



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL ENVIRONMENT

The Director General

- 4 -10- 2006

Brussels,  
SYB-2006-AA1611

Ms. Helen Bjørnøy  
Minister of the Environment  
Royal Ministry of the Environment  
PO Box 8013 Dep  
N-0030 Oslo  
Norway

Dear Ms Bjørnøy,


On behalf of President Barroso, and Commissioners Dimas and Wallström, I would like to thank you for your letter dated 12 September and for your contributions and support during the development and the ongoing implementation of the Mercury Strategy.

The export ban is an important action in the Mercury Strategy, the whole of which has been approved by the Council and the European Parliament. The Commission is currently working intensively on its implementation.

I share your point of view that further international action and co-operation are needed to reduce the impacts of mercury. The Commission will provide the necessary support in the upcoming negotiations at the UNEP Governing Council in February next year. I am also very glad that Norway will participate in the international mercury conference that the Commission is arranging 26-27 October. The aim of the conference is to increase international awareness of mercury issues and to facilitate contacts for further discussion, in particular at UNEP level.

I can assure you that the Commission is as concerned as you are to take effective action on mercury.

Yours sincerely,  
for the Director General

  
D. Grant LAWRENCE  
Director  
M.P. Carl