



The Current Status of Ambient Air Quality Standards in the EU

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Framework Directive



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- **Directive 96/62/EC**
 - **Annex I contains the pollutants to be covered by daughter legislation**
 - **SO₂, NO₂, PM, Pb**
 - **CO, benzene, ozone**
 - **PAHs, As, Cd, Ni, Hg**



Air Quality Framework Directive



- **Define and establish objectives for ambient air quality**
 - **Assess ambient air quality on the basis of common methods and criteria**
 - **Obtain information about air quality and make it available to the public**
 - **Maintain and where necessary improve air quality**
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1st Daughter Directive : SO₂, NO_x, PM₁₀, Pb



- Directive 1999/30/EC
 - New limit values for SO₂, NO_x, particulate matter (PM₁₀) and lead
 - Dates for meeting the limit values (2005 and 2010 for health, immediate for ecosystems)
 - Alert thresholds for SO₂ and NO₂
 - Monitoring/ other assessment requirements
 - Public information requirements
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What will Member States have to do?



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- **Assess air quality throughout their territory**
 - **Make detailed attainment programmes for the worst areas**
 - **Meet the limit values by the target date**
 - **Keep clean air clean**
 - **Appropriate short-term action plans**
 - **Provide accessible, comprehensible up-to-date information to the public**
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Attainment programmes



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- Heart of legislation
 - Legislation does not say what they should contain
 - International measures will do some of the work
 - National and more local measures decided locally
 - Technical and non-technical measures
 - Deciding the best mix is complex and means predicting the future



Public Information



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- **Up-to-date information on air quality to be supplied regularly to the public and media**
 - **Information to be supplied to the public when alert thresholds are exceeded**
 - **Attainment programmes to be available to the public**
 - **Information to be “clear, comprehensible and accessible”**
 - **Regular reporting to the Commission**
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1st Daughter Directive: timetable 1



- **Full transposition by 19 July 2001**
 - **Preliminary AQ assessment:**
 - **inform Commission of methods by 19 January 2001**
 - **From 19 July 2001**
 - **Full ongoing assessment throughout the territory**
 - **Up-to-date information to the public**
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1st Daughter Directive: timetable 2



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- **Starting September 2002, report to Commission:**
 - zones with concentrations above new health limit value plus margin of tolerance
 - zones with concentrations between margin of tolerance and new health limit value
 - zones with concentrations above ecosystem limit value
 - **NEITHER OF THE FIRST TWO CASES IS AN INFRINGEMENT**
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What NOT to expect immediately



- Concentrations above new health based limit values: must be met by 2005 or 2010
- Concentrations above the new health based limit value plus the margin of tolerance



What to expect immediately



- **Inadequate transposition**
 - **Inadequate air quality assessment**
 - **Inadequate, unclear or inaccessible public information**
 - **Concentrations above OLD limit values**
 - **Lack of information/APPROPRIATE action when concentrations exceed alert thresholds**
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Looking ahead



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- **Action programmes to be prepared for zones with concentrations above margin of tolerance within 2 years of occurrence (earliest 2003)**
 - Is it happening?
 - Are they available to the public
 - Is the public involved? (Aarhus)
 - **Other areas with concentrations above limit values - will they be on time?**
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What can people do themselves?



2nd Daughter Directive: CO and benzene



- **Limit values for CO and benzene**
- **Directive 2000/60**
- **Published 13 December 2000**
- **Transposition date: 13 December 2002**



3rd Daughter Directive: Ozone



- **Target values for ozone**
 - to be met as far as possible
 - consistent with National Emission Ceilings
 - attainment programmes
 - scope for short term actions to be investigated
 - **Long term objectives**
 - no exceedance of WHO guidelines
 - not achievable even with all known measures
 - no attainment date
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3rd Daughter Directive: Ozone



- **Common Position at October Council**
- **Awaiting second reading in Parliament June 2001**
- **Adoption second half 2001?**
- **Proposed transposition date: “at least 18 months after adoption”**



PAHs and metals



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- **AQFD requires proposals by December 1999!**
 - **Working groups established to develop position papers**
 - **CEN developing reference methods for measurement**
 - **Draft to be discussed with stakeholders, May 2001**
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Interpretation aids



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- **Guidance on preliminary assessment (done)**
 - **Guidance on ongoing assessment (soon)**
 - **Guidance on monitoring PM₁₀**
 - **Reporting questionnaire**
 - **All above plus background documents are/will be on AQ website**
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Sixth Environmental Action Programme



- **Proposal adopted January this year**
 - **Sets strategic framework for EU environmental policy over the next 10 years**
 - **Four priority areas:**
 - **Climate change**
 - **Nature and Biodiversity**
 - **Environment and Health**
 - **Natural Resources and Waste**
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Clean Air For Europe



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- **Integrated, iterative programme of policy development**
 - **Based on best available science**
 - **Precautionary principle**
 - **Broad and open dialogue**
 - **Report on first daughter Directive 2003**
 - **First integrated strategy 2004**
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What we need



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- **Implement what we have and learn from it**
 - **Common scientific and technical base for decisions**
 - **Investigations that go beyond immediate legislative requirements**
 - **Better knowledge about everything**
 - **Much better information on (total) exposure and impacts**
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What we need



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- **More transparency about/wider participation in policy planning**
 - **Better ways of dealing with uncertainty**