



**REGIONS
& CITIES**

**European Week
Brussels 9-12 October 2017**



**European Committee
of the Regions**



**European
Environment
Agency**



WORKSHOP 11B111

Cities in transition - improving urban air quality. Launch of the EEA's Air Quality in Europe 2017 report

*10th meeting of the CoR/EC Technical Platform for
Cooperation on the Environment*

Co-organised by Committee of the Regions, ENVE Commission,
European Commission, DG Environment & European Environment Agency

Wednesday 11 October 2017, 14.30 – 17.00

European Committee of the Regions, room VM3, Van Maerlant Building,
Rue van Maerlant 2, 1040 Brussels

This workshop will explore some of the options that cities have to improve air quality management, both within the city limits as well as within the wider region in which they are located. It will highlight some of the challenges cities face when working to improve air quality and present examples how these have been overcome.

In addition, the European Environment Agency will take the opportunity of the workshop to launch its new 'Air quality in Europe -2017' report, presenting participants with key updated information on the status of air quality across Europe.

Many European cities – more than 130 cities – face air pollution above the standards set in European Union air quality legislation and/or guidelines provided by the World Health Organization. Across the continent, this leaves almost one in three citizens in urban areas exposed to levels of air pollution legislation deems harmful, with adverse health risks.

Air pollution is an area where the European Union has been particularly active for more than thirty years. And yet, as the comprehensive Environmental Implementation Review published by the European Commission earlier this year shows: more needs to be done to bring all Member States into compliance with current air quality standards as soon as possible.

Our cities play a key role in this regard. On the one hand, cities are often disproportionately affected by poor air quality, including due to background concentrations caused by national as and international emissions, primarily from industrial and agricultural activities. On the other hand, cities themselves tend to contribute much to air pollution, especially as regards transport, households and energy emissions.

Achieving improved air quality will require effective implementation of existing legislation, notably on national emission ceilings and on various emission sources in the industrial, energy, transport and agricultural sectors. It will however also require further efforts at the city scale, especially to reduce air pollution hot-spots in cities, where and when they occur.

The workshop forms the 10th meeting of the CoR/EC Technical Platform for Cooperation on the Environment, which seeks to contribute to a better implementation of EU environment law.

14:30 **Welcome**

Cor Lamers, CoR ENVE Commission Chair, Mayor of Schiedam (NL)

14:35 **Subsession 1: Improving urban air quality - EU policy and knowledge context**

Moderator: Cor Lamers

Launch of EEA's Air Quality in Europe 2017 report - Air quality in European Cities

Martin Adams, European Environment Agency

The Clean Air Programme for Europe

Thomas Henrichs, Team Leader - Air Quality Office, DG Environment, European Commission

EU Urban Agenda: The Air Quality Partnership

Elliot Treharne, Air Quality Manager, Greater London Authority, Air Quality Partnership under the EU Urban Agenda

→ **Debate**

15:45 **Subsession 2: Improving urban air quality - action at regional and city level**

Moderator: Andrew Cooper, CoR rapporteur on the Environmental Implementation Review, Member of Kirklees Council (UK)

Low emission zones and access restrictions – experiences from German Cities

Axel Welge, Hauptreferent, Deutscher Städtetag (Association of German Cities)

LIFE integrated project PREPAIR - Po regions engaged to improving air quality

Katia Raffaelli, project coordinator, Directorate General for Environment, Soil and Coast Protection, Emilia-Romagna Region, Italy

Experiences from Warsaw

Katarzyna Kacpura, Deputy Director of Infrastructure Department, City of Warsaw

→ **Debate**

16:50 **Conclusions and outlook**

François Wakenhut, Acting Director Quality of Life, DG Environment, European Commission

17:00 **Networking session –**

In front of the room. Refreshments.

Interpretation:

participants can speak and listen in: EN, FR, DE

participants can speak in: IT