



CLEAN AIR IN EUROPE FOR ALL

AIR POLLUTION AND HEALTH: TAKING STOCK OF THE PROPOSED REVISION TO THE AMBIENT AIR QUALITY DIRECTIVE

The aim of this meeting is to discuss the recently proposed revisions to the EU Ambient Air Quality Directive (AAQD), its strengths and weaknesses, identify remaining challenges and explore additional policy options. A number of important scientific and policy questions will be discussed, for example health effects at low levels of air pollution, the relative contributions of different sources or constituents, best practice examples of successful air quality interventions, and ultimately the question of how to maximize health benefits for everyone in Europe and beyond.

The target audience for this interdisciplinary meeting are European, national and local policy makers, regulators, representatives of the civil society, of medical and patient societies, and scientists.

SESSION 1: PROPOSAL FOR REVISIONS OF THE EU AMBIENT AIR QUALITY DIRECTIVE AND ITS POTENTIAL TO IMPROVE HEALTH IN EUROPE

The session gives an overview of the recently proposed revisions of the EU AAQD, and other concurrent European air quality and climate actions, against the backdrop of the European Green Deal. The proposal will set new limit values that are aligned more closely with the 2021 WHO Air Quality Guidelines, and is currently considered by the European Parliament and the Council. The session also gives overview of the latest data on air pollution levels, estimates of related health burden in Europe, and prospects for 2030 and beyond.

SESSION 2: REVIEWING THE LATEST SCIENCE ON AIR POLLUTION AND HEALTH – PART 1

The session will review the latest science on ambient air pollution and health from Europe and beyond as an essential reference for evaluating the proposed AAQD. It will present findings from recent key studies on air pollution and an array of adverse health effects including asthma, cardiovascular diseases, lung cancer, and dementia. Those studies report associations with health effects at levels below current and proposed EU limit values, pointing to the need for even more ambitious standards.

SESSION 3: MODERATED DISCUSSION – HOW TO MAXIMIZE PUBLIC HEALTH BENEFITS TO ENSURE CLEAN AIR IN EUROPE FOR ALL

SESSION 4: REVIEWING THE LATEST SCIENCE ON AIR POLLUTION AND HEALTH – PART 2

The session will present findings regarding the health effects of pollutants of “emerging concern” including ultrafine particles and “natural” source contributions, such as wildfires, which are expected to increase due to climate change. It will explore additional policy options and discuss how citizen science may contribute to clean air.

SESSION 5: SOLUTIONS - NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVEL PERSPECTIVES TOWARDS CLEAN AIR

This session discusses actions at national and local levels towards meeting the current and proposed limit values, and beyond. The session will discuss experiences, obstacles and opportunities towards clean air in Europe. Cities in particular are at the forefront of innovation and transformation, leading the way for bold climate and air quality action towards a more sustainable future.

SESSION 6: MODERATED DISCUSSION – CLEAN AIR IN EUROPE FOR ALL: WHERE DO WE NEED TO GO FROM HERE?