

Freunde alter Wetterinstrumente



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Freunde alter Wetterinstrumente - Germany

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About: The forthcoming EU directive concerning mercury in measure devices and the consequences for "Friends of old weather instruments"

As an elected member of the European parliament you will have to vote soon about a directive, which will have a great negative effect on the cultural heritage of Europe. Parties inflicted are: Museums, physic-technical collections, Antique dealers, restorers of traditional craftsmanship and passionate collectors.



As you can see in our URL, we are an Internet portal for passionate collectors of historical weather instruments, in which Barometers and Thermometers of course are the most important objects. The invention and technical improvements of these instruments is related to great European geniuses as: Galilei, Torricelli, Viviani, Hooke, Huygens and Amontons to name just a few.

In both instruments mercury (Hg) has played a decisive role from the early beginning. In old thermometers it is the linearity of mercury which makes it irreplaceable. In liquid barometers the high density (13,5g/cm³) and the fact that Hg is liquid at room temperature makes it even 350 years after Torricelli irreplaceable for fluid barometers. In the meantime for the modern thermometers it gives alternatives.

Well, mercury is toxic, this fact is taught to children in prime school and because of its typical appearance easily to recognize. Thank god, one could say, because it makes responsible handling with it very easy. No one would confuse mercury with any other liquid, so accidental drinking, as possible with many other poisons, which can be found in the domestic medicine or kitchen cabinet, is out of the question.

We, "Friends of old weather instruments" are fully aware of the responsibility for handling with mercury and its environmental problems. From the early beginning we hosted a forum

on this theme. That this is not a hollow statement can be found on our homepage. Please take a moment to look at our "Quick-NEWS-site". You will be amazed about the information given to the viewer and collector. We see to it that all the information is scientific correct to avoid any kind of hysteria. We do this since 2002, so before we knew anything about a directive from Brussels ever being discussed.

To make it clear, the FAW-Team is not against mercury being banned in those things in which suitable replacements are available. As representatives of the worldwide collectors we urge you to take in mind the object for which the liquid metal for technical reasons can't now and perhaps never can be replaced.

Mercury is a element from the beginning of the earth and will be around us for ever. We cant just put it away. In my opinion we just have to deal with it whit care and responsibility. Worldwide Vulcan's erupt yearly about 150.000 tons of Hg in the atmosphere. From this reservoir 1,1 billion barometers could be filled every year.

As a relatively small group of collectors we feel obliged to maintain and preserve the heritage from the past. We enjoy the beautiful barometers and thermometers which have passed on us through the centuries. We keep them functional and pass them on to the next generation.

Please keep in mind that to do this, there has to be a european infrastructure of specialists and manufacturers, to preserve, service and retail it. They also assure that the handling of mercury stays in professional hands and will not be done by illegal workshops.

Europe can be proud of his 17th century scientists. On the base of there work our technical revolution could be founded. The rest of the world envies us for this achievement. Therefore it is hardly thinkable that our present European representatives, 350 years later, want to ban our cultural heritage behind bars

Mister Adamou, please don't let it come so far and vote for the derogation by Mr. Callanan so we can follow our passion further on just as responsible as we have done for years.

We would be very thankful if you voted in favor of the amendment.

Best regards,

Gerhard Stöhr
<http://www.freunde-alter-wetterinstrumente.de>