Air pollution and Health: Recent Advances to Inform the European Green Deal

21-22 January, 2020
Brussels

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WHO

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HEI
Success Story

Mortality due to air pollution in Europe

Source: Based on EEA (2018)
Remaining challenges...

Mortality due to air pollution in Europe

Appr. 400,000 deaths per year

Source: Based on EEA (2018)
BUT: There is a lot going on in Europe...

**Air Quality - Fitness Check of the AAQ Directives**

The European Commission has completed a fitness check of the two EU Ambient Air Quality (AAQ) Directives (Directives 2008/50/EC and 2004/107/EC).

These Directives set air quality standards and requirements to ensure that Member States monitor and/or assess air quality in their territory, in a harmonised and comparable manner. The fitness check also considers the corresponding Implementing Decision 2011/850/EU and Commission Directive (EU) 2015/1480.

The fitness check of the AAQ Directives drew on the experience in all Member States, focusing on the period from 2008 to 2018 (i.e. the period in which both Directives were in force). It covered all articles and provisions of the two Directives, looking at the role they have played in meeting the objectives. The fitness check evaluated the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and EU added value of the AAQ Directives, in line with Better Regulation requirements.

**What are the results of the Fitness Check?**

The Commission finalised this fitness check in November 2019 publishing the following documents:

- **Commission Staff Working Document SWD(2019) 427**
- **Executive Summary SWD(2019) 428**
Update WHO Air Quality Guidelines
The European Green Deal is about improving the well-being of people. Making Europe climate-neutral and protecting our natural habitat will be good for people, planet and economy. No one will be left behind.
EU parliament resolution, Jan 15, 2020

- Calls for an ambitious **Climate Law**....
- Calls for an **increase of the EU’s domestic GHG emissions reduction target** ....
- Calls on the Commission to **raise the level of protection of the quality of our air, in line with latest scientific findings and the World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines**...
Aim of this joint meeting

Provide latest science on major ambient air pollutants as a key step in evaluating whether to update Europe’s air quality policies

Science

Discussion, questions

Policy
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Understanding the Health Effects of Air Pollution: Recent Advances to inform EU policies

IN 2013 – ‘The Year of air’

Co-organized by the European Commission, the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe, and the Health Effects Institute

Brussels, Belgium
Auditorium, Madou Tower, Place Madou

30-31 January 2013
First WHO Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health

First WHO Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health, 30 October – 1 November 2018

Improving air quality, combating climate change – saving lives

Conference aims and outcomes

The conference recognized the need for an aspirational goal of reducing the 7 million deaths a year due to air pollution by 2030, as a contribution to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Countries, urban mayors, and civil society were invited to make commitments to the global advocacy campaign BreatheLife2030 to meet WHO’s Air Quality Guidelines and reduce climate emissions.

The conference underlined the links between air pollution and the global epidemic of NCDs and positioned the health sector to catalyse actions for health-wise policies on clean household energy.
Key sessions

• The Current European and US Regulatory Contexts
• How Low Should We Go? New Health Research on Low-level Air Ambient Pollution
• Recent Reviews Regarding the Health Effects of Ambient Air Pollution: What do They Tell Us?
• Air Quality Improvements and Climate Mitigation: Key-Co-Benefits for Public Health
• Health burden assessments for informing environmental policy in Europe: challenges and opportunities
• Meeting Closing Session and Panel Discussion
Before we start – A big thanks to:

- WHO – Nathalie Roebbel, Sophie Gumy, Dorota Jarosinska
- ISEE – Mark Nieuwenhuijsen, Bert Brunekreef, Francesco Forastiere
- ERS – Roberta Sadauskaite, Brian Ward
- HEI – Dan Greenbaum, Robert O’Keefe, Katy Walker, Annemoon van Erp
- DG Environment – Francois Wakenhut, Thomas Henrichs
- All Presenters and Chairs
- Audience
- And...everybody we forgot!
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Virginijus Sinkevičius
Environment, Oceans and Fisheries
First Session