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Public consultation on the EU Action Plan "Towards a Zero Pollution Ambition for air, water and soil"

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Introduction

The European Green Deal announced that to protect Europe's citizens and ecosystems, the EU needs to move towards a zero pollution ambition, and better prevent and remedy pollution from air, water, soil, and consumer products. To address these interlinked challenges, in 2021 the Commission will adopt a Zero Pollution Action Plan.

Pollution causes multiple physical and mental diseases. In the EU, despite important improvements over the last decades, every year over 400 000 premature deaths (including from cancers) are attributed to ambient air pollution, and 48 000 cases of ischaemic heart disease as well as 6.5 million cases of chronic sleep disturbance to noise, next to other diseases attributable to both. Pollution's most harmful health impacts are typically born by vulnerable citizens, notably children, people with certain medical conditions, the elderly and people living in socio-economic deprivation.

Pollution of air, water and soil is also one of the five main drivers of biodiversity loss and contributes largely to the current 6th species extinction. It comes at a high price for society and ecosystems, including health-related costs (healthcare, lost workdays, lost productivity), reduced yields (e.g. in agriculture, fisheries and tourism), remediation costs (e.g. water treatment, soil decontamination, marine depollution) and loss of ecosystem services (e.g. pollination). Pollution is also strongly interrelated with other environmental, social and economic risks for businesses and citizens.

The purpose of this open public consultation (OPC) is to gather the perception and views of Europeans on a range of issues that the Action Plan may address, including:

- How pollution affects citizens and the environment
- How well current policies address pollution
- What actions should be taken on pollution in the future
- How to monitor pollution in the future
- What potential there is for digital solutions to address pollution

The consultation is divided into three parts:

Part I: The first part asks for some information about you (such as which country you come from).

- Part II: The second part is directed towards the general public. You do not need any specialist knowledge to reply to this.
- Part III: The third part (Expert section) is mainly directed towards specialists and interested experts and includes a set of questions on specific issues

Finally, there is an opportunity to share documents and provide complementary information, such as position papers, more detailed reports or studies on the issues mentioned, as well as examples, practical cases, etc

About you

Bulgarian

Croatian

*Language of my contribution

	OZECII
0	Danish
0	Dutch
•	English
0	Estonian
0	Finnish
0	French
0	German
0	Greek
0	Hungarian
0	Irish
0	Italian
0	Latvian
0	Lithuanian
0	Maltese
0	Polish
	Portuguese
0	Romanian
0	Slovak
0	Slovenian
0	Spanish
	Swedish

*I am giving	g my contribution as
Acad	lemic/research institution
Busir	ness association
Com	pany/business organisation
Cons	sumer organisation
© EU c	itizen
Envir	onmental organisation
Non-	EU citizen
Non-	governmental organisation (NGO)
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Europear	n Environmental Bureau (EEB)
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Large	e (250 or more)
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	organisation is on the <u>transparency register</u> . It's a voluntary database for organisations seeking to decision-making.
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*Email (this won't be published)

*Country of origin

Samoa

Please add your country of origin, or that of your organisation.

Afghanistan

Djibouti

Libya

Saint Martin

Aland Islands

Dominica

Liechtenstein

Albania Dominican Lithuania Saint Vincent
Republic and the
Grenadines

Algeria
Ecuador
Luxembourg
Samoa

American
Egypt
Macau
San Marino

Andorra
El Salvador
Madagascar
São Tomé and
Príncipe

Angola
Equatorial
Malawi
Saudi Arabia

Anguilla
Eritrea
Malaysia
Senegal

Guinea

Antarctica
Estonia
Maldives
Serbia

Antigua andEswatiniMaliSeychelles

Argentina
Ethiopia
Malta
Sierra Leone

Armenia
Falkland Islands
Marshall
Singapore

Islands

Aruba
Faroe Islands
Martinique
Sint Maarten

Australia
Fiji
Mauritania
Slovakia

Austria
Finland
Mauritius
Slovenia

Azerbaijan
France
Mayotte
Solomon

Islands

Bahamas French Guiana Mexico Somalia

Bahrain French Micronesia South Africa

Polynesia

Bangladesh French Moldova South Georgia
Southern and and the South
Antarctic Lands Sandwich
Islands

Barbados	Gabon	Monaco	South Korea
Belarus	Georgia	Mongolia	South Sudan
Belgium	Germany	Montenegro	Spain
Belize	Ghana	Montserrat	Sri Lanka
Benin	Gibraltar	Morocco	Sudan
Bermuda	Greece	Mozambique	Suriname
Bhutan	Greenland	Myanmar	Svalbard and
		/Burma	Jan Mayen
Bolivia	Grenada	Namibia	Sweden
Bonaire Saint	Guadeloupe	Nauru	Switzerland
Eustatius and			
Saba			
Bosnia and	Guam	Nepal	Syria
Herzegovina			
Botswana	Guatemala	Netherlands	Taiwan
Bouvet Island	Guernsey	New Caledonia	Tajikistan
Brazil	Guinea	New Zealand	Tanzania
British Indian	Guinea-Bissau	Nicaragua	Thailand
Ocean Territory			
British Virgin	Guyana	Niger	The Gambia
Islands			
Brunei	Haiti	Nigeria	Timor-Leste
Bulgaria	Heard Island	Niue	Togo
	and McDonald		
	Islands		
Burkina Faso	Honduras	Norfolk Island	Tokelau
Burundi	Hong Kong	Northern	Tonga
		Mariana Islands	
Cambodia	Hungary	North Korea	Trinidad and
			Tobago
Cameroon	lceland	North	Tunisia
		Macedonia	
Canada	India	Norway	Turkey
Cape Verde	Indonesia	Oman	Turkmenistan
Cayman Islands	Iran	Pakistan	

			Turks and Caicos Islands
Central AfricanRepublic	[™] Iraq	Palau	Tuvalu
© Chad	Ireland	Palestine	Uganda
Chile	Isle of Man	Panama	Ukraine
China	Israel	Papua New	United Arab
		Guinea	Emirates
Christmas	Italy	Paraguay	United
Island	•	0 ,	Kingdom
Clipperton	Jamaica	Peru	United States
Cocos (Keeling)	Japan	Philippines	United States
Islands	·		Minor Outlying
			Islands
Colombia	Jersey	Pitcairn Islands	Uruguay
Comoros	Jordan	Poland	US Virgin
			Islands
Congo	Kazakhstan	Portugal	Uzbekistan
Cook Islands	Kenya	Puerto Rico	Vanuatu
Costa Rica	Kiribati	Qatar	Vatican City
Côte d'Ivoire	Kosovo	Réunion	Venezuela
Croatia	Kuwait	Romania	Vietnam
Cuba	Kyrgyzstan	Russia	Wallis and
			Futuna
Curação	Laos	Rwanda	Western
			Sahara
Cyprus	Latvia	Saint	Yemen
		Barthélemy	
Czechia	Lebanon	Saint Helena	Zambia
		Ascension and	
		Tristan da	
		Cunha	
Democratic	Lesotho	Saint Kitts and	Zimbabwe
Republic of the		Nevis	
Congo			
Denmark	Liberia	Saint Lucia	

*Publication privacy settings

The Commission will publish the responses to this public consultation. You can choose whether you would like your details to be made public or to remain anonymous.

Anonymous

Only your contribution, country of origin and the respondent type profile that you selected will be published. All other personal details (name, organisation name and size, transparency register number) will not be published.

Public

Your personal details (name, organisation name and size, transparency register number, country of origin) will be published with your contribution.

I agree with the personal data protection provisions

Part II

1. General awareness of pollution and related policies

This section of the questionnaire seeks to gather information on the general level of knowledge of EU environmental pollution and related policies in Europe, and their evolution over time. It seeks to gather information about knowledge of the effects of pollution on people and the environment, and about knowledge of related EU policy in broad terms.

1.1 To what extent do you agree with the following statements about the impact of pollution through air, water and soil?

	Completely agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Completely disagree	l don't know
* Current levels of pollution have a negative impact on my health or the health of those immediately around me	•	0	0	0	0	0
* Pollution has negative impacts on the wellbeing of the population in specific locations in the EU	•	0	0	0	0	0
* Current levels of pollution have negative impacts on the health of the overall population in the EU	•	0	0	0	0	0
* Currently, pollution has negative impacts on the environment and particularly biodiversity in my immediate surroundings	•	0	0	0	0	0
* Currently, pollution has general negative impacts on the environment and particularly biodiversity	•	0	0	0	0	0
* Current levels of pollution have general negative impacts on the economy	•	0	0	0	0	0

1.2 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Completely agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Completely disagree	l don't know
* Pollution is an issue of concern worldwide	•	0	0	0	0	0
* Pollution is an issue of concern in the EU	•	0	0	0	0	0
* Pollution is an issue of concern primarily outside of the EU	0	0	0	0	•	0
* Pollution is an issue of concern in my country	•	0	0	0	0	0
* Pollution is an issue of concern in my municipality	•	0	0	0	0	0
* I feel sufficiently informed about pollution where I live	0	0	0	0	•	0
* I feel sufficiently informed about health consequences of pollution where I live	0	0	0	0	•	0
Pollution has been reduced in the last decade where I live	0	0	0	•	0	0

1.3 To what extent do you agree with the following statements about the impact of pollution on different population groups?

	Completely agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Completely disagree	l don't know
* People living in cities are more exposed to pollution than in rural areas	0	0	•	•	0	0
* People living in rural areas are the most exposed to pollution than in urban areas	•	•	•	•	•	•
* People living in poverty/at risk of poverty are the more exposed to pollution than others	©	•	•	•	•	•
* Everyone in our society is equally exposed to pollution	0	•	0	0	0	0
* Children and the elderly suffer more from pollution than others	•	0	0	0	0	0
* Other	•	0	0	0	0	0

If other please specify

300 character(s) maximum

Pregnant women, unborn babies, people in reproductive age, workers and people with pre-conditions suffer more from pollution than others. Link between poverty/pollution, see: https://eeb.org/library/pushed-to-the-wastelands-environmental-racism-against-roma-communities-in-central-and-eastern-europe/

1.4 Have you heard about the following EU initiatives addressing pollution? If so, how much do you know about them?

	Very well informed	Moderately informed	Not well informed	Not at all informed	No opinion
* EU Clean Air policies such as the Ambient Air Quality Directives and the					

National Emission reduction Commitments (NEC) Directive	•		0	0	0
* EU Water policies such as the Water Framework Directive, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive, the Drinking Water Directive and the Bathing Water Directive, the Nitrates Directive	•	©	•	•	•
* EU Soil policies such as the Soil Thematic Strategy or the Sewage Sludge Directive	•	0	0	0	0
* EU Noise policies such as the Environmental Noise Directive	•	©	0	0	0
* EU policies on industrial emissions, notably the Industrial Emissions Directive	•	0	0	0	0
* EU policies on chemicals, such as the REACH Regulation and regulation on pesticides	•	0	0	0	•
* EU policies on medicines (also known as medicinal products), such as directives or regulations, and the 2019 EU Strategic Approach to Pharmaceuticals in the Environment	0	•	0	•	0
* Farm to Fork Strategy	•	0	0	0	0
* Biodiversity Strategy	•	0	0	0	0
* EU policies limiting air pollution at source, such as Euro standards for cars, buses and trucks, or eco-design rules for heating appliances	•	0	0	0	0
* EU policies addressing pollution from waste, such as from persistent organic pollutants (POPs)	•	0	0	0	0
* Other EU policies on pollution	•	0	0	0	0

If other please specify

300 character(s) maximum

Very well informed on: Mercury Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2017/852), Prior Informed Consent Regulation (Regulation (EU) 649/2012), Waste Framework Directive, ETS and Climate Law.

2. Views on the state of pollution and related policies

This section of the questionnaire seeks to gather views about the state of pollution and the importance of pollution in the wider context of environment policy.

2.1 How important is it to address the following pathways (the way pollution moves from its source once it has been released into the environment) and depositories (the eventual recipients of pollution, where it then accumulates) of pollution at the EU level?

	Very important	Important	Neither important nor unimportant	Not a priority	Irrelevant	l don't know
* Ambient air pollution	•	0	0	0	©	©
* Indoor air pollution	•	0	0	0	0	0
* Pollution of rivers, lakes and ground water	•	0	0	0	0	0
* Marine pollution	•	0	0	0	0	0
* Soil and sediment pollution	•	0	0	0	0	0
* Noise pollution	•	0	0	0	0	0
* Other types of pollution	•	0	0	0	0	©

If other please specify

300 character(s) maximum

Deposition of pollution in human bodies and wildlife (depository), climate pollution, light pollution.

2.2 How do you evaluate the impact of the following activities on pollution?

	Highly polluting	Somewhat polluting	No significant impact	Somewhat helps reducing pollution	Very much helps reducing pollution	l don't know
* Agriculture: animal farming	•	0	0	0	0	0
* Agriculture: crop production	•	0	0	0	0	0
* Fisheries	•	0	0	0	0	0
* Aquaculture	•	0	0	0	0	0
*						

Mining and extraction of raw materials	•	0	©	©	©	0
* Industrial production	•	0	0	0	0	0
* Road transport	•	0	0	0	0	0
* Rail transport	0	0	0	•	0	0
* Shipping	•	0	0	0	0	0
* Air transport	•	0	0	0	0	0
* Waste landfilling	•	0	0	0	0	0
* Waste incineration	•	0	0	0	0	0
* Waste recycling	0	0	•	0	0	0
* Energy production from fossil fuels	•	0	0	0	0	0
* Energy production from biomass	•	0	0	0	0	0
* Wind and solar energy production	0	0	0	0	•	0
* Accidental release of hazardous substances	•	0	0	©	0	0
* Littering	•	0	0	0	0	0
* Heating and cooling buildings	•	0	0	0	0	0
* Other	•	0	0	0	0	0

If other please specify

300 character(s) maximum

Also marketing and releases (non accidental) of hazardous substances are highly polluting. With littering we mean dumping of waste, abandoned waste.

2.3 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Completely agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Completely disagree	l don't know
* My consumption habits contribute to environmental pollution in my immediate surroundings	0	•	0	0	0	0
* My consumption habits contribute to environmental pollution in my country	0	•	0	0	0	0
* My consumption habits contribute to environmental pollution in the EU	0	•	0	0	0	0
* My consumption habits contribute to environmental pollution globally	0	•	0	0	0	0

2.4 Which level of government is the most appropriate to address pollution in the EU Member States?

	EU level authorities	National level authorities	Regional level authorities	Local authorities	l don't know
* Overall, the most appropriate level of government to address pollution is	V				
* The most appropriate level of government to address ambient air pollution is	V	V		V	
* The most appropriate level of government to address pollution of rivers, lakes and ground water is	V	V			
* The most appropriate level of government to address marine pollution is	V	V			
* The most appropriate level of government to address soil and sediment pollution is	V	V			
* The most appropriate level of government to address noise pollution is	V	V		V	

2.5 In your opinion, is each of the following currently doing too much, enough, or not enough about pollution?

	Doing too much	Doing enough	Not doing enough	l don't know
* Product manufacturers	0	0	•	0
* Service providers	0	0	•	0
* Food producers (farmers, aquaculture producers, fisheries)	0	0	•	0
* Energy producers	0	0	•	0
* Banks and investors	0	0	©	0
* Consumers	0	0	•	0
* Your local or regional government	0	0	©	0
* Your national government	0	0	•	0
* The European Union	0	0	•	0
* International organisations	0	0	•	0



3. Ways forward to address pollution

This section of the questionnaire seeks to gather views on how pollution should be addressed in the future.

3.1 In your opinion, how effective would the following ways of tackling pollution be?

	Very effective	Somewhat effective	Neither effective nor ineffective	Somewhat ineffective	Completely ineffective	l don't know
Greater powers to national authorities to sanction breaches to EU legislation on pollution	0	0	•	0	0	0
Easier access to justice and other tools for civil society organisations to act against breaches to EU legislation on pollution	•	0	0	0	0	0
Introducing heavier fines for breaches of pollution-related legislation	•	0	0	0	0	0
Securing an overall better implementation of pollution-related legislation	•	0	0	0	0	0
Modernising existing EU law on pollution	•	0	0	0	0	0
Additional EU law on pollution, e.g. on soil pollution	•	0	0	0	0	0
Financial incentives to address pollution (e.g. taxes and subsidies favouring less-polluting activities by industry and consumers)	•	0	0	0	0	0
Ensuring a more positive impact of the banking and insurance systems on pollution	0	•	0	0	0	0
More research on pollution (e.g. to better understand sources and impacts of pollution, prevent and remediate it)	0	•	0	0	0	0
Better monitoring of pollution levels	•	0	0	0	0	0
Better anticipating how pollution may develop in the future (e.g. using modelling)	•	0	0	0	0	0
Stepping up international action on pollution	•	0	0	0	0	0
Enhancing cooperation between stakeholders	•	0	0	0	0	0

* Increasing awareness on pollution, e.g. funding for clean-up/remediation activities with citizen involvement	0	©	©	•	©	0	
Formal education: Integrating pollution-related issues more into education curricula, e.g. training activities on the interplay between pollution, climate change, and public health, on sustainable consumption of products and energy, on sustainable mobility	•	•	•	•	•	0	
* Influencing behavioural change (e.g. through social media, culture, sports,) to shift to a 'zero pollution mentality', by informing citizens more, e.g. on the interplay between pollution, climate change and public health, on sustainable consumption of products and energy, on sustainable mobility	•	0	0	0	0	0	
* Social innovation (e.g. shifting from physical to digital solutions, changes in work organisation)	0	•	0	0	0	0	
* Other	•	0	0	0	0	0	

If other, please specify

300 character(s) maximum

Stop investments on polluting sectors, activities, processes and products; promoting behavioural change and liability for polluters: full implementation of the polluter-pays principle and immediate follow-up to oblige polluters to remedy (clean-up).

If applicable, please specify in which area you would like to see new EU legislation on pollution

300 character(s) maximum

Indoor air pollution, air pollution from agriculture and domestic heating (regulating emissions at the source), leisure noise, plastic ban, light pollution, mining activities and decarbonisation of energy intensive industries, environmental inspections, Regulation on crematoria.

3.2 In your view, how much should the following groups contribute (financially and by actions) to reducing pollution, compared to the current situation?

	Much more	Somewhat more	Same as currently	Somewhat less	Much less	l don't know
* Product manufacturers	•	0	0	0	0	0
* Service providers	•	0	0	0	0	0
* Food producers (farmers, aquaculture producers, fisheries)	•	0	©	0	0	0
* Energy producers	•	0	0	0	0	0
* Consumers	0	•	0	0	0	0
* Taxpayers via public funding	0	0	•	0	0	0
* Other	0	0	0	0	0	0

3.3 In your view, which lessons could be learned for zero pollution policies from recent developments, such as changes observed during Covid-19 related measures (e.g. changes related to less commuting and traffic)?

	Completely agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Completely disagree	l don't know
* More can and should be done to reduce ambient air pollution in cities	•	0	0	0	0	0
* More can and should be done to reduce noise pollution in cities	•	0	0	0	0	0
* More can and should be done to reduce pollution from food (from farmer to consumer)	•	0	0	0	0	0
More can and should be done to reduce pollution from waste (from production to recycling/disposal)	•	0	0	0	0	0
* More can and should be done to reduce pollution in our seas	•	0	0	0	0	0
* More can and should be done to reduce the need for passenger and goods transport (e.g. adapting work organisation, more teleworking)	•	0	0	0	0	0
More can and should be done to incentivise active and clean mobility (e. g. walking and cycling)	•	0	0	0	0	0
* More can and should be done to incentivise other alternatives to private car ownership, such as shared mobility solutions and public transport	•	0	0	0	0	0
* Other	0	0	0	0	0	0

3.4 In your view, what impacts should be the most decisive for implementation of pollution related policies?

	Completely agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Completely disagree	I don't know
* Human and animal health impacts	•	0	0	0	0	0
* Environmental impacts	•	0	0	0	0	0
* Economic impacts	0	0	•	0	0	0
* Social impacts	0	0	0	0	0	0
* Other	0	0	0	0	0	0

Part III: Expert section

This part is dedicated to experts and specialised public. It includes two thematic sections which are cross-cutting in nature, namely the monitoring and digitalisation. Other thematic consultations have already taken place or are planned in the context of specific impact assessment or evaluation work (see introductory section). These dedicated consultations will also be considered in the zero pollution work. However, the focus here is on cross-cutting themes.

4. Towards an integrated zero pollution monitoring and outlook framework

This section of the questionnaire seeks to gather views of experts on the development of a more integrated and holistic zero pollution monitoring and outlook framework. Monitoring can describe the levels and impacts of pollution now and in the past, including the analysis of trends. An outlook can identify potential changes and (new) developments in the future either in a quantitative manner (e.g. through modelling and scenarios) or in a qualitative manner (through foresight and horizon scanning).

This section is particularly suited for respondents who do have an in-depth knowledge of monitoring and assessing pollution in a policy context.

4.1 What is your opinion about the following statements?

	Completely agree	Somewhat agree	Neither disagree nor agree	Somewhat disagree	Completely disagree	l don't know
Existing pollution monitoring frameworks at EU and national level are sufficient.	0	0	0	0	•	0
Integrating (zero) pollution monitoring frameworks, such as on different pollutants or under different laws at EU level is an important initiative for the EU action plan.	•	0	0	0	0	0
Developing an overarching 'Zero Pollution' monitoring framework at EU level is relevant for your own work .	•	0	0	0	0	0
Communicating on health impacts from pollution at EU level needs to be improved.	•	0	0	0	0	0
Communicating on environmental impacts from pollution at EU level needs to be improved.	•	0	0	0	0	0
Communicating on socio-economic impacts related to pollution at EU level needs to be improved	•	0	0	0	0	0
Linkages of health data with pollution data need to be improved	•	0	0	0	0	0
Linkages of socio-economic data with pollution data need to be improved	•	0	0	0	0	0

4.2 In your opinion, what should be the main purpose for a zero pollution monitoring and outlook at EU level?

	Somewhat agree	Neither disagree nor agree	Somewhat disagree	Completely disagree	l don't know
Providing a guidance ('compass') for the Zero Pollution ambition towards 2050 for the purpose of policy making and communication	0	0	0	0	0
Being 'a driver for change' through better communication with and engagement of citizens	•	0	0	0	0
Showing implementation progress ('what is the distance to target?') and effectiveness ('have the past measures worked?') of existing EU policies and legislation	©	•	©	•	•
Monitoring progress towards benchmarks related to human health and well-being (e.g. on air or water pollution) and to planetary boundaries (e.g. on pollution from excess nutrients)	©	0	©	©	0
Assessing the total pollution load (exposure) as well as the main impacts of pollution on humans and on ecosystems	0	0	0	0	0

4.3 In your opinion, which pollutants should be addressed as a priority at EU level and therefore included in the monitoring framework?

	Completely agree	Somewhat agree	Neither disagree nor agree	Somewhat disagree	Completely disagree	l don't know
Particulate matter in ambient air (PM10, PM2.5)	•	0	0	0	0	0
Other air pollutants (e.g. nitrogen dioxide, ozone, sulphur dioxide)	•	0	0	0	0	0
Excess nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) in air, water and soil	•	0	0	0	0	0
Heavy metals in air, water and soil	•	0	0	0	0	0
Pesticides / biocides	•	0	0	0	0	0
Pharmaceuticals and especially pharmaceutical substances representing a risk with respect to the development of antimicrobial resistances	•	0	0	0	0	0
Hydrocarbons including oil spills	0	•	0	0	0	0
Other industrial chemicals	•	0	0	0	0	0
Marine litter, including plastics	•	0	0	0	0	0
Microbiological and viral pollution	0	•	0	0	0	0
Noise	•	0	0	0	0	0
Other physical pollution not listed above	•	0	0	0	0	0
Other pollutants not listed above	•	0	0	0	0	0

If other physical pollution, please specify

100 character(s) maximum

Resource consumption, water abstraction and use, energy use, textile pollution

If other pollutants, please specify

100 character(s) maximum

CH4, NH3, Hg, black carbon, ultra fine particles, Subs of High Concern (all emissions and releases)

5. Digital solutions for zero pollution

This section of the questionnaire seeks to gather views of experts on the digital tools and services (such as the use of artificial intelligence or blockchain) and how they can be used for achieving the zero pollution ambition.

This section is particularly suited for respondents who do have an in-depth knowledge of digitisation ideally applied in the context of pollution prevention, reduction and remediation.

5.1 What is your opinion about the following statements?

	Completely agree	Somewhat agree	Neither disagree nor agree	Somewhat disagree	Completely disagree	l don't know
Digital solutions offer a significant potential for reducing pollution.	0	•	0	0	0	0
Digital solutions are already widely applied by businesses for reducing pollution.	0	0	0	0	•	0
Administrations (in my country) are using digital tools to trace pollution and inform the public.	0	0	•	0	0	0
Administrations (in my country) are using digital tools to implement EU pollution legislation and enforce rules on the ground.	0	0	•	0	0	0
Significant investment is needed in innovation and digitalisation to help achieve the 'zero pollution ambition'	0	0	0	•	0	0
Excessive data collection and storage risks contributing to pollution more than it reduces pollution	0	0	0	0	•	0

5.2 In your opinion, what are the areas of digital application with the biggest potential for pollution prevention, reduction and remediation?

	Completely agree	Somewhat agree	Neither disagree nor agree	Somewhat disagree	Completely disagree	l don't know
Data generation and monitoring of pollution (e.g. through remote sensing)	•	0	0	0	0	0
Data transmission and management	•	0	0	0	0	0
Data analytics and artificial intelligence	0	•	0	0	0	0
Blockchain and distributed ledger technology	0	0	0	0	0	•
Internet of things (IoT)	0	0	0	0	0	•
Information about pollution for consumers and businesses (e.g. pollutants present in products through product passports)	•	0	0	0	0	0
3D printing or additive manufacturing	0	0	0	0	•	0
Online platforms and cloud systems	0	0	0	0	•	0
Digital twins and models	0	0	0	0	0	•
Changing work organisation, shifting from physical to digital solutions (e.g. teleworking)	0	•	0	0	0	0

Can you give examples for digital solutions to reduce pollution in your area of work?

2000 character(s) maximum

Air quality and emissions live monitoring and reporting, with databases for easy access and comparability of data; EU harmonised air pollution alert system; noise monitoring network with databases for easy access and comparability of data. Central monitoring data and information system, which includes data on production, resource consumption, use and end of life phases for all product and services, make available existing scientific evidence and allow for the localisation of pollution levels, also where mixture of pollution occurs (cocktail effect).

Further comments

Do you have any other comments or any other issues that should be addressed in the context of the Zero Pollution Action Plan? Why?

2000 character(s) maximum

The definition of 'zero-pollution' will be important within the ZPAP. In this context, the European Commission should be guided by four key principles: pollution prevention, precautionary principle, transparency and polluter-pays. The clear ambition for the Plan to deliver the highest pollution reduction possible, promoting behavioural changes, technical solutions and, especially, system changes, must be outlined in the ZPAP. Pollution prevention - to prevent pollution at source, and polluter-pays - to make polluters pay for pollution related costs, must be explicitly referred to in the ZPAP text. Polluters should internalise the costs of pollution. Hence, the full implementation of the polluter-pays principle constitutes an essential way to define a (economically) sustainable path towards zero-pollution (see EEB report Mind the Gap https://eeb.org/library /mind-the-gap-report/ as example). The EEB welcomes the EC's intention to set up a centralised pollution monitoring and management system. This should have as objectives: active dissemination of information, including on available scientific evidence; comparability of data; identification of possible cocktail effects; setup of a harmonised alert system on pollution levels; centralisation of all available pollution related data to improve its traceability along the whole life-cycle, from production (integrating resource consumption), to use, to emissions and releases phases. The system should not only consider to what is covered by existing laws, but should provide data and information on all pollutants, physical pollution and substances which are potentially harmful, or for which not enough evidence to declare their safety is available (precautionary principle). The EEB wants to cross the 'completely agree' option for the lines 1,3,4 and 5 in question number 4.2 of the ZPAP public consultation questionnaire.

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