



Air pollution: Most EU Member States not on track to reduce air pollution and its related health impacts by 2030

Brussels, 26 June 2020

The assessment of Member States' first programmes of measures to control air emissions finds that the implementation of the [new European clean air rules](#) needs improvement. Member States need to step up efforts across all sectors to make sure their citizens can breathe clean air, preventing respiratory diseases and premature death caused by breathing polluted air.

EU Commissioner for the Environment, Fisheries and Oceans **Virginijus Sinkevičius** said: *"This report sends a clear message. All across Europe, too many citizens are still at risk from the air they breathe. We need more effective measures to cut pollution in numerous Member States and to tackle air emissions across sectors, including agriculture, transport and energy. There has never been a better time to make these changes: investing in cleaner air means investing in citizens' health, in our climate, and it's the kick-start our economy needs. That's the thinking behind the European Green Deal, and it's the logic the environment needs."*

According to the [first Commission report](#) to assess the implementation of the [National Emission reduction Commitments Directive](#) (NEC Directive) published today, most Member States are at risk of not complying with their 2020 or 2030 emission reduction commitments. While some Member States show good practices that should be inspiring for others, the Report demonstrates the need for additional measures in order to reduce air pollution. The Commission will continue to monitor and support national efforts in this regard, through financial and non-financial tools. Efforts are especially needed in agriculture to reduce ammonia emissions, which is the most common and severe implementation challenge across the EU.

Effective implementation of clean air legislation forms an essential contribution to 'a zero pollution ambition for a toxic-free environment' announced by the Commission in the [European Green Deal](#) and related initiatives. Synergies with climate and energy policies need to be enhanced and further assessed, also in line with the European Green Deal approach.

Alongside this implementation report, the Commission has also released today its [consultants' analysis](#) of each Member State National Air Pollution Control Programme and emission projections, as well as an EU-wide horizontal report bringing together this information.

Background

The National Emission reduction Commitments Directive, which entered into force on 31 December 2016, is the main legislative instrument to achieve the 2030 objectives of the [Clean Air Programme](#). When fully implemented, the Directive would reduce by almost 50% the negative health impacts of air pollution by 2030, and bring substantial benefits for the environment and climate.

The Directive sets national emission reduction commitments for the periods 2020-29 and more ambitious ones for 2030-onwards for five important air pollutants: nitrogen oxides (NO_x), non-methane volatile organic compounds (NMVOC), sulphur dioxide (SO₂), ammonia (NH₃) and fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}).

Compliance with the 2020 emissions reduction commitments will be checked in 2022, when the emission inventories for 2020 become available.

Next steps

The NEC implementation report will be complemented later this year by the Second Clean Air Outlook which will present up-to-date modelling results on the extent to which the EU and its Member States are on track to meet their clean air objectives for 2030 and later.

For More Information

[Report on the progress made on the implementation of Directive \(EU\) 2016/2284 on the reduction of national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants](#)

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