

## Call for tender for the preparation of a report on the climate impact of air pollution levels aligning with European Commission's proposed air quality standards<sup>1</sup>.

*The European Environmental Bureau (EEB) is Europe's largest network of environmental citizens' organisations. We bring together over 180 civil society organisations from more than 38 European countries. We stand for sustainable development, environmental justice & participatory democracy.*

The purpose of this invitation to tender is to award a contract to a consultancy firm for developing, in collaboration with the EEB, an assessment answering the question: *what would be the impact on climate if the air pollution levels were brought down to the air quality standards recently proposed by the European Commission – by 2030?* (the analysis is especially relevant in relation to: the ongoing recast of the Ambient Air Quality Directives; the revision of the Industrial Emissions Directive; the revision of Eco-design standards for stoves and local space heaters; the revision of National Air Pollution Control Programmes under the NEC Directive, the review and possible revision of the National Emission Ceilings Directive, the revision of the Gothenburg Protocol and the revision of the National Energy and Climate Plans under the Governance Regulation).

When drafting the report, the selected candidate is expected to

1. **Review existing literature** on the air quality and climate impacts of a set of 20 identified measures (technical and non-technical);
2. **Identify, together with EEB, existing windows of opportunity** – ongoing decision-making processes, for promoting the adoption of air quality and climate measures and/or identify existing legislative gaps that should be filled in;
3. **Assessing climate mitigation co-benefits for key technical and nontechnical measures addressing air pollution:** showing the detailed air and GHG emissions reductions benefits – for the shortlist of measures (expect to explore around ten measures). Develop 2-4 page “fiches” on each promising measures; these fiches will serve as a tool to show quantitative benefits of climate-air-health synergies of the different measures;
4. **Conduct a member States analysis** (6 study countries: PL, IT, BG, SE, CZ, ES) of benefits of implementing the identified measures at a national scale (reduced air pollution emissions and health costs, reduced GHG emissions, reduced environmental costs, indirect benefit in achieving objectives established by pre-existing pieces of legislation not necessarily related to air quality) and how these relate to the costs of the choices.
5. **Preparation of the final report:** Air and climate co-benefits of EU compliance with the European Commission proposed standards to be achieved by 2030 and opportunities for change. This will provide information on (at the EU level): key measures to fight air pollution at source, insights into the balance of costs and benefits for implementing them to comply with Commission's proposed standards by 2030, including details on the related climate, health and environmental benefits that can support more ambitious decision-making on air pollution and climate files and investments.

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<sup>1</sup> [Proposal for a DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe \(recast\), COM/2022/542 final](#)

6. **Support the coordination and planning of deliverables as well as budget management** together with the internal EEB task force. Take care of administrative and legal procedures, coordination and receipt of works.

**Date of publication of tender:** 12 March 2024

**Deadline:** 31 March 2024

**Please submit tenders in English to [tenders@eeb.org](mailto:tenders@eeb.org) using the Subject line 'Air quality tender'.**

The offer should include a global, preliminary plan and budget for project management etc. as described above. The maximum budget available is 165,000 €. Please note that offers need to be sent excluding VAT, and that EEB is VAT registered under BE 0415.814.848.

- Please organize your budget presentation so that it clearly corresponds to points 1-6 in the list above with details about the total price for each point.
- The budget should clearly state the total price exclusive of tax and the corresponding tax separately.
- Please provide us with information about your environmental and/or sustainability policy. This is an integral part of our selection criteria, together with price-quality ratio, and the extent to which the bid corresponds to the concept note.

The Consultant is expected to spend part of the time coordinating work with relevant EEB staff and attending coordination meetings. The consultant must be independent and able to offer services free from potential conflict of interest. Please include the CV(s) of the main people involved.

Expected qualifications include (non-exhaustive list):

- Experience of leading on similar projects, ideally for international or European organisations and/or networks and/or public institutions;
- Familiarity with/ownership of different types of air quality modelling systems also covering health and environmental impacts and project management (contract/project tracking, monitoring of deliverables and tasks/to dos, monitoring of reporting/calendar etc.);
- Capacity to integrate required expertise through sub-contracting;
- Fluent in English

The applicant whose tender is selected will be contacted.

*Disclaimer: Submitted documents will not be returned. The EEB will inform all bidders about the EEB's decision in relation to their bid. Bidders may ask for feedback on their bid. However, the EEB's decision will be considered as final, full details will not necessarily be disclosed and there is no possibility of appeal. The material produced in the framework of this contract, including the final report, will be property of the EEB.*

*The European Environmental Bureau is an International non-profit association - Association internationale sans but lucratif (AISBL). EC register for interest representatives: Identification number 06798511314-27*

## Concept note

### Introduction

The EEB is the largest network of environmental citizens' organisations in Europe. We bring together 180 member organisations from 40 countries (all EU Member States plus some accession and neighbouring countries) and include a growing number of European networks.

The European Union is at a cross-road: its zero-pollution and climate neutral objectives to be achieved by 2050 demand swift and decisive actions to be taken.

The ongoing revision (recast) of the Ambient Air Quality Directives, establishing air quality standards for the air we breathe and setting rules on air quality management and enforceability, is a key opportunity to secure that the needed effort is done to improve air quality to a level which is in line with the latest scientific recommendations by WHO (Global Air Quality Guidelines). The revision process is of key importance also for filling gaps and remediate to existing loopholes in the management part through the establishment of clear and enforceable rules: on monitoring and modelling, on the preparation of air quality plans and the measures to be privileged, on the consequences for breaching the legislation and on access to justice rights to secure diffuse and equal implementation and enforceability.

At the same time, several key relevant decision-making processes on topics which have an impact on air quality are ongoing or about to be concluded, including: the revision of the Industrial Emissions Directive; the revision of Eco-design standards for stoves and local space heaters; the revision of National Air Pollution Control Programmes under the NEC Directive and the revision of the National Energy and Climate Plans under the Governance Regulation), the review and hopefully revision of the National Emission Ceilings Directive and the revision of the Gothenburg Protocol (UNECE).

Some of these processes are part of the Fit for 55 package and are aiming at making Europe a climate neutral continent, others are aiming at delivering on the Zero Pollution ambition, others are relevant for the UNECE region.

These processes are taking place during an extraordinary challenging time: the European Commission developed a REPowerEU strategy and Member States are dealing with the implementation of their National Resilience and Recovery Plans. These instruments have not always prioritised nor favored the uptake of climate neutral and pollution-free solutions, on the contrary, a revamp on the use of fossil fuels (including coal) had been registered. An emergency food security narrative is gaining more and more space in the public debate, with intensive industrial agriculture potentially still escaping the much-needed definition of a proper regulatory framework to secure that the overall EU's objectives of a climate neutral and pollution-free Europe are met.

The EEB is launching this call for tender to provide decision makers in the existing and upcoming European Parliament and European Commission (EU elections taking place in Q2 2024) and Member State representatives with a set of clear recommendations on which technical and non-technical measures should be supported for adoption and implemented in order to deliver on the above-mentioned EU's objectives. One key criterion which will help in securing the most diffuse uptake of these winning measures is their capacity to deliver on both air quality and climate objectives, at the same time. The understanding of the related health benefit will also be important. Influencing the upcoming European Commission's, providing clear indications about what actions should be prioritised to achieve clean air and climate objectives, is also an important goal of this. With this project EEB is aiming at elaborating a research piece (which will also serve as advocacy tool) to answer the genuine question about '*what should decision-makers do to deliver on air quality and climate objectives*'. To do so, a clear set of recommendations about what concrete steps should be taken (what to support and what not) in terms of technical and non-technical measures to be privileged will have to be produced. This set of recommendations should help in guiding both EU decision-making processes but also national and international ones.

This is why the identification of existing and upcoming windows of opportunity is important: to secure the understanding, replicability and uptake of those recommendations, while building-up a legislative and policy context which coherently favor them – including in light of the new European Parliament and European Commission's mandates starting in 2024. The identification of potential trade-offs will also be an added value to the analysis.

## **Development of the work**

After EEB has identified the most promising 20 technical and non-technical measures in reducing overall EU air pollution emissions, 10 of them will be shortlisted by the contracted consultant for conducting a deeper analysis – the selection will be based on their potential for also contributing to climate objectives while securing the achievement of the air quality standards proposed by the European Commission in October 2022. The identification of what would be needed to move further, and achieve WHO recommendations on air quality by 2030, will be particularly useful. The main criterion for identifying the 10 shortlisted measures is indeed their capacity to deliver on both air quality and climate objectives, targeting especially key air pollutants (NO<sub>2</sub> and PM 2.5) and those which also impact our climate (like methane and black carbon).

The detailed air pollution and GHG emissions reduction potential and benefits of the 10 short-listed measures will be described in a 2-4 pages 'fiche', one for each promising measure. These 'fiches' will help show concrete cases to decision-makers on the quantitative benefits of climate-air-health synergies of the different measures, so to achieve the proposed European Commission's air quality standards by 2030; and pointing to the importance of their immediate engagement to make a difference.

In order to proof how the implementation of the 10 short-listed measures will effectively contribute to air quality (achievement of the proposed European Commission's air quality standards by 2030)

and climate objectives, 6 case studies on specific EU Member States (CZ, SE, ES, IT, BG, PL) will be developed under this project: the analysis will assess the benefits of implementing the identified 10 measures at the national scale (reduced air pollution and health costs, reduced GHG emissions, reduced environmental costs, indirect benefit in achieving objectives established by pre-existing pieces of legislation not necessarily related to air quality) and how those benefit relate to the cost of the choices. One report will have to be produced for each country.

The evidence produced will be presented in a summary report, this will provide information on key technical and non-technical measures to fight air pollution at source and insights into the balance of costs for implementing them to comply with the proposed European Commission's air quality standards by 2030, including details on the related climate, health and environmental benefits to support ambitious decisions within relevant air pollution and climate related files and investments.

### **Deliverables:**

- 10 'fiches' of 3-4 pages, one for each one of the 10 short-listed measures, to present the evidence developed regarding their impact on air quality and climate objectives. These documents will present the quantitative benefits of climate-air-health synergies related to the implementation of different measures at EU level (overall EU potential for emissions reduction of at least key pollutants such as NO<sub>2</sub>, PM 10/2.5, and pollutants which also have an impact on climate such as ozone/methane and black carbon). Any additional consideration of their impact on key pollutants such as ammonia, ultra fine particles and benzo a pyrene will be useful.
- 6 country-reports to present the evidence generated showing how the implementation at the national level of the 10 previously identified measures will impact air quality and climate objectives, and showing how far we would need to go in order to achieve WHO recommendations on air quality (2021 WHO Global Air Quality Guidelines).
- A summary report to present the evidence developed, including a description about how far the whole European Union would need to go in order to achieve the air quality standards proposed by the European Commission in October 2022 and, ideally, to comply with WHO recommendations on air quality (2021 WHO Global Air Quality Guidelines).

### **Possible timeline:**

*Phase 1: 10 fiches on key air quality/climate measures potential at EU level – 1 month*

- \* Work together with EEB to assess the 20 measures pre-selected by EEB and short-list the 10 which will be considered for the development of the work
- \* Consultant to send a proposal to EEB on the 10 short-listed measures indicating the criteria used for the selection
- \* Consultants to develop the fiches as described above – the fiches are to be shared with EEB as soon as they are ready (one by one), so their dissemination among decision-makers and civil society actors can start as soon as possible

*Phase 2: 6 case-study reports – 1 month*

- \* EEB to organise introductory calls between the consultant and the relevant EEB national members to create connections and to provide the consultant with a reference for potentially needed support in case access to national data, or others, is to be facilitated.
- \* Draft case-study reports to be shared with EEB before finalisation
- \* The case-study reports are to be made available as soon as they are finalised so they can be disseminated among the respective relevant national stakeholders

*Phase 3: finalisation of the final report – 2 months*

- \* Consultant to share the final report with EEB before finalisation
- \* Finalisation of the report, including explanations on the methodology used
- \* Participation in a launching event and in smaller events to present the technical aspects of the report