



MILJØVERNDEPARTEMENTET



( The Norwegian Ministry of Environment )

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## Ban on mercury

At the international negotiations on mercury convention in Chiba, Japan this week, Norway proposes a global ban on the use of mercury in products. Norway suggests that limits for emissions from major sources such as industry should be agreed on. Norway is a driving force for an ambitious agreement that will lead to significant reductions of emissions from industries and processes, and to a phasing out of mercury in products. There is still great disagreement about how strict the agreement can be, and there can be difficult negotiations over the next two years.

Mercury is a hazardous substance that is spread over long distances. Mercury accumulates in animals and the food chain, and fish in many areas contain too much mercury. Children and fetuses may develop permanent injuries when they are exposed to mercury pollution. Norway and the Arctic receives significant amounts of mercury from other places in the world. Countries, which are meeting this week are facing major challenges, and technical assistance and financing to developing countries will be an important part of the agreement. The agreement must be reached before 2013.

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