on the guidelines on environmentally sound interim storage of mercury and mercury compounds intended for an allowed use (for a Party), which will be adopted by CoP taking into account relevant guidelines under Basel Convention (point 3 of Article 10 of the Convention).

ARTICLE 11 – MERCURY WASTES	
Succinct summary of provisions relevant to Albania	- Use the definition of mercury waste consistent with Article 11.2: mercury wastes means substances or objects: (a) Consisting of mercury or mercury compounds; (b) Containing mercury or mercury compounds; or (c) Contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds, in a quantity above the relevant thresholds defined by the Conference of the Parties - Take measures to manage mercury wastes in an environmentally sound manner, taking into account guidelines developed under the Basel Convention and in accordance with CoP requirements to be developed. - Take measures to restrict mercury derived from the treatment or re-use of mercury waste to allowed uses under the Convention or environmentally sound disposal - Prevent the import and use of mercury from primary mercury mining for artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) - Require transport across international boundaries only for the purpose of environmentally sound disposal in accordance with the Basel Convention, or if the Basel Convention does not apply, consistent with international rules, standards, and guidelines.
Policy and regulatory measures in place that enable the country to comply with the above listed provisions:	
Regulatory Measure	**Aspects addressed by policy/Regulatory measure:**
Law No. 27/2016 "On chemicals management", 17.03.2016	This is a frame Law that transposes partly REACH and CLP EU Regulations. At point 4 of Article 23 of this Law it is stipulated that rules for banning the export of metallic mercury, compounds and certain mercury mixtures, safe storage of metallic mercury and **specific criteria for the storage of metallic mercury considered as waste** will be approved by the Council of Ministers with the proposal of the minister responsible for the environment.

Law No. 10 463 of 22.9.2011 “On integrated waste management”	This Law establishes the definition for “Temporary storage”, which is keeping in one place in order to maintain the waste for a period not more than a year without performing operations that lead to changing the nature or composition of the waste. Also Article 25 of this Law stipulates that hazardous waste is collected, transported and stored temporarily only when is packaged and labelled in accordance with this law. Rules for packing and labelling of hazardous waste in the process of collection, transport and temporary storage are to be approved by a DCM.
Law Nr.8216, of 13.5.1997 on accession of the Republic of Albania to the Basel Convention “On the control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal”	Basel Convention is ratified by Albania
Outstanding regulatory or policy aspects that would need to be addressed/developed to ensure compliance with the Convention’s provisions (only in relation to binding provisions):	
According to the Law No. 27/2016 “On chemicals management”, it is predicted that specific criteria for the storage of metallic mercury considered as waste will be approved by the Council of Ministers. In the Albanian Law No. 10 463 of 22.9.2011 “On integrated waste management” it is given the definition of temporary storage, and are given the bases for the proper temporary storage of hazardous waste. Technical rules for packing and labelling of hazardous waste in the process of collection, transport and temporary storage are to be approved by a DCM. The rules for mercury waste management can be based on the guidelines on environmentally sound management of mercury waste which will be reviewed and updated from the CoP in close cooperation with the relevant bodies of Basel Convention (point 4 of Article 11 of the Convention).	

ARTICLE 12 – CONTAMINATED SITES	
Succinct summary of provisions relevant to Albania	- Develop strategies for identifying and assessing mercury/mercury compound contaminated sites - If risk reduction activities are taken at contaminated sites, they are taken in an environmentally sound manner, incorporating risk assessment where appropriate. CoP shall adopt guidance on site identification and characterization, engaging the public, human health and environment risk assessment, options for managing the risks, evaluation of benefits and costs and validation of outcomes.
Policy and regulatory measures in place that enable the country to comply with the above listed provisions:	
Regulatory Measure	**Aspects addressed by Regulator measure policy/regulatory measure:**
Law No. 10 431, of 9.6.2011 "On environmental protection"	Chapter VIII of this law "Environmental responsibility", according to the principle "the polluter pays" defines the obligations and responsibilities of the new waste producers, in order to avoid the creation of new hotspots of the process industries. The objectives of this chapter are: a) prevention and redress for all damage caused to the environment; b) the rehabilitation of the environment; c) introduction of measures and practices to minimize the risk of environmental damage. The Council of Ministers approves the list of activities dangerous for the environment and the criteria for risk assessment. The operator is responsible in case of not undertaking preventive measures or rehabilitation in cases of deterioration of environment and in cases National Environmental Agency is not informed for the real or potential environmental damage.

DCM No. 175 of 19.1.2011 "On the adoption of the national waste management strategy and national waste management plan	This DCM in paragraph 2.3.3.2 addresses strategic element II: "Rehabilitation of contaminated sites and prevention of pollution", where for industrial hotspots it is stipulated as follows: - All industrial hot spots will be cleaned up till the risks to human health and the ecosystem are acceptable. - The cleanup will be prioritized based on risk assessment. Standards of rehabilitation depend on the planned land use for former industrial sites. - The cleanup will be financed by international funds in the worst cases, dfrom the polluter if economically feasable or from investors, where the increase in value of the assets will offset the costs of remediation.

Outstanding regulatory or policy aspects that would need to be addressed/developed to ensure compliance with the Convention's provisions (only in relation to binding provisions):
In Albania there is already in place the legal basis for the prevention of new environmental hotspots, as well as for addressing the responsibility on the pollution, for the rehabilitation of polluted sites and for costs. Law No. 10 431, of 9.6.2011 "On environmental protection" according to the principle "the polluter pays" defines the obligations and responsibilities of the new waste producers, in order to avoid the creation of new hotspots of the process industries. CoP shall adopt guidance on site identification and characterization, engaging the public, human health and environment risk assessment, options for managing the risks, evaluation of benefits and costs and validation of outcomes. This guidance needs to be taken into account when developing the national action plan on identifying and assessing contaminated sites from mercury and its compounds and on related risk management.

ARTICLE 13 – FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND MECHANISMS	
Succinct summary of provisions relevant to Albania	- National resources to implement the Convention - Mechanisms to support developing countries and countries with economies in transition to fulfil the obligations under the Convention. Access to financial resources available under the Convention financial mechanism and other resources available from multilateral, regional, and bilateral funding sources
Policy and regulatory measures in place that enable the country to comply with the above listed provisions:	
Regulatory measure	**Aspects addressed by policy/Regulatory measure:**
Law No 10 431, of 9.6.2011 "On the environmental protection"	At point 1 of Article 67 "Environmental Fund" it is stipulated the establishment of an Environmental Fund to support and promote environmental protection activities. The Council of Ministers approves the rules for the funding source, mode of operation and use of the Environment Fund.
Outstanding regulatory or policy aspects that would need to be addressed/developed to ensure compliance with the Convention's provisions (only in relation to binding provisions):	
As for the access to financial resources available under the Convention financial, with the financial support of the Global Environment Fund (GEF), UNDP, Albania Government has started the implementation of the current project "Minamata Initial Assessment for Albania".	

ARTICLE 14 – CAPACITY BUILDING, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER	
Succinct summary of provisions relevant to Albania	Capacity building and technical assistance to developing country Parties to assist them in implementing their obligations under Minamata Convention through regional, sub-regional and national arrangements, including existing regional and sub-regional centres, partnerships, etc.
Policy and regulatory measures in place that enable the country to comply with the above listed provisions:	
Regulatory measure	**Aspects addressed by policy/Regulatory measure:**
	There in so specific legislation in place on specific capacity building on implementation of Minamata Convention.

Outstanding regulatory or policy aspects that would need to be addressed/developed to ensure compliance with the Convention's provisions (only in relation to binding provisions):
There are provisions for capacity building in areas related to the Convention Implementation, like environment, health care, but there is no specific legislation in place in Albania on capacity building and technical assistance on implementation of Minamata Convention. Based on the capacity assessment that will be carried out in frame of this MIA project, capacity building will be planned as part of Minamata Action Plan.

ARTICLE 16 – HEALTH ASPECTS	
Succinct summary of provisions relevant to Albania	- Nxitja e zhvillimit dhe zbatimit të strategjive për të identifikuar dhe për të mbrojtur popullatat në risk, veçanërisht popullatat vulnerabël, si zhvillimi i udhëzimeve shëndetësore mbi ekspozimin, vendosja e objektivave për reduktimin e ekspozimit ndaj Hg, kur është e përshtatshme dhe edukimi i publikut me pjesëmarrjen e shëndetit publik dhe sektorëve të tjerë të përfshirë - Nxitja e programeve edukative dhe parandaluese për ekspozimin profesional ndaj mërkurit dhe komponimeve të mërkurit - Promote appropriate health care services for prevention, treatment, and care for populations affected by mercury exposure-
Policy and regulatory measures in place that enable the country to comply with the above listed provisions:	
Regulatory Measure	**Aspects addressed by policy/Regulatory measure:**
Law No. 10 138, of 11.5.2009 "On public health"	At point 3 of Article 42 "Measures in environmental health" of this Law, it is stipulated that the Directorate of Public Health at Ministry of Health prepares hygienic-sanitary norms, which are approved by DCM. At point 5 of the same article, Institute of Public Health, in cooperation with the regional structures of public health, identifies scientifically the harmful factors for the health of the population and their impacts. At Article 14 "The responsibilities of Institute of Public Health IPH" is is defined that IPH is responsible for the information, counselling, and support on Ministry of Health in the preparation of the policies and strategies in public health.
Law No. 10 107, of 30.03.2009 "On the healthcare in the Republic of Albania	This law defines the main principles and legal framework for the regulation, organization and functioning of the health care system in the Republic of Albania. At point 5 of Article 4 it is defined that the Minister of Health shall develop policies for continuing professional education of human resources in health care.
Law No. 10 237 of 18.2.2010 "On the safety and health at work"	In this Law there are mentioned the obligations of the employer for the education and information of employees on the occupational hazards at workplace and on preventive measures.

DCM No. 522, of 06.08.2014 "On the approval of regulation "On the safety and health protection of workers from the risks related to chemical agents at work"	Exposure Limit Values have been given at Annex I of this DCM for mercury and divalent inorganic compounds of mercury including mercuric oxide and mercuric chloride (measured as mercury) at the workplace.

Outstanding regulatory or policy aspects that would need to be addressed/developed to ensure compliance with the Convention's provisions (only in relation to binding provisions):

Following the results of mercury inventory, which will be prepared in frame on Minamata Initial Assessment, the compilation of a strategy and relevant action plan to identify and protect populations at risk regarding mercury and its compounds, particularly vulnerable populations may emerge as a need; developing health guidelines on exposure reduction, setting targets for Hg exposure reduction and public education would be of great value.

Obligations of the employer for the education and information of employees on the occupational hazards at workplace and on preventive measures are already required by the Law No. 10 237 of 18.2.2010 "On the safety and health at work" and the deriving Decisions of Council of Ministers , e.g DMC on Chemical Agents at workplace. Exposure Limit Values have been given at Annex I of this DCM for mercury and divalent inorganic compounds of mercury including mercuric oxide and mercuric chloride (measured as mercury) at the workplace.

Although it is established a system for the continuing professional education of human resources in health care system, it is needed to strengthen the institutional and health professional capacities for the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and monitoring of health risks related to the exposure to mercury and its compounds. This action can be particularly necessary in the area near former soda alkali plant in Vlora, where the pollution might yet be relevant (the results of mercury inventory can confirm this proposal)

ARTICLE 17 – INFORMATION EXCHANGE	
Succinct summary of provisions relevant to Albania	- Facilitate the exchange of scientific, technical and legal information concerning mercury and mercury compounds, including toxicological, eco-toxicological and safety information, information on reduction or elimination of production, use, trade, emissions and releases of mercury and its compounds, on viable alternatives to products, processes and activities that involve mercury or its compounds, - Share information on the health and safety of humans and the environment as non-confidential, in accordance with Article 17.5 - Report to the CoP on progress in implementing Convention obligations under Article 21 4.Each Party shall designate **a national focal point** for the exchange of information under the Convention, including with regard to the consent of the importing Parties under Article 3
Policy and regulatory measures in place that enable the country to comply with the above listed provisions:	
Regulatory Measure	**Aspects addressed by policy/Regulatory measure:**
Law No. 27/2016 "On chemicals management", 17.03.2016	At point 1 of Article 32 "Information system for chemicals" of this Law, it is defined that exchange of information with international institutions on chemicals is based on the provisions of the documents ratified by the competent authority of the Republic of Albania.
Outstanding regulatory or policy aspects that would need to be addressed/developed to ensure compliance with the Convention's provisions (only in relation to binding provisions):	
There is a general provision at point 1 of Article 32 "Information system for chemicals" of the Law No. 27/2016 "On chemicals management", 17.03.2016 on the exchange of information with international institutions on chemicals, which is based on the provisions of the documents ratified by the competent authority of the Republic of Albania. There are also provisions on information exchange in frame of other Chemical Conventions ratified by Albania. Yet, a specific information exchange for the Minamata Convention is needed and a national focal point should be designated for this purpose.	

ARTICLE 18 – PUBLIC INFORMATION, AWARENESS AND EDUCATION	
Succinct summary of provisions relevant to Albania	- Each Party shall promote and facilitate provision to the public of available information on health and environmental effects of mercury and its compounds, alternatives to mercury and its compounds, information concerning mercury and mercury compounds, including toxicological, eco-toxicological and safety information, information on reduction or elimination of production, use, trade, emissions and releases of mercury and its compounds, on viable alternatives to products, processes and activities that involve mercury or its compounds, results of research, development and monitoring activities. - Promote and facilitate education, training and public awareness related to effects of exposure to mercury and its compounds on human health and environment in collaboration with relevant IGOs and NGOs and vulnerable populations. - shall use the existing mechanisms or consider the development of mechanisms, such as pollutant release and transfer registers for the collection and dissemination of information on estimates of annual quantities of mercury or its compounds that are emitted, released or disposed of through human activities
Policy and regulatory measures in place that enable the country to comply with the above listed provisions:	
Regulatory Measure	**Aspects addressed by policy/Regulatory measure:**
Law No. 27/2016 On chemicals management, 17.03.2016	At point 3 of Article 32 "Information system for chemicals" it is stipulated that Ministry of Environment shall inform the public and relevant authorities via the official website of the ministry of the risks that may arise from the use of hazardous substances and mixtures, and recommends taking the necessary measures to reduce the risk.
Law No. 10 431, of 9.6.2011 On environmental protection	At point 2 of Article 14 it is stipulated that public authorities, which scope includes functions related to environmental protection, within their competence, promote information, awareness and educate the public about environmental protection and sustainable development.
Law No. 119/2014 of 18.09.2014 "On the Right of Information".	This law regulates the right to know the information produced or held by public authorities, guarantees the public with information in the context of the exercise of individual rights and freedoms in practice, as well as the formation of views on the state of the state and society and aims to promote integrity transparency and accountability of public authorities.

Law No. 146/2014 of 30.10.2014 "On Public Informing and Consultation"	The Law No. 146/2014 "On Public Informing and Consultation" regulates the process of notification and public consultation of the drafts of national and local strategic and policy documents of high public interest, establishes rules of procedure to be followed to ensure transparency and public participation in policy and decision making processes by public bodies and aims to promote transparency, accountability and integrity of public authorities.

Law No. 8672, of 26.10.2000 "On adhering of Albania in Aarhus Convention"	

Outstanding regulatory or policy aspects that would need to be addressed/developed to ensure compliance with the Convention's provisions (only in relation to binding provisions):

Law No. 27/2016 On chemicals management, of 17.03.2016, Law No. 10 431, of 9.6.2011 "On environmental protection", Law No. 119/2014 of 18.09.2014 "On the Right of Information", Law No. 146/2014 of 30.10.2014 "On public informing and consultation", Law No. 8672, of 26.10.2000 "On adhering of Albania in Aarhus Convention" offer an adequate bases regarding the right to know, transparency, and require public authorities to promote information, awareness and educate the public about environmental protection and sustainable development, potential risks from the use of hazardous chemicals, etc.

ARTICLE 19 – RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND MONITORING	
Succinct summary of provisions relevant to Albania	1. Parties shall endeavour to cooperate to develop and improve, taking into account their respective circumstances and capabilities: (a) Inventories of use, consumption, and anthropogenic emissions to air and releases to water and land of mercury and mercury compounds; (b) Modelling and geographically representative monitoring of levels of mercury and mercury compounds in vulnerable populations and in environmental media, collaboration in the collection and exchange of relevant and appropriate samples; (c) Assessments of the impact of mercury and mercury compounds on human health and the environment, particularly in respect of vulnerable populations; (d) Harmonized methodologies for the activities undertaken under subparagraphs (a), (b) and (c); (e) Information on the environmental cycle, transport (including long-range transport and deposition), transformation and fate of mercury and mercury compounds in a range of ecosystems, (f) Information on commerce and trade in mercury and mercury compounds and mercury-added products; and (g) Information and research on the technical and economic availability of mercury-free products and processes and on BAT/BEP to reduce and monitor emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds. 2. Parties should, where appropriate, build on existing monitoring networks and research programmes in undertaking the activities identified in paragraph 1.

Policy and regulatory measures in place that enable the country to comply with the above listed provisions:	
Regulatory measure	**Aspects addressed by policy/Regulatory measure:**
Law No 10 431, of 9.6.2011 "On environmental protection"	Chapter VI "Environmental monitoring" of this Law stipulates that the monitoring of the state of the environment includes monitoring the impact of environmental pollution on human health. Point 1 of Article 58 "Education and training for environmental protection" stipulates that the Ministry responsible for education and the ministry responsible for matters of employment and vocational training, in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment, encourage, support and organize education and training for environmental protection and sustainable development, through the educational system**, scientific research**, forms of learning of the education and training throughout life.
Outstanding regulatory or policy aspects that would need to be addressed/developed to ensure compliance with the Convention's provisions (only in relation to binding provisions):	
Chapter VI "Environmental monitoring" of the Law No. 10 431, dated 9.6.2011 "On Environmental Protection" stipulates that the monitoring of the state of the environment includes monitoring the impact of environmental pollution on human health. National Environment Agency prepares annual programs of environmental monitoring, which includes heavy metals. The same law asks for support and organization of education and training for environmental protection and sustainable development, through the educational system**, scientific research**, forms of learning of the education and training throughout life. The research and monitoring as per Article 19 of the Convention need to develop further.	

ARTICLE 21 – REPORTING	
Succinct summary of provisions relevant to Albania	1. Each Party shall report to the Conference of the Parties, through the Secretariat, on the measures it has taken to implement the provisions of this Convention and on the effectiveness of such measures and the possible challenges in meeting the objectives of the Convention. 2. Each Party shall include in its reporting the information as called for in Articles 3, 5, 7, 8 and 9 of this Convention. *3.* The Conference of the Parties shall, at its first meeting, decide upon the timing and format of the reporting to be followed by the Parties, taking into account the desirability of coordinating reporting with other relevant chemicals and wastes conventions.
Policy and regulatory measures in place that enable the country to comply with the above listed provisions:	
Regulatory measure	**Aspects addressed by policy/Regulatory measure:**
Outstanding Regulatory or policy aspects that would need to be addressed/developed to ensure compliance with the Convention's provisions (only in relation to binding provisions):	
Reporting to the CoP through the Secretariat on the measures taken to implement the provisions of the Convention is an obligation and shall be provided according to the time and format that will be decided by the CoP.	

Annex 2: Existing national capacities and related shortcomings

ARTICLE 3 - MERCURY SUPPLY SOURCES AND TRADE	
Succinct summary of provisions relevant to Albania (source: NDRC checklist [1])	- Not allow new primary mercury mining - *Phase out existing primary mercury mining within 15 years* - Obtain information on stocks of mercury or mercury compounds exceeding 50 metric tons (MT), and mercury supply generating stocks exceeding 10 MT/yr - In accordance with Article 3.5(b), ensures that excess mercury from decommissioning chlor-alkali plants is disposed of in accordance to environmentally sound management guidelines (see paragraph 3a of article 11) - Not allow the export of mercury unless the importing country provides written consent, the mercury is for an allowed use or environmentally sound storage, and all other conditions of Article 3.6 are met - Not allow the import of mercury without government consent, ensuring both the mercury source and proposed use are allowed under the Convention (and applicable domestic law).
INSTITUTION OR ORGANIZATION	
Name of institution / organization: **MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT**	**Role with respect to the above listed provisions:** - Drafting of legislation, policies and action plans for all points of Article 3 of the Convention; - Monitors and inspects mercury information
	Relevant institutional capacity in place: Newly established in MoE, Chemicals Office needs capacity building, specifically including those relating to the preparation of national legislation to implement the Convention obligations.
Name of institution / organization: **NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY**	**Role with respect to the above listed provisions:** - As appropriate, it requires from customs information related to mercury trade - Issues environmental permits for operators that have air emissions or water or land discharges
	Relevant institutional capacity in place: - ow technical capacities to address this issue when setting environmental permit conditions

Name of institution / organization: **INSPEKTORATI SHTETËROR I MJE-DISIT DHE PYJEVE**	**Role with respect to the above listed provisions:** - Control of the implementation of legislation on chemicals, including international chemicals conventions ratified by the Republic of Albania
	Relevant institutional capacity in place: - Technical capacities on addressing mercury are almost completely missing
Name of institution / organization: **DREJTORIA E PËRGJITHËSHME E DOGANAVE**	**Role with respect to the above listed provisions:** - Reports annually to the Chemicals Office the previous year's data on the import and export of hazardous chemicals - Cooperates with NEA for environmental status reports
	Relevant institutional capacity in place: - Training on import and export of mercury and mercury compounds is required for customs control
Name of institution / organization: **MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND INDUSTRY**	**Role with respect to the above listed provisions:** Administers natural resources in the country and determine the policies related to them. MEI is the competent authority for licensing activities related to chemicals classified as hazardous.
	Relevant institutional capacity in place:
Remaining capacity gaps that need to be addressed before provisions can be met:	
- The legal basis for chemicals that addresses the Mercury Convention's requirements must be completed. - Training activities are needed for inspectorates as well as for customs authorities on customs control for the import and export of mercury and mercury compounds	

[1] http://docs.nrdc.org/international/files/int_15101301a.pdf

ARTICLE 4 - MERCURY-ADDED PRODUCTS	
Succinct summary of provisions relevant to Albania	- Not allow the manufacture, import, and export of products listed in Part I of Annex A not otherwise excluded following the phase out date listed in the Annex - Phase down the use of dental amalgam through two or more measures listed in Part II of Annex A - Take measures to prevent the incorporation of products listed in Part I of Annex A (i.e., switches and relays, batteries) into larger, assembled products - Discourage the manufacture and distribution of new mercury product types
INSTITUTION OR ORGANIZATION	
Name of institution / organization: **MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT**	**Role with respect to the above listed provisions:** - Drafts legislation, policies and action plans for all points of Article 4 of the Convention; - Monitors and inspects mercury information - Focal point of the International Conventions on chemicals ratified by the Republic of Albania and the Minamata Convention
	Relevant institutional capacity in place: Newly established in MoE, Chemicals Office needs capacity building, specifically including those relating to the preparation of national legislation to implement the Convention obligations.
Name of institution / organization: **GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF CUSTOMS**	**Role with respect to the above listed provisions:** - Control of the import and export of products
	Relevant institutional capacity in place: - Limited capacities
Name of institution / organization: **NATIONAL AGENCY FOR MEDICIDES AND MEDICAL DEVICES**	**Role with respect to the above listed provisions:** - Control and analysis of the quality of medicines - Lab. for vaccine control and the medical equipment sector - Recording and control of medical devices such as: thermometers, barometers, manometers and sfigmomanometers
	Relevant institutional capacity in place: The laboratory does not perform analysis of mercury in the vaccines for lack of appropriate facilities

Name of institution / organization: **MINISTRY OF HEALTH**	**Role with respect to the above listed provisions:** - The Ministry of Health is the competent authority for drafting the legal and sub-legal acts in the field of health care, among which for the dental service, cosmetic products. Also, the Ministry of Health issues: - Trade authorization for medical devices. - Import authorization for biocidal products
	Relevant institutional capacity in place: MoH capacities regarding the evaluation and authorization of biocidal products are limited. We think that more staff and staff capacity are needed.
Name of institution / organization: **INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH**	**Role with respect to the above listed provisions:** Evaluation of biocidal products
	Relevant institutional capacity in place: There is no experience with the evaluation of biocidal products such as antifouling paints, which are not directly used in public health (insecticides, rodenticides and disinfectants)
Name of institution / organization: **GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF METROLOGY**	**Role with respect to the above listed provisions:** Performs calibration / verification of instruments / measuring devices, including mercury thermometers.
	Relevant institutional capacity in place: The role DPM can play in this process is simply of an informative nature, allowing its customers to remove thermometers or other mercury devices (barometers, etc.) and replace them with alternatives without mercury.
Name of institution / organization: **ASSOCIATION OF ALBANIAN DENTAL DISTRIBUTORS**	**Role with respect to the above listed provisions:** - The gradual replacement of the amalgam - Taking measures to separate mercury waste
	Relevant institutional capacity in place: There has been no communication with MoE on the issue of amalgam discharge of dental clinics.
Name of institution / organization: **MARKET SURVEILLANCE INSPECTORATE**	**Role with respect to the above listed provisions:** Law enforcement control
	Relevant institutional capacity in place: Contains a sector for the safety of non-food products

Remaining capacity gaps that need to be addressed before provisions can be met:	
- Generally, lacks knowledge and awareness about the health and environmental problems of mercury in products. - Lack of laboratory capacity for determination of mercury in products, including its analysis in vaccines. - Waste of dental clinics are not collected and treated in a differentiated way. The use of amalgam separators In dental clinics should be introduced. - Setting national targets aimed at preventing dental caries and promoting health, minimizing the need for tooth restoration; Promoting the use of best environmental practices in dental facilities to reduce mercury and mercury emissions in water and land. - Capacities for evaluating antifouling paints as biocidal products are very limited. Secondary legislation on the assessment and authorization of biocidal products has not yet been approved.	
ARTICLE 5 - MANUFACTURING PROCESSES IN WHICH MERCURY OR MERCURY COMPOUNDS ARE USED	
Succinct summary of provisions relevant to Albania	- Not allow the use of mercury or mercury compounds in the manufacturing processes listed in Part I of Annex B - Restrict (as specified in the Annex) the use of mercury in the processes listed in Part II of Annex B - Not allow new facilities from using mercury in the processes listed in Annex B, except facilities using mercury catalysts to produce polyurethane - For facilities with processes listed in Annex B, identify and obtain information on mercury or mercury compound use; and control mercury emissions to air, and releases to land and water - Discourage new uses of mercury in industrial processes
	Annex B: Manufacturing processes in which mercury or mercury compounds are used Part I: Processes subject to Article 5, paragraph 2 - Chlor-alkali production, phase out date 2025 - Acetaldehyde production in which mercury or mercury compounds are used as a catalyst, phase out date 2018 Part II: Processes subject to Article 5, paragraph 3: - Vinyl chloride monomer production - Sodium or Potassium Methylate or Ethylate Production of polyurethane using mercury containing catalysts

INSTITUTION OR ORGANIZATION	
Name of institution / organization: **MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND INDUSTRY**	**Role with respect to the above listed provisions:** - Competent authority for the licensing of activities related to chemicals classified as hazardous.
	Relevant institutional capacity in place:
Name of institution / organization: **MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT**	**Role with respect to the above listed provisions:** - Drafting legislation, policies.
	Relevant institutional capacity in place:
Name of institution / organization: **NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY**	**Role with respect to the above listed provisions:** - the authority which issues environmental permits, - Information on industrial activities in the country
	Relevant institutional capacity in place: - NEA which issues environmental permits for operators that have discharges into mercury, water or land has low technical capacity to address this issue while setting environmental permit conditions. - There is no register of mercury related activities.
Name of institution / organization: **STATE INSPECTORATE FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS**	**Role with respect to the above listed provisions:** Control of the implementation of legislation on chemicals and international conventions on chemicals ratified by the Republic of Albania
	Relevant institutional capacity in place: The technical capacities on addressing mercury are almost completely missing
Remaining capacity gaps that need to be addressed before provisions can be met:	

ARTICLE 7 – ARTISANAL AND SMALL-SCALE GOLD MINING (ASGM)	
Succinct summary of provisions relevant to Albania	- Take measures to reduce, and where feasible, eliminate mercury and mercury compound use, emissions (to air), and releases (to land and water) associated with ASGM Annex C: Artisanal and small-scale gold mining

INSTITUTION OR ORGANIZATION	
Name of institution / organization: **MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT**	**Role with respect to the above listed provisions:** - Drafts legislation, policies and action plans for all points; - Monitors and inspects mercury information
	Relevant institutional capacity in place: There is no ASGM activity in Albania. It is not necessary to develop capacities for this purpose
Remaining capacity gaps that need to be addressed before provisions can be met:	
- There is no ASGM activity in Albania. It is not necessary to develop capacities for this purpose	

ARTICLE 8 - EMISSIONS	
Succinct summary of provisions relevant to Albania	-Take measures to control emissions, optionally prepare a national plan setting out measures to be taken to control emissions and its expected targets, goals and outcomes; - Require the use of best available techniques/best environmental practices (BAT/BEP) for new (as defined in Article 8.2(c)) sources listed in Annex D - Require one or more measures as below to mercury emissions control/ reduce from existing sources listed in Annex D, which shall be operational at the source within 10 years - Require monitoring/reporting and otherwise **establish a mercury emissions inventory for sources** listed in Annex D: (a) A quantified goal for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources; (b) Emission limit values for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources; (c) The use of best available techniques and best environmental practices to control emissions from relevant sources; (d) A multi-pollutant control strategy that would deliver co-benefits for control of mercury emissions; (e) Alternative measures to reduce emissions from relevant sources.
	Annex D: List of point sources of emissions of mercury and mercury compounds to the atmosphere Point source category: - Coal-fired power plants; - Coal-fired industrial boilers; - Smelting and roasting processes used in the production of non-ferrous metals (lead, zinc, copper and industrial gold); - Waste incineration facilities; - Cement clinker production facilities.

INSTITUTION OR ORGANIZATION	
Name of institution / organization: **MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT**	**Role with respect to the above listed provisions:** - Drafting of legislation and policies; - Establishes a national system for air emissions and coordinates the work with NEA for reporting to CLRTAP; - The implementation of BAT / BEP is a requirement of the applicable law on environmental permits. - Focal Point of CLRTAP
	Relevant institutional capacity in place: - MoE has sufficient capacity for discharge registers for the implementation of BAT / BEP. - Specific training on mercury emissions and discharges may be needed.
Name of institution / organization: **NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY**	**Role with respect to the above listed provisions:** - The PRTR Convention - Based on the PRTR Convention there are specified the types of activities that need to report on the emissions of mercury and its compounds (as Hg) in land and water. This register is managed by NEA.
	Relevant institutional capacity in place: - NEA which issues environmental permits for operators that have discharges into mercury, water or land has low technical capacity to address this issue while setting environmental permit conditions.
Name of institution / organization: **STATE INSPECTORATE FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS**	**Role with respect to the above listed provisions:** The Environmental Inspectorate is the competent authority for controlling the environmental permit conditions, including the obligation to report pollutant emissions
	Relevant institutional capacity in place: The technical capacities of the Environmental Inspectorate as regards addressing mercury are almost completely missing
Name of institution / organization: **MINISTRY OF HEALTH**	**Role with respect to the above listed provisions:** The role of the Ministry of Health in relation to this article is for the incineration of hospital waste
	Relevant institutional capacity in place:

Remaining capacity gaps that need to be addressed before provisions can be met:
- NEA which issues environmental permits for operators that have discharges into mercury, water or land has low technical capacity to address this issue while setting environmental permit conditions. - Reporting on the discharge and transfer of pollutants from economic operators is very limited, despite the legal obligation. - The technical capacities of the Environmental Inspectorate regarding addressing mercury are almost completely missing. There is a need to strengthen the capacities associated with the specificity of mercury

ARTICLE 9 – RELEASES TO LAND AND WATER	
Succinct summary of provisions relevant to Albania	- Identification of the relevant point source categories no later than three years after entry into force of the Convention for Albania - Take measures to control releases, possibly prepare a national plan for it. The plan must be submitted to CoP within four years after entry into force of the Convention for Albania. - Require reporting or otherwise obtain information as needed to identify significant sources of mercury/mercury compound releases to land or water, and to maintain an inventory of releases from the sources identified - Take as appropriate one or more measures as below to control/reduce mercury and mercury compound releases to land and water from significant sources: (a) Release limit values to control and, where feasible, reduce releases from relevant sources; (b) The use of best available techniques and best environmental practices to control releases from relevant sources; (c) A multi-pollutant control strategy that would deliver co-benefits for control of mercury releases; (d) Alternative measures to reduce releases from relevant sources. A national plan may be prepared.

INSTITUTION OR ORGANIZATION	
Name of institution / organization: **MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT**	**Role with respect to the above listed provisions:** - Drafting of legislation and policies; - Monitor the environment and issue environmental permits for industrial activities. - The implementation of BAT / BEP is a requirement of the applicable law on environmental permits.
	Relevant institutional capacity in place: - MoE has sufficient capacity for discharge registers for the implementation of BAT / BEP. - Specific training on mercury emissions and discharges may be needed.
Name of institution / organization: **NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY**	**Role with respect to the above listed provisions:** - The PRTR Convention - Based on the PRTR Convention there are specified the types of activities that need to report on the emissions of mercury and its compounds (as Hg) in land and water. This register is managed by NEA.
	Relevant institutional capacity in place: - NEA which issues environmental permits for operators that have discharges into mercury, water or land has low technical capacity to address this issue while setting environmental permit conditions.
Name of institution / organization: **STATE INSPECTORATE FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS**	**Role with respect to the above listed provisions:** The Environmental Inspectorate is the competent authority for controlling the environmental permit conditions, including the obligation to report pollutant emissions.
	Relevant institutional capacity in place: The technical capacities of the Environmental Inspectorate as regards addressing mercury are almost completely missing.
Remaining capacity gaps that need to be addressed before provisions can be met:	
- NEA which issues environmental permits for operators that have discharges into mercury, water or land has low technical capacity to address this issue while setting environmental permit conditions. - Reporting on the discharge and transfer of pollutants from economic operators is very limited, despite the legal obligation. - The technical capacities of the Environmental Inspectorate regarding addressing mercury are almost completely missing. There is a need to strengthen the capacities associated with the specificity of mercury.	

ARTICLE 10 – ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND INTERIM STORAGE OF MERCURY, OTHER THAN WASTE MERCURY	
Succinct summary of provisions relevant to Albania	Take measures to ensure interim storage of mercury and its compounds intended for a use allowed to a Party is conducted in an environmentally sound manner, taking into account relevant guidelines developed under the **Basel Convention** and additional requirements for interim storage that may be adopted by the Conference of the Parties (COP)
INSTITUTION OR ORGANIZATION	
Name of institution / organization: **MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT**	**Role with respect to the above listed provisions:** - Drafting of legislation and policies; - Monitors the environment and issues environmental permits for industrial activities.
	Relevant institutional capacity in place: - Specific training on temporary storage of mercury may be necessary.
Name of institution / organization: **NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY**	**Role with respect to the above listed provisions:** - NEA issues environmental permits
	Relevant institutional capacity in place: - NEA which issues environmental permits for operators that have discharges into mercury, water or land has low technical capacity to address this issue while setting environmental permit conditions.
Name of institution / organization: **STATE INSPECTORATE FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS**	**Role with respect to the above listed provisions:** The Environmental Inspectorate is the competent authority for controlling the environmental permit conditions
	Relevant institutional capacity in place: The technical capacities of the Environmental Inspectorate as regards addressing mercury are almost completely missing.
Remaining capacity gaps that need to be addressed before provisions can be met:	
- NEA which issues environmental permits for operators that have discharges into mercury, water or land has low technical capacity to address this issue while setting environmental permit conditions. - The technical capacities of the Environmental Inspectorate as regards addressing mercury are almost completely missing There is a need to strengthen the capacities related to the specificity of mercury.	

ARTICLE 11 – MERCURY WASTES	
Succinct summary of provisions relevant to Albania	- Use the definition of mercury waste consistent with Article 11.2: mercury wastes means substances or objects: (a) Consisting of mercury or mercury compounds; (b) Containing mercury or mercury compounds; or (c) Contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds, in a quantity above the relevant thresholds defined by the Conference of the Parties - Take measures to manage mercury wastes in an environmentally sound manner, taking into account guidelines developed under the Basel Convention and in accordance with CoP requirements to be developed. - Take measures to restrict mercury derived from the treatment or re-use of mercury waste to allowed uses under the Convention or environmentally sound disposal - Prevent the import and use of mercury from primary mercury mining for artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) - Require transport across international boundaries only for the purpose of environmentally sound disposal in accordance with the Basel Convention, or if the Basel Convention does not apply, consistent with international rules, standards, and guidelines.
INSTITUTION OR ORGANIZATION	
Name of institution / organization: **MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT**	**Role with respect to the above listed provisions:** MoE drafts legislation and national policies related to hazardous waste management.
	Relevant institutional capacity in place:
Name of institution / organization: **NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY**	**Role with respect to the above listed provisions:** NEA is the institution responsible for the transfer of waste, including hazardous ones. Since 2015, waste transfer registers have been established.
	Relevant institutional capacity in place: NEA which issues environmental permits has low technical capacity to address this issue while setting environmental permit conditions.

Name of institution / organization: **STATE INSPECTORATE FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS**	**Role with respect to the above listed provisions:** The Environmental Inspectorate is the competent authority for controlling the environmental permit conditions
	Relevant institutional capacity in place: The technical capacities of the Environmental Inspectorate as regards addressing mercury are almost completely missing.
Remaining capacity gaps that need to be addressed before provisions can be met:	
ARTICLE 12 – CONTAMINATED SITES	
Succinct summary of provisions relevant to Albania	- Develop strategies for identifying and assessing mercury/ mercury compound contaminated sites - If risk reduction activities are taken at contaminated sites, they are taken in an environmentally sound manner, incorporating risk assessment where appropriate. CoP shall adopt guidance on site identification and characterization, engaging the public, human health and environment risk assessment, options for managing the risks, evaluation of benefits and costs and validation of outcomes.
INSTITUTION OR ORGANIZATION	
Name of institution / organization: **MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT**	**Role with respect to the above listed provisions:** - Drafting legislation and national environmental policies - Coordinators with donors to facilitate the financing of projects that reduce the risk in contaminated sites
	Relevant institutional capacity in place:
Name of institution / organization: **NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY**	**Role with respect to the above listed provisions:** - Monitoring after rehabilitation
	Relevant institutional capacity in place: The area of Ex-Soda PVC Vlorë is considered as rehabilitated, but there is no monitoring from NEA of the situation after rehabilition. Capacities of NEA with this respect are low from the technical, as well as financial viewpoint.
Name of institution / organization: **STATE INSPECTORATE FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS**	**Role with respect to the above listed provisions:** The Environmental Inspectorate is the competent authority for controlling the environmental permit conditions
	Relevant institutional capacity in place: The technical capacities of the Environmental Inspectorate as regards addressing mercury are almost completely missing.

Name of institution / organization: **REGIONAL DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH - VLORE**	**Role with respect to the above listed provisions:** **Relevant institutional capacity in place:** Does not have the appropriate technical and human capacity to monitor mercury or its health effects
Name of institution / organization: **EDEN Center**	**Role with respect to the above listed provisions:** Studies on contaminated sites **Relevant institutional capacity in place:**
Remaining capacity gaps that need to be addressed before provisions can be met:	
The area of Ex-Soda PVC Vlorë is considered as rehabilitated, but there is no monitoring from NEA of the situation after rehabilitation. Capacities of NEA are low technically and financially.	

ARTICLE 13 – FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND MECHANISMS	
Succinct summary of provisions relevant to Albania	- National resources to implement the Convention - Mechanisms to support developing countries and countries with economies in transition to fulfil the obligations under the Convention. Access to financial resources available under the Convention financial mechanism and other resources available from multilateral, regional, and bilateral funding sources
INSTITUTION OR ORGANIZATION	
Name of institution / organization: **MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT**	**Role with respect to the above listed provisions:** Initiates and coordinates projects that are covered by the state budget in accordance with medium-term budget programs Initiates and coordinates projects with foreign funding **Relevant institutional capacity in place:** There is no feasibility study for the implementation of the Convention obligations
Name of institution / organization: **MINISTRIA E FINANCAVE** **Drejtoria e Buxhetit**	**Role with respect to the above listed provisions:** **Relevant institutional capacity in place:**
Name of institution / organization: **MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND INDUSTRY**	**Role with respect to the above listed provisions:** Funding for the maintenance and storage of Mercury Waste Landfill in Ex Soda PVC plant is made by the State Budget through MEI's budget planning. **Relevant institutional capacity in place:**

Remaining capacity gaps that need to be addressed before provisions can be met:
A feasibility study on the implementation of the obligations of the Convention is required on which basis to be identified potential projects to be financed in this regard.

ARTICLE 14 – CAPACITY BUILDING, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER	
Succinct summary of provisions relevant to Albania	Capacity building and technical assistance to developing country Parties to assist them in implementing their obligations under Minamata Convention through regional, sub-regional and national arrangements, including existing regional and sub-regional centres, partnerships, etc.
INSTITUTION OR ORGANIZATION	
Name of institution / organization: **MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT**	**Role with respect to the above listed provisions:** - Regional and international co-operation **Relevant institutional capacity in place:**
Remaining capacity gaps that need to be addressed before provisions can be met:	
- There is no national training program dedicated to mercury. The design of such a program to involve all concerned parties according to the Convention articles would be necessary.	

ARTICLE 16 – HEALTH ASPECTS	
Succinct summary of provisions relevant to Albania	- Promote the development and implementation of strategies to identify and protect populations at risk, particularly vulnerable populations, such as developing health guidelines on exposure , setting targets for Hg exposure reduction, where appropriate and public education with the participation of public health and other involved sectors - Promote educational and prevention programs on occupational exposure to mercury and mercury compounds - Promote appropriate health care services for prevention, treatment, and care for populations affected by mercury exposure - Building and strengthening institutional and profesional health capacities for prevention, treatment and monitoring of health risks related to exposure to mercury or its compounds

INSTITUTION OR ORGANIZATION	
Name of institution / organization: **MINISTRY OF HEALTH**	**Role with respect to the above listed provisions:** - The Ministry of Health has a mission to draft and implement policies and development strategies in the healthcare sector.
	Relevant institutional capacity in place: - There is no program or strategy for identifying and protecting populations at-risk from mercury, nor any education program for preventing occupational mercury exposure. Also, there is lack of sufficient institutional and health professional capacities for the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and monitoring of health risks related to exposure to mercury and mercury compounds.
Name of institution / organization: **INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH**	**Role with respect to the above listed provisions:** - Risk assessment of pollutants in health, studies - Occupational Health
	Relevant institutional capacity in place: - There are no mercury related activities ongoing
Name of institution / organization: **MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT**	**Role with respect to the above listed provisions:** - Collaborative role with responsible Institutions
	Relevant institutional capacity in place:

Remaining capacity gaps that need to be addressed before provisions can be met:

- There is no program or strategy for identifying and protecting populations at risk from mercury.
- There are insufficient institutional and professional capacities for prevention, diagnosis, treatment and monitoring of health risks related to exposure to mercury and mercury compounds.
- There is no educational program to prevent mercury exposure to work.
- No activity has been undertaken since 2010 to promote the prevention and treatment of potentially affected population exposure

ARTICLE 17 /18– INFORMATION EXCHANGE, PUBLIC INFORMATION, AWARENESS AND EDUCATION	
Succinct summary of provisions relevant to Albania	- Facilitate the exchange of scientific, technical and legal information concerning mercury and mercury compounds, including toxicological, eco-toxicological and safety information, information on reduction or elimination of production, use, trade, emissions and releases of mercury and its compounds, on viable alternatives to products, processes and activities that involve mercury or its compounds, - Share information on the health and safety of humans and the environment as non-confidential, in accordance with Article 17.5 - Report to the CoP on progress in implementing Convention obligations under Article 21 Each Party shall designate **a national focal point** for the exchange of information under the Convention, including with regard to the consent of the importing Parties under Article 3
	- Each Party shall promote and facilitate provision to the public of available information on health and environmental effects of mercury and its compounds, alternatives to mercury and its compounds, information concerning mercury and mercury compounds, including toxicological, eco-toxicological and safety information, information on reduction or elimination of production, use, trade, emissions and releases of mercury and its compounds, on viable alternatives to products, processes and activities that involve mercury or its compounds, results of research, development and monitoring activities. - Promote and facilitate education, training and public awareness related to effects of exposure to mercury and its compounds on human health and environment in collaboration with relevant IGOs and NGOs and vulnerable populations. - shall use the existing mechanisms or consider the development of mechanisms, such as pollutant release and transfer registers for the collection and dissemination of information on estimates of annual quantities of mercury or its compounds that are emitted, released or disposed of through human activities

INSTITUTION OR ORGANIZATION	
Name of institution / organization: **MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT**	**Role with respect to the above listed provisions:** According to the legislation in force, MoE is the competent authority for exchanging information and public awareness on environmental issues. The Ministry of Environment has its website, the environmental bulletin and at the same time organizes awareness raising campaigns on various issues. Awareness raising regarding the presence of mercury in use products and the effects of mercury on health and environment, care to be taken for disposal or in case of accident and release of mercury from products to the environment (for products up to date Of the prohibition on the importation of the products listed in Part A of Schedule A). The information sector cooperates with the technical sector covering the Convention and can organize awareness campaigns.
	Relevant institutional capacity in place:
Name of institution / organization: **MINISTRY OF HEALTH**	**Role with respect to the above listed provisions:** As a politicy making institution, the MoH regulates by legal and sub-legal acts the promotion and facilitation of the provision of public information on relevant public health issues, the factors affecting it.
	Relevant institutional capacity in place:
Name of institution / organization: **INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH**	**Role with respect to the above listed provisions:** - Department of Health Promotion
	Relevant institutional capacity in place:
Name of institution / organization: **REC**	**Role with respect to the above listed provisions:** - Promotion of awareness campaigns with the involvement of civil society, - Involvement in the development of modules for institutional and professional capacity building
	Relevant institutional capacity in place:

Name of institution / organization:	**Role with respect to the above listed provisions:**
EDEN Center	Awareness on the effects of mercury, especially in polluted areas
	Kapaciteti institucional lidhur me kërkesat e Konventës
	Adequate for monitoring health condition

Remaining capacity gaps that need to be addressed before provisions can be met:

- Enhancing the technical capacity and information related to the Mercury would help to organize awareness-raising campaigns
- It is necessary to regulate the obligation of the responsible institutions for the exchange of information regarding the health impacts of exposure to mercury and its compounds, in close cooperation with WHO and other relevant organizations, as well as increasing awareness on the exposure to mercury.

ARTICLE 19 – RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND MONITORING	
Succinct summary of provisions relevant to Albania	1. Parties shall endeavour to cooperate to develop and improve, taking into account their respective circumstances and capabilities: (a) Inventories of use, consumption, and anthropogenic emissions to air and releases to water and land of mercury and mercury compounds; (b) Modelling and geographically representative monitoring of levels of mercury and mercury compounds in vulnerable populations and in environmental media, collaboration in the collection and exchange of relevant and appropriate samples; (c) Assessments of the impact of mercury and mercury compounds on human health and the environment, particularly in respect of vulnerable populations; (d) Harmonized methodologies for the activities undertaken under subparagraphs (a), (b) and (c); (e) Information on the environmental cycle, transport (including long-range transport and deposition), transformation and fate of mercury and mercury compounds in a range of ecosystems, (f) Information on commerce and trade in mercury and mercury compounds and mercury-added products; and (g) Information and research on the technical and economic availability of mercury-free products and processes and on BAT/BEP to reduce and monitor emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds. 2. Parties should, where appropriate, build on existing monitoring networks and research programmes in undertaking the activities identified in paragraph 1.

<table>
<tr><th colspan="2">INSTITUTION OR ORGANIZATION</th></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Name of institution / organization:

UNIVERSITETY OF TIRANA, FACULTY OF NATURAL SCIENCES</td><td>Role with respect to the above listed provisions:

FNS/UT has conducted studies on monitoring mercury levels in the air through biomonitoring</td></tr>
<tr><td>Relevant institutional capacity in place:

The Laboratory analyzing mercury has analytical and human capacities of a high level but is not accredited</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Name of institution / organization:

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY</td><td>Role with respect to the above listed provisions:

Monitoring of the state of the environment, chemical analysis of pollutants, including heavy metals</td></tr>
<tr><td>Relevant institutional capacity in place:

Laboratory is not accredited for mercury analysis</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Name of institution / organization:

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT</td><td>Role with respect to the above listed provisions:

Competent authority for international co-operation

The focal point of the Convention</td></tr>
<tr><td>Relevant institutional capacity in place:</td></tr>
<tr><th colspan="2">Remaining capacity gaps that need to be addressed before provisions can be met:</th></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Scientific research institutions may have studies in this field, but there is lack of coordination and cooperation with competent authorities to make their data public.

Accreditation of laboratories carrying out mercury chemical analysis is needed

Strengthening coordination and incorporating scientific institutions into mercury monitoring projects in the environment is indispensable.</td></tr>
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ARTICLE 21 – REPORTING	
Succinct summary of provisions relevant to Albania	1. Each Party shall report to the Conference of the Parties, through the Secretariat, on the measures it has taken to implement the provisions of this Convention and on the effectiveness of such measures and the possible challenges in meeting the objectives of the Convention. 2. Each Party shall include in its reporting the information as called for in Articles 3, 5, 7, 8 and 9 of this Convention. *3.* The Conference of the Parties shall, at its first meeting, decide upon the timing and format of the reporting to be followed by the Parties, taking into account the desirability of coordinating reporting with other relevant chemicals and wastes conventions.
INSTITUTION OR ORGANIZATION	
Name of institution / organization: **MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT**	**Role with respect to the above listed provisions:** - Focal point for the Convention **Relevant institutional capacity in place:**
Remaining capacity gaps that need to be addressed before provisions can be met:	