



EU perspectives on reducing air emissions

The New Air Quality Package and projects

A Brief Overview

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Main elements of the AQ package

- ❑ Communication on the new European Clean Air Programme ("Strategy")
- ❑ Proposal for a revised Directive on National Emission Reduction Commitments ("NEC")
- ❑ Proposal for a Directive on controlling emissions from Medium Combustion Plants ("MCP")
- ❑ Proposal for a Council Decision on ratification of the Gothenburg Protocol amendment ("GPRI")
- ❑ Accompanying Impact Assessment ("IA")

The existing Air Policy Framework

At international level

- UN ECE Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP) and its Protocols (e.g. the Gothenburg Protocol with national emission ceilings for 2010 and 2020)

At EU level

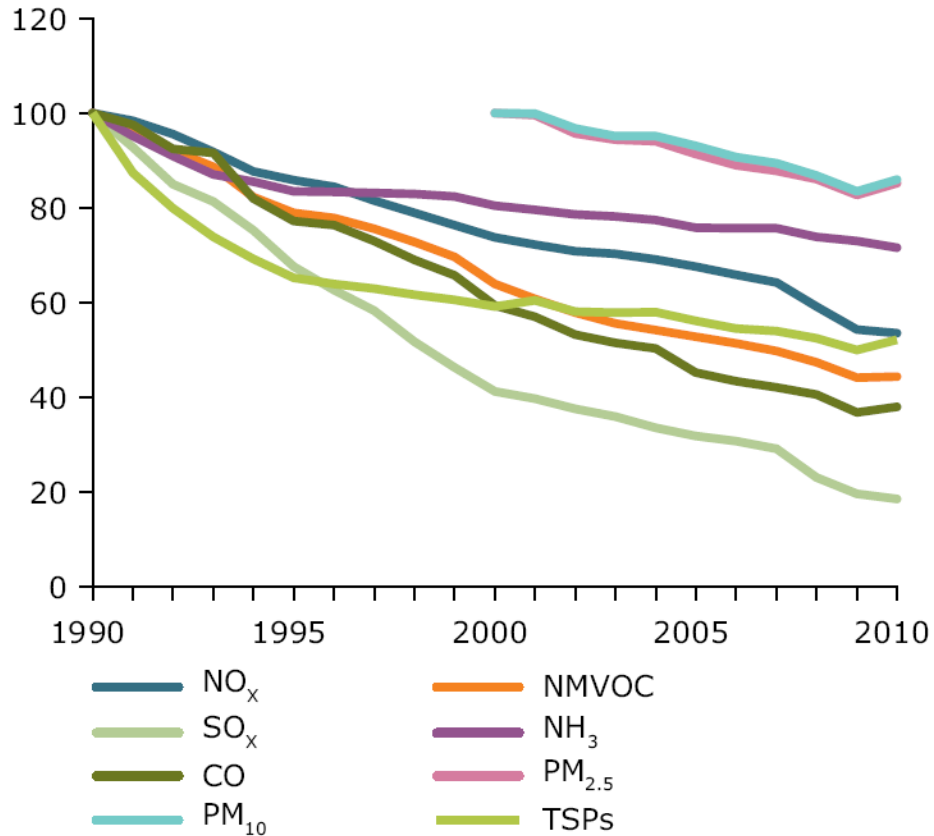
- STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES: The EU Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution (2005)
- EMISSION CAPS: The National Emission Ceilings (NEC) Directive
- LOCAL AIR QUALITY LIMITS: The Ambient Air Quality Directives
- SOURCE-SPECIFIC LEGISLATION: the Industrial Emissions Directive, Euro standards, energy efficiency standards etc

At national level

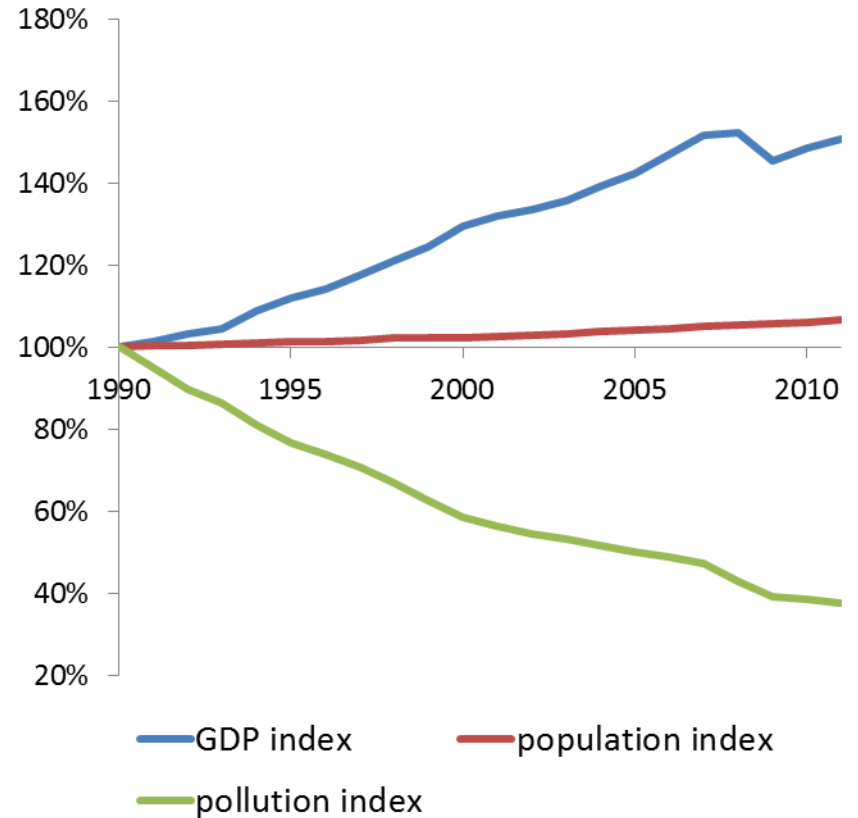
- National and local legislation and instruments

Air policy works: Emissions of major air pollutants greatly reduced ...

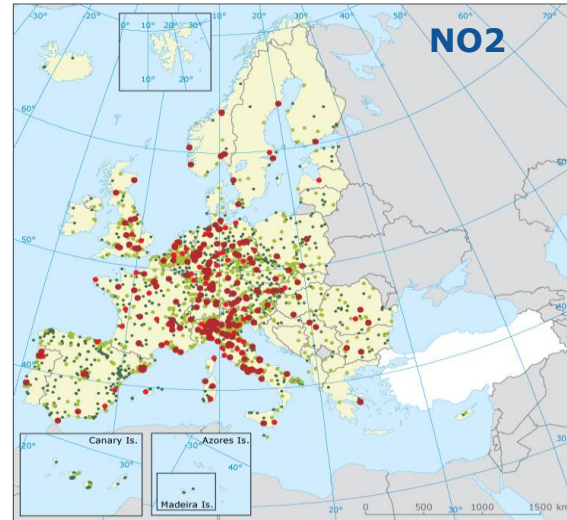
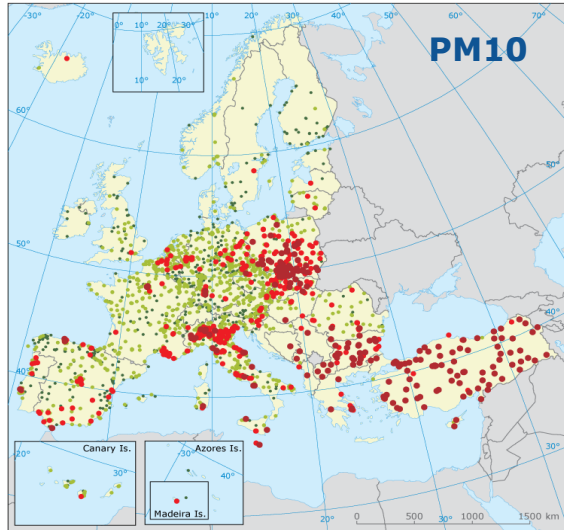
Index (1990 (2000) = 100)



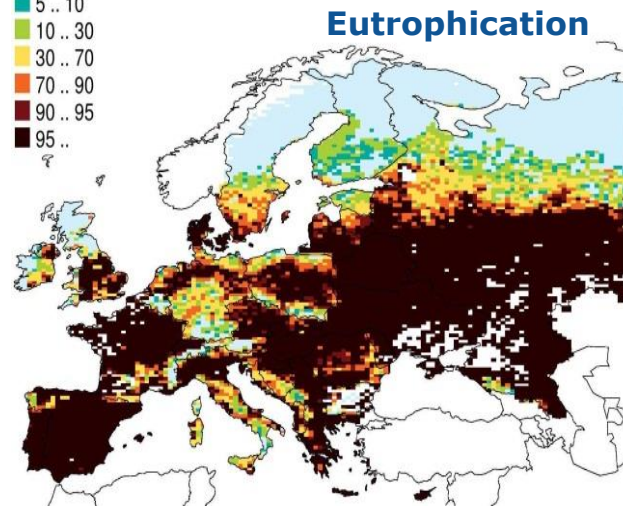
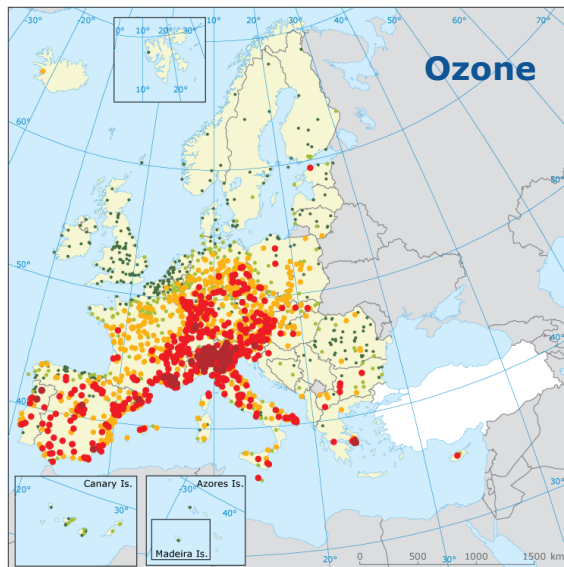
Index 1990 = 100%



... But significant air quality problems remain in the EU (2010)



See also EEA Reports



Key compliance issues

PM10 limit values

- 2008 TEN process completed
- 17 MS have been facing compliance problems
- Outlook positive but trends reversing in some cases

NO2 limit values

- 2008 TEN process ending
- High number of (local) compliance problems

Ozone target value

- Peak concentrations improved
- Background concentrations remaining problematic

[Environmental impacts]

- Nitrates and Natura 2000 related legislation

Why Is This a Problem?

Premature deaths due to PM and ozone	Restricted activity days due to PM	Forest area exceeding acidification limits	Lake area exceeding acidification limits	Ecosystem area exceeding eutrophication limits	Natura 2000 areas exceeding eutrophication limits
406,000	569 Million	9%	25%	62%	71%

PM10 compliance	NO2 compliance	O3 attainment	PM10 population exposed above the limit value	NO2 population exposed above the limit value	O3 population exposed above the target value
68%	76%	65%	40%	6-12%	35%

Air Quality Standards	PM10	PM2.5	NO2	O3
EU	40	25	40	120
WHO	20	10	40	100



Ensuring compliance by 2020

Key compliance obstacles pre-2020 (and solutions)

❑ **Transport**

- Euro 6 (2014 implementing acts)
- Synergies with sustainable mobility plans

❑ **Small and medium scale combustion**

- Ecodesign Directive (< 1MW)
- Targeted fuels switching programmes –PL, CZ, SK, BG
- Synergies with sustainable energy plans

❑ **Background pollution** (within MS, intra-EU, global)

- Implementation of existing legislation (IED, Marine Fuels,...)
- Implementation of National Emission Reduction Commitments for 2020 (GP)

❑ **Governance**

- Co-ordination of AQ and emissions policy, capacity for assessment and management

Policy options selected to achieve compliance by 2020 (summary)

- ❑ Full **implementation of existing measures**, in particular Euro 6
- ❑ Support for **national and local action through LIFE** and other EU funds
- ❑ Supporting **implementation of Gothenburg Protocol** in neighbouring states
- ❑ Reinforced **research and innovation agenda in Horizon 2020**



The policy package

How will the Strategy be delivered?

A proposal for a new NECD

- Reduction commitments for six principal pollutants for each MS
 - SO₂: 81%
 - NO_x: 69%
 - NMVOCs: 50%
 - NH₃: 27%
 - PM_{2,5}: 51%
 - CH₄: 33%
- Staged tightening of commitments
 - 2020 – Gothenburg
 - 2030 – 70% gap closure
- Interim targets for 2025 to ensure timely compliance
- Flexibilities
- Reinforced implementation

A proposal on Medium Combustion Plants

- Tackles main gap in policy framework
- Delivers emission reductions for SO₂, NO_x and PM from plant of a rated thermal input between 1MW and 50MW
 - ❑ Up to 20% of the reductions needed for overall policy
- Fuel-specific emission limit values, distinguishing between
 - ❑ new and existing plants (with staged implementation)
 - ❑ engines, turbines and others
- Low admin burden - registration rather than full permitting
- Benchmark values for plant in zones not complying with AQ standards



EU funding instruments contributing to Air Quality

EU funding instruments

- ❑ Structural funds ("the big five")
- ❑ LIFE Program (environment and climate)
- ❑ Horizon 2020 (research)
- ❑ Civitas (transport)
- ❑ Interreg (interregional projects)
- ❑

Structural Funds

Structural funds

- European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
- European Social Fund (ESF)
- Cohesion Fund (CF)
- European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)
- European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)

Priority Thematic Objectives for including Air Quality in Partnership Agreements and Operational Programs

- T03 Agriculture
- T04 Low Carbon Economy including energy efficiency and RES
- T06 Environment
- T07 Transport

LIFE program (1)

Traditional projects

- Addressing air quality in atmospheric particulate matter (PM) hotspots in areas with continued high use of coal and biomass burning for energy
- Promoting high quality biomass burning where fuel switching is not feasible
- Sustainable mobility
- Reducing ammonia and PM emissions from agriculture
- Pollution prevention and abatement of industrial emissions
- Integrated policies for sustainable urban planning and design
- Awareness-raising on air quality in urban areas
- Identifying, developing and sharing best practices relating to air quality legislation for example capacity building, monitoring, modelling, emission inventories.

LIFE program (2)

Integrated Projects ("LIFE IP")

- Addressing administrations responsible for developing, implementing and evaluating Air Quality plans and programs
- Focus on monitoring, emission inventories, source attribution, management, public information and participation, coordination and support
- EU added value has to be demonstrated : link with NECD and its revision, as well as limit and target values of the AAQD
- Many considerations: i.a. leverage of other EU funds, people and geographic area benefitting, long term benefits, dissemination possibilities, ...



The policy package

Conclusions

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The New Air Package Is

- ❑ The Commission's strategic response addressing a significant problem facing the EU citizens and the environment
- ❑ Based on state of the art scientific and technical information and analysis, including the WHO guidelines
- ❑ Cost-effective, feasible, and supportive of the EU's clean technology sector
- ❑ Consistent with EU 2020 (Climate, Energy, Industry, People)
- ❑ Aiming at more support for implementation of AQ policies.

Thank You

Further info

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http://ec.europa.eu/environment/air/clean_air_policy.htm