

FORA AMALGAMA DENTAL DE MERCURI
(PHASE OUT MERCURY DENTAL AMALGAMS)
PERE BICARDÍ-VIVES

**REPORT OF THE MEETING WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF CATALONIA [SPAIN] on APRIL 12, 2013**

The project that promotes the end of mercury dental amalgams in Catalonia, due to the high risk of toxicity and therefore harmful to both health and the environment, led by Pere Bicardi-Vives, in collaboration with the departments of Health and Environment of the Generalitat [Government] of Catalonia, and the Dentistry and Chemistry Professional Colleges of Catalonia, plus considering and valuing other reports from pioneering countries such as Sweden (supplied by the Swedish Embassy in Madrid, country where for long measures against this product had been applied), reaches its ultimate goals.

In the meeting held at the headquarters of the Department of Health of the Generalitat of Catalonia, on April 12, 2013, with heads of the Secretary of Public Health, doctors Antonio Mateo and Manuel Llorens and with the project manager in Catalonia of “*Phase out mercury dental amalgams*”, Pere Bicardi, it was finalized this project, as they consider that all the objectives have been achieved. Those objectives are summarized below:

- *Removing mercury dental amalgams.* It was reduced the use of mercury dental amalgams in dental fillings, which in 2005 was 85%, to near zero in 2013 in Catalonia. We must note that in the rest of Spain the use of mercury dental amalgams is still very high.
- *Professional awareness.* Dentists not only have stopped using mercury dental amalgams, but also they advise patients that, in a gradual manner, these dental fillings are replaced by less toxic dental fillings.
- *Environmental protection.* Installation and implementation of filters for the collection of mercury in incinerators located in the cemeteries of Montjuïc and Collserola in order to prevent the pollution of this metal on the land, aquifers, sea and fish, when people carrier of these mercury amalgams die and are cremated. These two incinerators represent approximately 80% of all cremations performed in Catalonia.

Through this report we wish to acknowledge the cooperation of all parties and individuals involved in the project, and their ability to work united together for one common cause, as it is the health of all the citizens of Catalonia.



PERE BICARDÍ-VIVES

Degree in Chemistry and project manager in Catalonia of “Phase out mercury dental amalgams”.
L'Escala [Girona, Catalonia], April 15, 2013.