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Sweden urges further EU restrictions on mercury

The EU's revised mercury strategy should include restrictions on use in dental fillings, the Swedish government has said in a note to be discussed at a meeting of environment ministers next week. The note was published by the Council of Ministers on Tuesday.

The revised strategy, due this year, should be completed as soon as possible in order to provide input to [global negotiations on mercury](#), says Sweden. Mercury-free dental fillings are already available, it adds. [Sweden has banned mercury in dentistry](#).

Mercury use in dental amalgams is the largest remaining use of mercury in products not restricted in the EU. In 2008, a [consultancy study](#) said the European Commission should "seriously consider" restrictions in this area, saying it would significantly cut pollution.

The study also recommended extending existing restrictions on some thermometers to include industrial applications. Other measures explored included restrictions in porosimeters. Use in this area is "substantially larger than previously expected".

Green group EEB also called for further action in a letter to environment ministers, such as phasing out mercury use in the chlor-alkali industry and measures to reduce emissions from coal-fired power plants, which they say is the largest source of pollution in Europe.

Follow Up:

[Swedish information note](#) to the Council of Ministers and [EEB letter on mercury](#). See also [commission's page on the mercury strategy](#)