



# **Update on the Clean Air for Europe Programme**

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# Update on the Clean Air for Europe Programme

## Reducing the impacts of Air Pollution in the longer term

- National Emission Ceiling Directive
- National Air Pollution Control Programmes

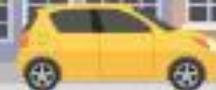
## Tackling poor ambient air quality in the short term

- The Ambient Air Quality Directive(s) & Fitness Check
- Air Quality Plans

## Improving implementation of Clean Air Policies

- Clean Air Forum, Clean Dialogues
- Environmental Implementation Review

# Pollutants covered by EU National Emission Ceilings legislation and 2030 targets



# What the reviewed EU National Emission Ceilings legislation will change

## REDUCE THE HEALTH IMPACTS OF AIR POLLUTION BY HALF BY 2030 COMPARED TO 2005

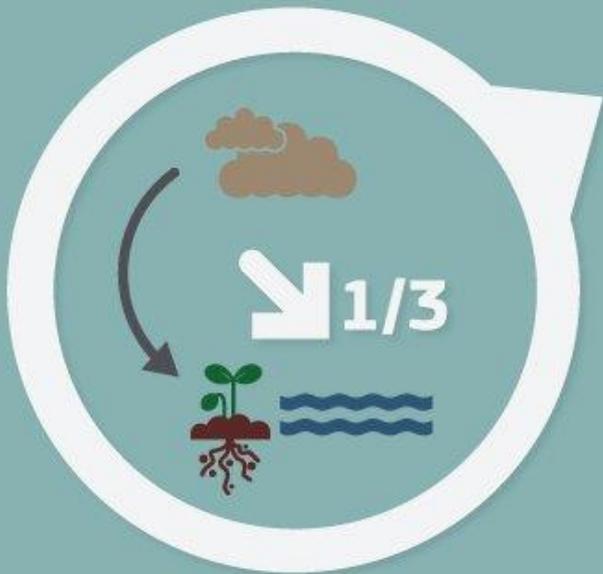
Air pollution is a major driver of cardiovascular disease, respiratory disease and asthma, and causes over 10 times more deaths per year than road traffic accidents. Apart from the huge benefits for wellbeing, it will save the economy billions from fewer lost working days and lower health care costs.



# What the reviewed EU National Emission Ceilings legislation will change

## REDUCE ECOSYSTEM DAMAGE BY AROUND 1/3

The reductions in ammonia emissions will substantially reduce negative impacts on ecosystems across Europe. Ammonia emissions from agriculture increase nitrogen levels in soil and water and are a main cause of eutrophication, which leads to algal blooms, fish die-off and the loss of sensitive species from aquatic ecosystems.



# What the reviewed EU National Emission Ceilings legislation will change

## TAKING A LEAD IN INTERNATIONAL ACTION ON AIR QUALITY

The EU will be able to ratify the revised UN Gothenburg Protocol, which sets targets for 2020. The revised Protocol requires reduction commitments also from non-EU countries that will only be activated once the revision enters into force.



# What the reviewed EU National Emission Ceilings legislation will change

## **GREATER INVOLVEMENT OF ALL LEVELS OF DECISION-MAKING IN AIR QUALITY PLANNING**

There are new requirements for National Air Pollution Control Programmes, which must be coordinated between national, regional and local authorities, and with closely-related policies such as climate and energy, transport and agriculture.



## Ambient Air Quality Directive(s) – compliance as soon as possible

Limit values for several pollutants entered into force between 2005 and 2015 (PM<sub>10</sub> and SO<sub>2</sub> since 1-1-2005, NO<sub>2</sub> since 1-1-2010, PM<sub>2.5</sub> since 1-1-2015).

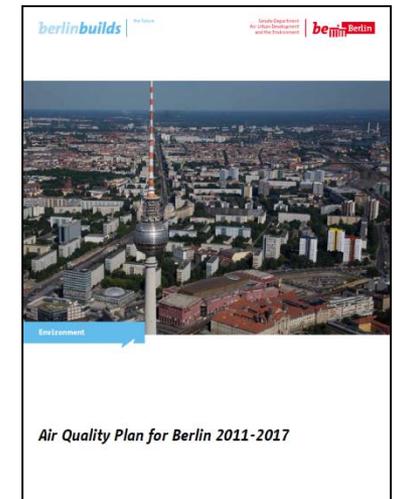
However a **compliance gap** persists: in 2014, only 2 countries reporting no exceedance at all; only 5 countries indicate compliance with all limit values.

- Regarding **NO2**: 12 Member States are facing infringement action.
- Regarding **SO2**: 1 Member State is facing infringement action.
- Regarding **PM10**: 16 Member States are facing infringement actions at various stages. First cases have been brought to Court.

## Ambient Air Quality Directive(s) – AQ plans and programmes

The Ambient Air Quality Directive requires Member States to have **air quality plans** to keep exceedance **as short as possible**:

- General information and details on measuring stations
- Nature and assessment of pollution (incl. trends)
- Techniques used for air quality assessments
- **Origin of pollution (incl. source apportionment)**
- **Details of measures and estimate of improvement of air quality planned, and the expected time required**
- ... see also *e-reporting Plans and Programmes, H to K*





## Ambient Air Quality Directive(s) – a Fitness Check?

In 2013, the European Commission carried out a **review of EU air policy**.

This indicated that the Ambient Air Quality Directives and the corresponding EU limit values will be **kept under review**, with a view to revision once the NEC Directive has set background concentrations on the right downwards track.

An **Evaluation / Fitness Check** is a pre-requisite for any review consideration.

We are now looking to initiate a Fitness Check of the two Air Quality Directives and related reporting. But we do not expect to start before the end 2017 with a view to finalise such Fitness Check **by end 2019**.

## Ambient Air Quality Directive(s) - update of the WHO Guidelines

Provide **evidence-based** recommendations to protect populations from the adverse health effects of ambient air pollution **globally**.

- About 5 systemic reviews for pollutants (PM<sub>10</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>3</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, CO ...)
- A key priority: critical health outcomes
- Also looking combined effects
- Section on (personal) interventions

2015 to 2016: Process definition phase: scoping, review of evidence and needs

**2016 to 2018: Systematic review of science evidence and draft recommendations**

May 2018: Report to the European Commission on findings and advice

Pollutant	EU reference value (°)	WHO AQG (°)
PM <sub>2.5</sub>	Year (25)	Year (10)
PM <sub>10</sub>	Day (50)	Year (20)
O <sub>3</sub>	8-hour (120)	8-hour (100)
NO <sub>2</sub>	Year (40)	Year (40)
BaP	Year (1)	Year (0.12) (RL)
SO <sub>2</sub>	Day (125)	Day (20)



## Improve implementation - Environmental Implementation Review

Objective of the **Environmental Implementation Review** (EIR) is to support delivering the objectives of existing EU environmental policies and legislation.

On **3 February 2017**, the European Commission adopted an *Environmental Implementation Review* package, including a Communication and Annex.

Package also included **28 country reports**, each with a dedicated section on air: air quality was identified to be a key common challenge (23 Member States).

The next step will be to create a framework for **high level discussions** on significant implementation gaps common to several Member States.



## Improve implementation - Clean Air Forum & Dialogues

First **Clean Air Dialogue** planned with Ireland in Quarter 1 of 2017, others to follow (in 2017: Luxembourg and Hungary).

First **Clean Air Forum** planned for November 2017, likely a two-day event with 300 participants and including a high-level segment in Paris. Focus:

- air quality in cities
- air pollution from the agricultural sector
- clean air business opportunities.

Discussion also cross-cutting topics, such as governance, knowledge base, funding mechanisms, air pollution and climate change, and foresight.



## Improve implementation – EU Urban Agenda: AQ Partnership

**EU Urban Agenda** key objectives: include urban dimension in policies, involve cities in the design, mobilise cities in the delivery

12 themes have been identified, including **air quality** (theme **lead by NL**, with CZ, HR, London, Helsinki, Utrecht, Milano, Constantia plus EU & stakeholders).

Four **specific actions**:

1. Modelling city specific situation
2. Mapping regulatory instruments and funding in the EU
3. Air quality best practices
4. Guidelines for cities air quality action plans.

## Clean Air – reflections in an FAIRMODE context

Ensure FAIRMODE remain relevant for **policy support** (including consolidate assessment regimes and improve planning).

Need to further **strengthen the links** between air emissions and quality monitoring, modeling, reporting and reflective assessment (NAPCP).

New FAIRMODE Road Map 2017-2019 and focus on **air quality management** needs is thus a welcome addition to network's portfolio.

Opportunities to **link to other ongoing processes**, e.g. EU Urban Agenda, TFIAM, Copernicus Atmospheric Monitoring Systems (CAMS) ...



## More Information

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/air/>

## Feedback

[ENV-AIR@ec.europa.eu](mailto:ENV-AIR@ec.europa.eu)

## Thank you!

European Commission

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Air