



EU Clean Air Policy Updates

FAIRMODE technical meeting

Dublin, 6-8 October 2024

*European Commission
Clean Air Unit*

Evaluation of EU Rules

NECD – Evaluation of the National emission Reduction Commitments Directive

NEC Directive evaluation: legal and policy framework

- Article 13.1: “[...] the Commission shall **review** this Directive **no later than 31 December 2025** with a view to **safeguarding progress towards achieving the objectives referred to in Article 1(2)**, in particular by taking into account scientific and technical progress and the implementation of Union **climate and energy policies**.”
- Article 13.2: “As regards **ammonia**, the Commission, in its review, shall assess in particular: (a) the latest scientific evidence; (b) updates of the UNECE Guidance Document(s) [... on ammonia]; (c) updates of the BAT as defined in [the IED]; (d) agri-environment measures in the framework of the CAP.”
- **Methane** declaration: “The Commission considers that there is a strong air quality case for keeping the development of methane emissions in the MS under review in order to reduce ozone concentrations in the EU and to promote methane reductions internationally”
- 2020 Commission **Methane** strategy: “The Commission will also review the National Emission Reduction Commitments Directive by 2025 and, as part of this review, explore the possible inclusion of methane among the regulated pollutants.”

Indicative timeline NECD review



The 5 key criteria to be used in an evaluation

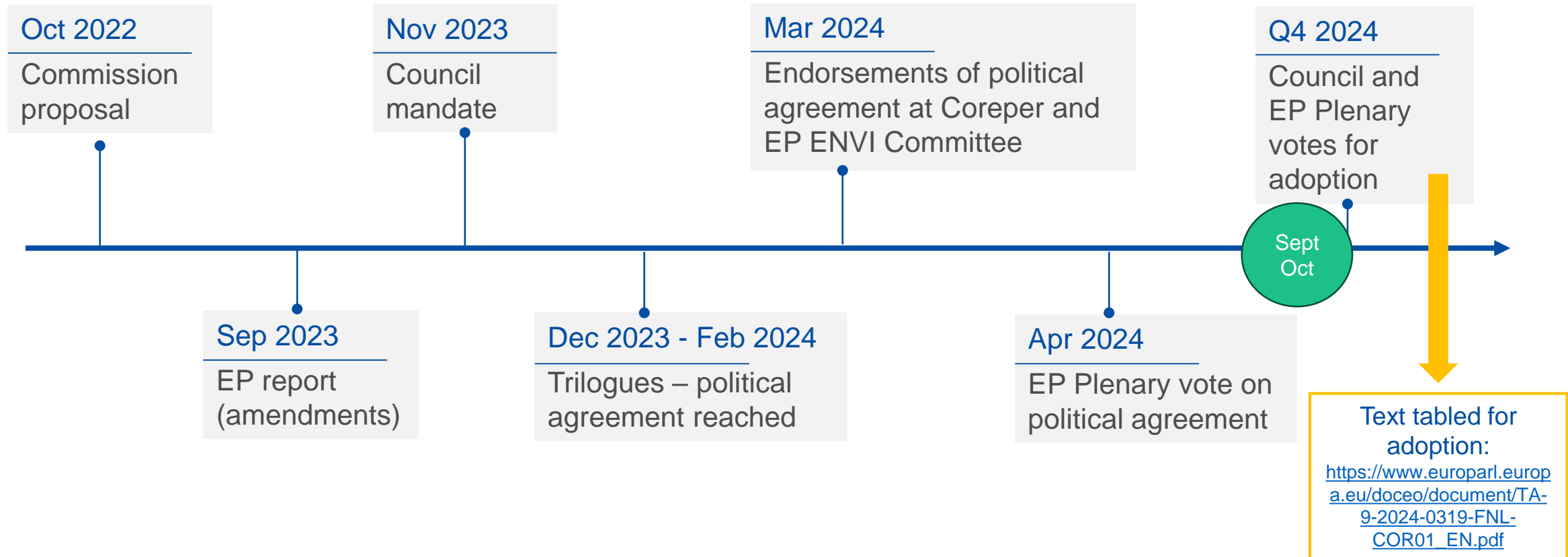
Based on Better Regulation Framework, assess whether the Directive is:

- **Effective** in meeting objectives
- **Efficient** (cost-effectiveness / proportionality of costs to benefits)
- **Relevant** to current and emerging needs
- **Coherent** (internally and externally)
- **EU added value**: produces results beyond what would have been achieved by MS alone

Revision of EU Rules

Revision of the Ambient Air Quality Directives

Legislative procedure: state of play today



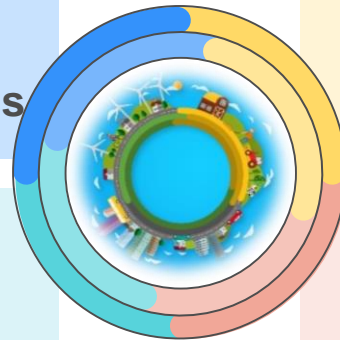
What will the revision improve?

Environment & health

- **Zero pollution objective** at the latest by 2050
- Intermediate **2030 EU air quality standards**
- **Postponement** of deadlines possible (climate and orographic, domestic heating, projections)
- New metrics and **average exposure obligations**

Governance & enforcement

- **Regular review mechanism**
- Air quality plans to be **more effective**
- **Improved enforceability**: new provisions on access to justice, compensation and penalties
- More **transboundary cooperation** on air quality



Monitoring & assessment

- Refined approach to **air quality monitoring**, increased use of **air quality modelling**
- Additional information on representativeness of **sampling points**, better inform air quality action
- Monitoring **pollutants of emerging concern** (e.g. ultrafine particles, black carbon, ammonia)

Information & communication

- More **up-to-date air quality information**
- Requirements for **air quality indices** to provide hourly reporting of available air quality data
- **Informing the public** about possible health impacts and provide recommendations

Implementing acts in the political agreement

The Commission tasked with providing further technical details on:

- **Modelling applications** (including how results from modelling applications and indicative measurements shall be taken into account when assessing air quality and how potential exceedances that are identified by those assessment methods can be verified) + determining the **spatial representativeness** of sampling points; (by 18 months after entry into force)
- Demonstration and subtraction of exceedances attributable to **natural sources** (including information to be provided by MS) - (by 31 December 2026);
- Methodology for determining contributions from the re-suspension of particulates following **winter-sanding or winter-salting** of roads (including information to be provided by MS) - (by 31 December 2026);
- Requirements for **projections** performed for the purposes of postponement of attainment deadlines + information to be included in **implementation reports** - (by 31 December 2026);
- **Reporting** of air quality information to the Commission.

Non legislative updates

Non legislative updates

- Service contract to support the development of technical guidance documents in the field of air quality monitoring and modelling
 - a) Technical guidance document on the **use of reference methods and demonstration of equivalence**, and the assurance of relevant **data quality objectives** (including for established and additional air pollutants) for air quality monitoring
 - b) Technical guidance document on the use of modelling for various application domains under the Ambient Air Quality Directive, and the assurance of relevant data quality objectives for air quality assessments.**
- **Time frame:** Finalisation by March 2025.
- **Contractor:** NILU, VITO, and Ricardo Nederland B.V plus group of 5 experts on the field.

Non legislative updates

- Consultation phase via EU survey July and August 2024

Next steps

- Preparation of revised draft
- Draft to be provided to the Ambient Air Quality Expert Group (11 Dec 2024)
- Incorporation of comments into final draft
- Publication of final version in Feb / Mar 2025

Non legislative updates

- Service contract to support the development of technical guidance document
 - a) demonstration of contributions to air pollution attributable to **natural sources**
 - b) demonstration of contributions to re-suspension of particulates following **winter-sanding and -salting**
- **Time frame:** Finalisation by Feb 2026
- **Contractor:** 4sfera Innova, Prospects C&S, Aria –Suez, CSIC, ELLE plus group of up to 4 experts on the field

Standardisation – update on requests

Adopted standard request: measurements of **VOCs** – need to review/extend deadlines.

On-going standardisation request as regards:

- methods for **measuring polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons** in ambient air in support of EU ambient air quality legislation
- **modelling quality objectives** for assessment purpose in ambient air in support of EU ambient air quality legislation
- the evaluation of the **performance of sensor systems** for the determination of concentrations of gaseous pollutants and particulate matter in ambient air in support of Directive 2008/50/EC

Future standardisation request as regards:

- measurement of **particle number concentration**

Standardisation – update on timelines

Done:

1. Consultation with the JRC – involved in the drafting of the request
2. Presentation to the Committee on Standards (*in May 2023*)
3. Launched regulated consultation: Member States, ESOS (CEN/CENELEC, ETSI), Stakeholder organisations (ANEC, ECOS, ETUC, SBS) (*closed in September 2023*)
4. Launch Commission inter-services consultation (*completed in 2024*)

Next steps:

5. Opinion of the Committee on Standards
6. Adoption of Commission Implementing Decision on standardisation request (*foreseen for late 2024- early 2025*)
7. Notification of Decision to CEN (*month N*)
8. Acceptance of request by CEN (*N + 1 month*)
9. Draft work programme by CEN (*N + 2 months*)
10. CEN to provide the first annual report (*N + 6 months + annually*)
11. CEN to provide final report (*N + 84 months PAH /72 months MQO /78 months sensors months*)

Funding of prenormative work

- Open call for tender: “*Support for performance assessment of, and establishment of an European standard (EN) on, modelling quality objectives for assessment purposes in ambient air.*”
- Publication: 17 September
- Closing date for tenders: 21 October 2024
- Budget: 400 000EUR
- Duration: 36 months
- Results will lead to drafting of the EN standard *as regards modelling quality objectives for assessment purpose in ambient air in support of EU ambient air quality legislation.*

Horizon Europe

Clean air mainly addressed in:

- Cluster 4 Digital, Industry and Space
- Cluster 5 Climate, Energy and Mobility
- Cluster 6 Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment

The Work Programme for 2025 is being developed.

Examples of projects for air quality in the CORDIS database:

[https://cordis.europa.eu/search?q=contenttype%3D%27project%27%20AND%20framework Programme%3D%27HORIZON%27%20AND%20\(%27air%27%20AND%20%27quality%27\) &p=1&num=10&srt=Relevance:decreasing](https://cordis.europa.eu/search?q=contenttype%3D%27project%27%20AND%20framework%20Programme%3D%27HORIZON%27%20AND%20(%27air%27%20AND%20%27quality%27)&p=1&num=10&srt=Relevance:decreasing)

Contact us:

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Thank you

