

Reduction of national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants

2013/0443(COD) - 28/08/2015 - Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety adopted the report by Julie GIRLING (ECR, UK) on the proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the reduction of national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants and amending Directive 2003/35/EC.

The committee recommended that the Parliaments position adopted at first reading following the ordinary legislative procedure should amend the Commission proposal as follows:

Subject matter: the Directive aims at limiting atmospheric emissions of acidifying and eutrophying pollutants, ozone precursors, primary particulate matter and precursors of secondary particulate matter and other air pollutants, thereby contributing to:

- the Union's long-term objective of achieving levels of air quality that do not give rise to significant negative impacts on and risks to human health and the environment, in line with the air quality guidelines published by the World Health Organisation;
- the achievement of Union biodiversity and ecosystem objectives by reducing the levels and deposition of acidifying and eutrophying pollutants, and other pollutants, including ground-level ozone, below critical loads and levels;
- the achievement of the air quality objectives set out in legislative acts of the Union;
- the mitigation of climate change impacts by reducing emissions of short-lived climate pollutants and by improving synergies with Union climate and energy policy.

This Directive shall in particular, be aligned with evolving Union and international climate change action, including, but not limited to, the 2030 policy framework for climate and energy and a comprehensive, binding global climate change agreement.

National emission reduction commitments: Members strengthened the Commission proposals and called for more ambitious national ceilings to be met by 2030.

Member States shall:

- limit their annual anthropogenic emissions of sulphur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), non-methane volatile organic compounds (NMVOC), ammonia (NH₃), particulate matter (PM_{2,5}) and mercury (Hg) in accordance with the national emission reduction commitments applicable from 2020, 2025 and 2030, as laid down in Annex II; Members called for these commitments to be binding for 2025;
- as a minimum, limit their annual anthropogenic emissions of methane (CH₄) in accordance with the national emission reduction commitments applicable from 2030, as laid down in Annex II;
- provide, in their reports submitted to the Commission, updates on their progress towards achieving their national emission reduction commitments.

Flexibilities for international maritime transport: Members deleted the Commission proposal concerning the flexibilities allowing Member States to offset NO_x, SO₂ and PM_{2,5} emission reductions achieved by international maritime traffic against NO_x, SO₂ and PM_{2,5} emissions released by other sources in the same year, under certain conditions. They also opposed the Commission proposal to bring forward the reporting date for reporting preliminary emissions for the previous year from 31 December to 30 September.

National air pollution control programmes: these programmes shall:

- consider the cost-effectiveness of emission reduction measures;
- prioritise specific policy measures which aim at reducing risks to the health of vulnerable groups of people and to ensure compliance with the exposure;
- quantify the additional emission reductions needed in order to meet by 2030 ambient air quality levels equal to or below the levels as recommended by the World Health Organisation;
- support the shift of investments towards clean and efficient technologies and sustainable production with the help of fiscal incentives.

The Commission shall ensure that all EU source-based air pollution policies are fit for purpose and contribute towards reaching the Union air quality objectives. To this end, the Commission and the Member States shall immediately agree on the [new Euro 6 Real Driving Emissions \(RDE\) regulation proposal](#) currently under consideration.

Member States shall establish a system of routine and non-routine environmental inspections and market surveillance.

Public consultation: Member States shall ensure that members of the public concerned are consulted at an early stage in the drawing up and review of draft national air pollution control programmes and in any updates of those programmes prior to their finalisation.

Clean Air Fund: the Commission shall facilitate access to financial support to help ensure that appropriate measures can be taken to comply with the objectives of this Directive. This shall include available funding under, inter alia: (a) agricultural funding; (b) future work programmes of the Horizon 2020; (c) European Structural and Investment Funds; (d) funding instruments for the environment and climate action such as LIFE.

The Commission shall set up a European Clean Air Forum to facilitate the coordinated implementation of the Clean Air Programme.

Report: the Commission shall, every 30 months starting from the entry into force, present a report on the implementation of this Directive. In doing so, the Commission shall assess no later than 2025, the progress in the reduction of air pollutants emissions with a view to safeguarding progress towards achieving the World Health Organisation's recommended air quality levels.