

Air quality in the EU: how to do your part

Air pollution harms our health and causes 400,000 premature deaths per year in the EU. It also damages nature and ecosystems.

A revision of the Ambient Air Quality Directives that strengthens EU air quality standards and other important elements for air quality management will be an important step to ensure that people's right to clean air is respected. The European Commission will present its proposal in the second half of 2022.

The new laws must reflect the latest scientific evidence on the health and environmental impacts of air pollution, and support actions to cut pollution at source. EU citizens have high expectations for this revision:

don't let them down.



What can you do to ensure that citizens breathe cleaner air?

Demand:

full alignment of EU air quality limit values with the latest World Health Organization's guidelines, expected in the first half of 2021, and the respect of limit values all over EU territory

the establishment of air quality standards and monitoring requirements for additional key pollutants, such as ammonia, mercury, black carbon and ultra-fine particles

for fixed measurement systems to remain the core element for air quality monitoring, and to be complemented by robust modelling based on accurate monitoring data, while rejecting any attempt to restrict air quality monitoring solely to areas where population density is high

for monitoring networks to reflect the impact of key air pollution sources, such as highways, roads, ports, airports, energy and industrial activities, including livestock farming

better implementation and enforcement of air quality legislation, and the introduction of provisions on access to justice, sanctions and penalties for breaching existing obligations

that air quality plans include minimum requirements, subject to quality check and implementation assessments

the harmonisation of and better access to information on air pollution

It's your time to stand for air quality, people's health and the environment!

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