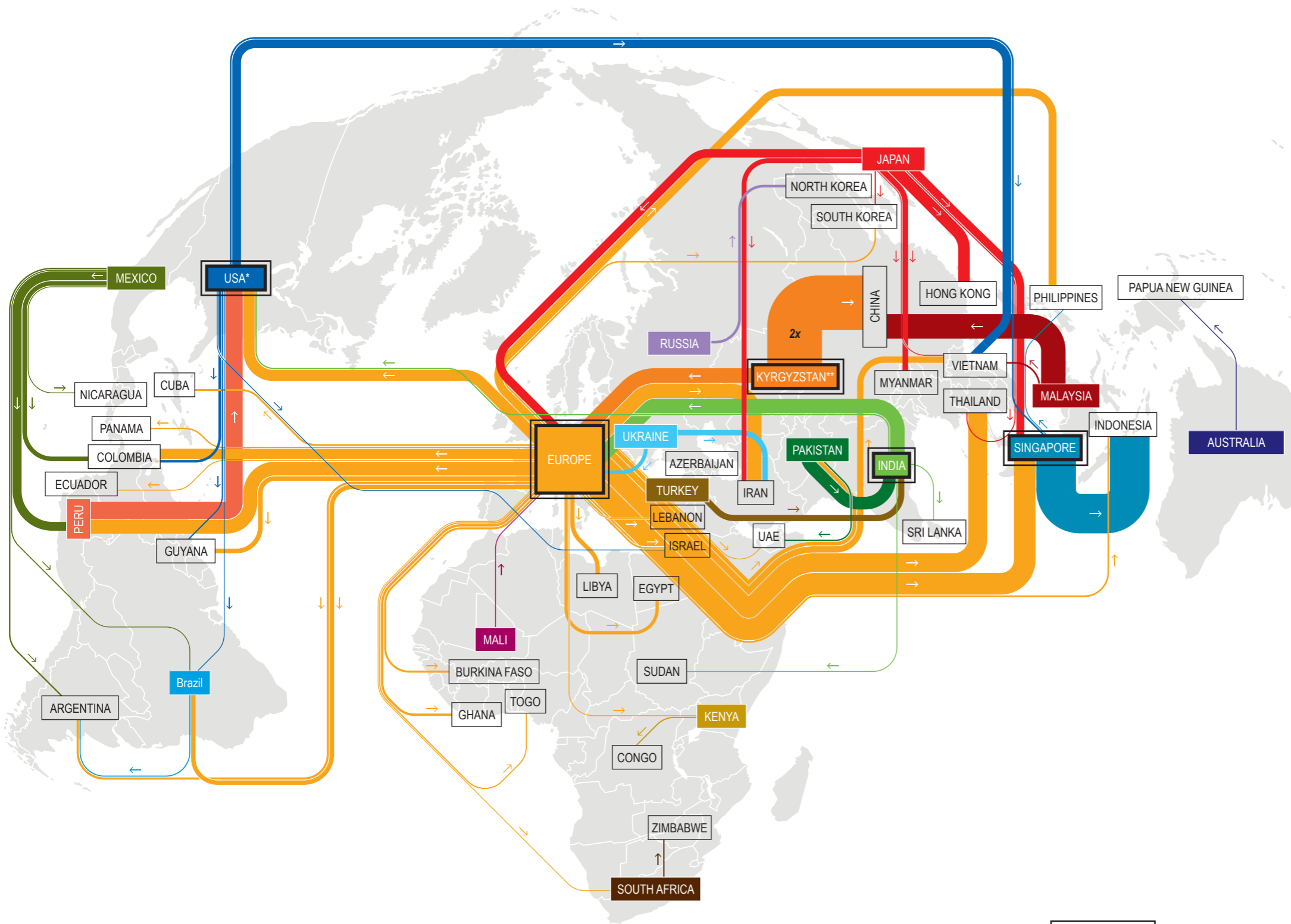
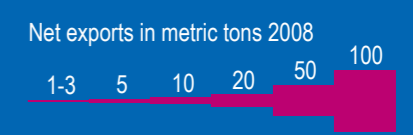


mercury trade in the world



mercury trade in the world

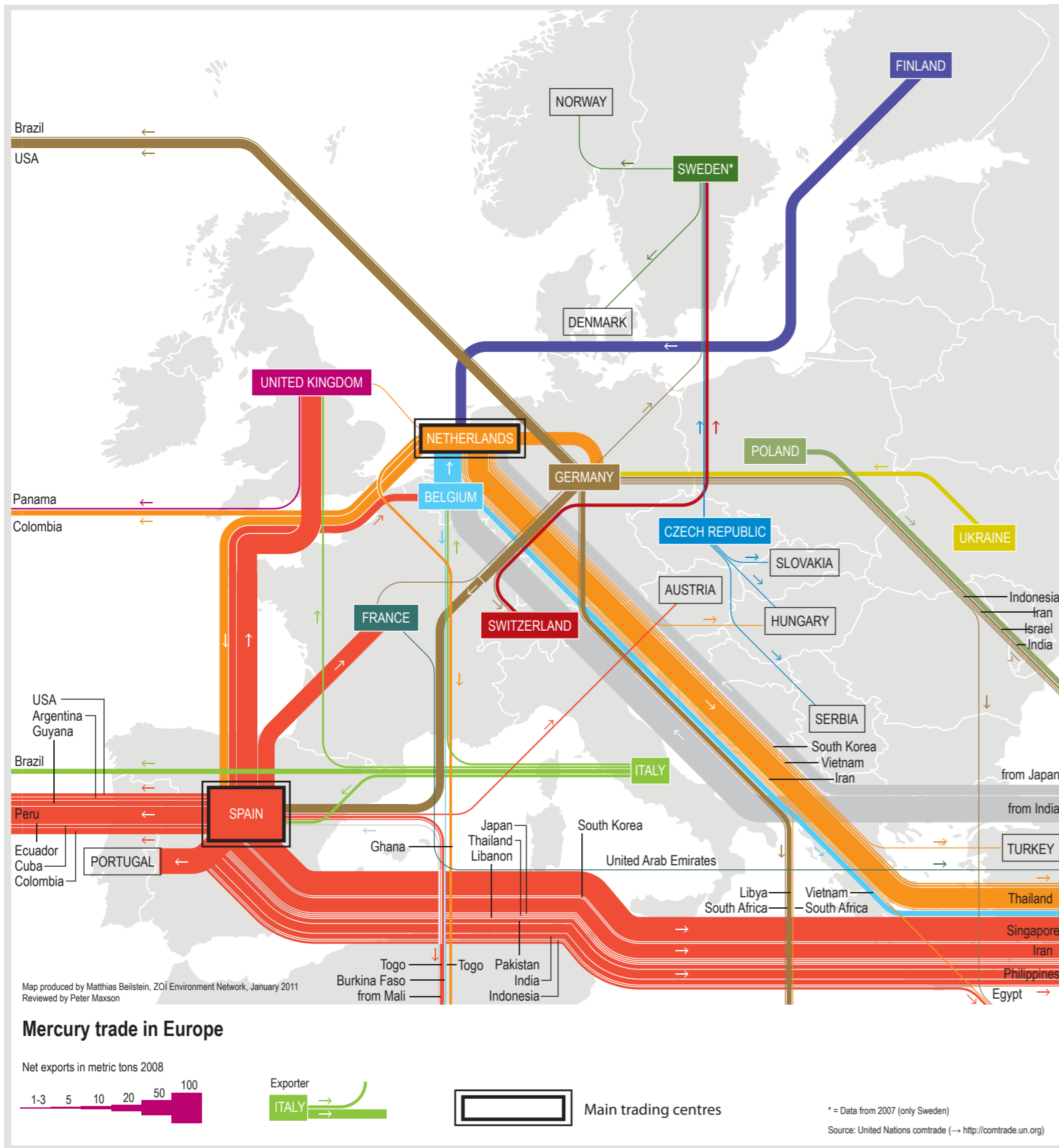


* = Data from 2007 (USA)
 ** = Data from 2004 (Kyrgyzstan)

Source: United Nations comtrade (<http://comtrade.un.org>) January 2011
 Map produced by Matthias Beilstein, ZOI Environment Network,
 Reviewed by Peter Maxson

Zoi Environment Network
www.zoinet.org





A solid appreciation of commercial mercury trade is a vital foundation upon which governments can build effective strategies and promote specific measures to address national and global mercury challenges. A full understanding of mercury trade requires an understanding of transactions inside any given country, an understanding of the transactions between different countries, and finally an appreciation of the trade between different regions.

Some of the main objectives of more closely examining commercial mercury trade include:

- To better understand the specific sources and uses, the trade routes, the main stakeholders involved, etc.;
- To better inform not only those countries and regions that have established plans and targets for reducing mercury supply and demand, but also international agencies mandated to take a broader approach to addressing mercury problems;
- To support the national and regional initiatives addressing mercury supply and demand - those already in place and those being developed - to be as effective as possible; and
- To provide a tool to measure progress toward national and international objectives of reducing mercury flows in the biosphere through reductions in mercury supply and demand.

Identifying national mercury transactions is not an insurmountable challenge, but few countries have systems in place to collect and centralize information on domestic commercial transactions of mercury. Nevertheless, some governments are beginning to get a reasonable grasp on the links between global sources and domestic uses of mercury.

Mercury transactions between countries, on the other hand, though not without their own statistical challenges, are more easily tracked through tariff codes, and are generally reported by Customs and other authorities to centralized databases such as the UN Statistics Division's (UNSD) "Comtrade" database. Due to the general availability of this data, as well as the nature of the discussions expected at INC2, it is considered that the Zoï map of net mercury exports between countries may be most useful for these discussions.

Overall, since some countries do not fully report their mercury exports to UNSD, the Comtrade data may be considered to represent a minimum representation of the global exports of elemental mercury.