

Latest news regarding EU vote on dental amalgam:

October 2013 was a momentous month in the fight against dental mercury amalgam fillings. On the 10th October, a legally binding international treaty to control the use of mercury was signed into action and thanks largely to the work of The Campaign for Mercury-Free Dentistry, the project organised and led by Charlie Brown of Consumers for Dental Choice, the treaty gave special attention to amalgam.

<http://www.mercuryconvention.org/Home/Video/tabid/3455/Default.aspx>

Making the signing even more poignant, it was signed in Minamata, Japan, a city where hundreds of residents have died, and thousands have become ill, due to poisoning from excessive mercury exposure over a more than 50-year period.

It took a three-year campaign encompassing five negotiation sessions with all the nations, 15 regional sessions, dozens of papers and reports, and hundreds of meetings with individual governments... but the hard work paid off.

<http://www.mercuryconvention.org/Countries/tabid/3428/Default.aspx>

The treaty, named the **United Nations Minamata Convention on Mercury**, requires the phasing out of many mercury-containing products, including thermometers, by 2020, and also calls for an end to all mercury mining within 15

years. <http://www.unep.org/newscentre/default.aspx?DocumentID=2702&ArticleID=9373>

Importantly, the treaty is being hailed as marking the beginning of the end for dental amalgam around the world, as it mandates that each nation phase down amalgam use.

In November, 2014, the European Commission announced a public consultation: "Mercury – Have your say on the EU implementation of the Minamata Convention". It posed this question to Europeans in all 28 Member States:

Question 6: Should we just phase down amalgam use...  
or should we phase OUT amalgam use?

Charlie Brown, Attorney, of Consumers for Dental Choice, asked me to head the campaign here in the UK.

The result of the vote: Europeans voted 88% to 12% to phase OUT amalgam.

The Honourable MEP Michele Rivasi announced this success at a news conference on the 7th May, 2015 at the European Parliament in Brussels.

It is now time for the European Commission to make its decision. Every step has been taken; the consultant (BIOIS), <http://mercury.biois.com/> the hearings and public comments, the reports of health scientists committee and the environmental scientists committee (SCENIHR & SCHER)

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific\\_committees/emerging/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific_committees/emerging/index_en.htm) and the vote by the public; the entire process is over. The European Commission needs to announce the end date for amalgam for the 28 nations of the E.U.