

Answers to General Policy Questions
Party: European Union

I. INSTITUTIONAL, REGULATORY AND STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

1. Question 1: Please describe the division of responsibility within your country for measures to combat air pollution (i.e. the roles of national, provincial, and State authorities).

Answer: The European Union (EU) succeeded the European Community as from 1 December 2009. The EU is a Regional Economic Integration Organisation and it has ratified the Convention as well as several of its protocols.

The EU and its Member States share the responsibility on environmental policy (shared competence). Several of the environmental policy areas - including air pollution policy - are covered by comprehensive EU legislation. This legislation is *either* in the form of Directives or Decisions which have to be implemented (transposed) by Member States into national legislation *or* in the form of Regulations which are directly applicable within the EU. The EU Member States also have complementary national legislation to achieve national and EU common objectives, but also to meet objectives and obligations flowing from the Convention and its protocols. The EU legislation on environment is generally also part of the agreement between the EU and other European countries under the European Economic Area (EEA), i.e. Norway, Liechtenstein and Iceland.

Question 2: Please provide details of your country's ambient air quality and deposition standards, programmes and policies by completing the table below.

Answer: The EU has comprehensive legislation on air quality standards as laid down in Directives 2008/50/EC¹ and 2004/107/EC² (AQ Directives). The standards below are minimum levels for ambient air quality either in the form of limit values which have to be attained throughout the EU or in the form of target values which have to be attained wherever possible. Member States may set stricter standards (lower levels or additional pollutants) than those specified in the EU legislation. In addition, EU legislation defines information and alert thresholds. The alert threshold is defined as the level beyond which there is a risk to human health from brief exposure for the population as a whole and at which immediate steps are to be taken by the Member States. The values mentioned relate to concentrations to be measured over three consecutive hours at locations representative of air quality over at least 100 km² or an entire zone or agglomeration, whichever is the smaller.

¹ DIRECTIVE 2008/50/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe. Official Journal: 11.6.2008, L152, p.1. This Directive is replacing the following Directives: Council Directive 96/62/EC of 27 September 1996 on ambient air quality assessment and management; Council Directive 1999/30/EC of 22 April 1999 relating to limit values for sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and oxides of nitrogen, particulate matter and lead in ambient air; Directive 2000/69/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 November 2000 relating to limit values for benzene and carbon monoxide in ambient air; Directive 2002/3/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 February 2002 relating to ozone in ambient air

² DIRECTIVE 2004/107/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL relating to arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air. Official Journal 21.1.2005, L23, p.3

Table 1: Question 2

	Standard (unit) /conditions¹	Status²/objectives³	Policy and programme/legislation (ref)
1. Ambient air quality standards			
Sulphur dioxide	350 µg/m ³ as hourly average not to be exceeded more than 24 times per calendar year 125 µg/m ³ as daily average not to be exceeded more than 3 times per calendar year	Limit value to protect human health	Directive 2008/50/EC In force since 2005
Sulphur dioxide	500 µg/m ³ for concentrations measured over 3 consecutive hours	Alert threshold, human health	Directive 2008/50/EC In force since 2005
Nitrogen dioxide	200 µg/m ³ as hourly average not to be exceeded more than 18 times per calendar year 40 µg/m ³ as average over the calendar year	Limit value to protect human health	Directive 2008/50/EC In force since 1 January 2010
Nitrogen dioxide	400 µg/m ³ for concentrations measured over 3 consecutive hours	Alert threshold, human health	Directive 2008/50/EC In force since 2005
Ozone	120 µg/m ³ as maximum daily 8h mean ³ within a calendar year not to	Target value to protect human health	Directive 2008/50/EC In force since 1 January 2010

³ The maximum daily eight-hour mean concentration shall be selected by examining eight-hour running averages, calculated from hourly data and updated each hour. Each eight -hour average so calculated shall be assigned to the day on which it ends. i.e. the first calculation period for any one day will be the period from 17:00 on the previous day to 01:00 on that day; the last calculation period for any one day will be the period from 16:00 to 24:00 on the day.

	be exceeded on more than 25 days per calendar year averaged over 3 years		
Ozone	18000 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3\text{h}$ as the May to June AOT40 calculated from 1h values averaged over 5 years	Target value to protect vegetation	Directive 2008/50/EC In force since 1 January 2010
Ozone	240 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ as hourly average	Alert threshold, human health	Directive 2008/50/EC In force since 2005
Particulate matter ₁₀	50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ as daily average not to be exceeded more than 35 times per calendar year 40 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ as average over the calendar year	Limit value to protect human health	Directive 2008/50/EC In force since 2005
Particulate matter _{2,5}	25 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ as average over calendar year	Target value to protect human health	Directive 2008/50/EC In force since 1 January 2010
Particulate matter _{2,5}	20 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ as average over calendar year	Exposure concentration obligation, to protect human health	Directive 2008/50/EC To be met by 2015
Total suspended particulates	-		
Carbon monoxide	10 mg/m^3 as maximum daily 8h mean	Limit value to protect human health	Directive 2008/50/EC In force since 2005
Lead	0,5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ as average over the calendar year	Limit value to protect human health	Directive 2008/50/EC In force since 2005, but for immediate vicinity of specific industrial sources situated on sites contaminated by decades of industrial activities from 1 Jan 2010.
Cadmium	5 ng/m^3 as average of the total content in the PM_{10} fraction over the calendar year	Target value to protect human health	Directive 2004/107/EC Enters into force 31 December 2012
Mercury	-		

Arsenic	6 ng/m ³ as average of the total content in the PM ₁₀ fraction over the calendar year	Target value to protect human health	Directive 2004/107/EC Enters into force 31 December 2012
Nickel	20 ng/m ³ as average of the total content in the PM ₁₀ fraction over the calendar year	Target value to protect human health	Directive 2004/107/EC Enters into force 31 December 2012
Benzene	5 µg/m ³ as average over the calendar year	Limit value to protect human health	Directive 2008/50/EC In force since 1 January 2010
Benzo(a)pyrene	1 ng/m ³ as average of the total content in the PM ₁₀ fraction over the calendar year	Target value to protect human health	Directive 2004/107/EC Enters into force 31 December 2012
Dioxins/furans	-		
Other	SO ₂ , 20 µg/m ³ . as average over the calendar year and winter NO _x , 30 µg/m ³ NO _x As average over the calendar year	Critical levels for the protection of vegetation	Directive 2008/50/EC In force
2. Deposition standards			
Acidification	-		
Eutrophication	-		
Heavy metals	-		
Persistent organic pollutants (POPs)	-		
Other	-		

¹What are the conditions for these standards (e.g. yearly values, 8-hour averages, etc.)?.

²What is the status of the quality standards: limit values, target values, etc.?

³What is their aim (e.g. health, vegetation, etc.)?.

In addition to the above standards the EU Member States have to assess a PM_{2.5} Average exposure indicator (AEI) based on measurements in the urban background throughout the Member States to achieve improvements between the reference year 2010 and the target year 2020. The EU legislation defines targets for the "exposure obligation concentration": a level of 20 µg/m³ fixed on the basis of the average exposure indicator with the aim of reducing harmful effects on human health, to be attained by 2015. The national exposure reduction targets depend on the starting point and are defined in Directive 2008/50/EC as below.

Exposure reduction target relative to the AEI in 2010	Year by which the exposure
---	----------------------------

		reduction target should be met
Initial concentration in $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	Reduction target in percent	2020
<8,5=8,5	0%	
>8,5 - <13	10%	
>13 - <18	15%	
>18 - < 22	20%	
>22	All appropriate measures to achieve 18 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	

EU plans and programmes

The EU Environment Action Programmes lay down objectives for all environmental areas. Specifically the 2002 6th Environment Action Programme (EAP)⁴ lays down the long term objectives of air pollution policy of "achieving levels of air quality that do not give rise to significant negative impacts on and risks to human health and the environment". The 2005 Commission Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution (TSAP)⁵ concluded that the objectives of the EAP could not be met in the short term and set interim targets for 2020 for the further protection of human health and ecosystems. The TSAP also announced revision of key EU legislation, such as the air quality directives, source oriented directives for mobile and stationary sources and the National Emission Ceilings Directive (See below).

2. Question 3:

(a) Does your country apply a multi-pollutant management approach? If so, please describe this;

Answer: The EU has several legal instruments that address a number of pollutants at the same time. In particular the National Emission Ceilings Directive (NEC Directive 2001/81/EC)⁶ sets ceilings for the pollutants SO₂, NO_x, VOC and NH₃ per Member State to reduce acidifying, eutrophying and photochemical air pollution. In addition, sector specific legislation such as for large combustion plants and other industrial installations (IPPC Directive 2008/1/EC)⁷ has an integrated approach and requires the use of Best Available Techniques (BAT) to address pollution to air, water and soil. These multi-pollutant approaches are to be implemented in national legislation of EU Member States. These directives specify minimum requirements and EU Member States may introduce more stringent protective measures.

The NEC and the AQ Directives require the EU Member States to develop (separate or joint) integrated plans and programmes so that the ceilings and standards are respected by the entry into force of those obligations. Member States also have to report these plans to the European Commission.

(b) Are climate change and air pollution policies integrated in your country? Please give specific examples of programmes or technologies that address the co-benefits of reducing

4 Decision No 1600/2002/EC Sixth Community Environment Action Programme. Official Journal 19.9.2002, L242, p.1

5 COM(2005) 446 final. Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution

6 DIRECTIVE 2001/81/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on national emission ceilings for certain atmospheric pollutants (Official Journal, 27.11.2001, L 309, p. 22)

7 DIRECTIVE 2008/1/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL concerning integrated pollution prevention and control Official Journal, 29.1.2008, L 24, p. 8. This is a codification of Directive 96/61/EC.

air pollution and greenhouse gases;

Answer: Extensive analysis (part of the impact assessment of the policy option) is made on the ancillary benefits of climate change policy on air pollution emissions. The most prominent example of such integration is the EU Climate Action and Renewable Energy package⁸. The impact of the package was estimated to reduce annual air pollution control costs by 8 to 11 billion EUR and to reduce air pollution emissions of SO₂ and NO_x by 10 to 14%, which generate substantial air pollution health/ environment benefits.

3. Question 4:

(a) To what extent does your country's air pollution policy address other (environmental) policies and other environmental media (e.g. fresh water, sea water, soil, waste, indoor air)? Please provide details;

Answer: The Commission TSAP from 2005 integrates the air pollution policy with the protection of human health and ecosystem, such as damage to vegetation by ozone and acidification and eutrophication of soils and waters. Specifically under NEC and AQ Directives direct reference is made to the protection of natural ecosystems through defining protective long term objectives (critical loads).

(b) To what extent do other policies take air pollution into account (e.g. industrial development, nature policy, spatial planning, financial policy, toxic substances policy)?

Answer: Environmental concerns are integrated into sector policies through the Cardiff process⁹. This has been most prominent to move the environmental agenda forward in the agriculture sector and in meeting the commitment under the Kyoto protocol. The objectives of the Cardiff process have been integrated into the European Sustainable Development Strategy¹⁰.

Environmental concerns have now become a major factor in industry and enterprise policy. The most prominent examples are the product standards, such as for road vehicles and non-road machinery and product standards for VOC content in paints and varnishes (Directive 2004/42/EC)¹¹.

Also the EU legislation on chemicals (REACH)¹² is including risks due to air indoor and outdoor exposure to air pollution. This regulation is mainly geared at certification and approval

8 20 20 by 2020 - Europe's climate change opportunity {COM(2008) 13 final} {COM(2008) 16 final} {COM(2008) 17 final} {COM(2008) 18 final} {COM(2008) 19 final}

9 COM (1998) 333 Partnership for integration: a strategy for integrating the environment into EU policies

10 European Sustainable Development Strategy. http://ec.europa.eu/sustainable/welcome/index_en.htm

11 DIRECTIVE 2004/42/CE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on the limitation of emissions of volatile organic compounds due to the use of organic solvents in certain paints and varnishes and vehicle refinishing products and amending Directive 1999/13/EC

12 REGULATION (EC) No 1907/2006 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH), establishing a European Chemicals Agency, amending Directive 1999/45/EC and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 793/93 and Commission Regulation (EC) No 1488/94 as well as Council Directive 76/769/EEC and Commission Directives 91/155/EEC, 93/67/EEC, 93/105/EC and 2000/21/EC. Official Journal, 30.12.2006, L 396, p. 1

of chemicals used in industry and products.

More recently the Commission is involved in developing policy for better integrated management of nitrogen deriving from manure and mineral fertilisers in order to achieve both the objectives of the EU Nitrates directive and reducing atmospheric ammonia emissions. That development work is largely taking place in the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen.

II. INDUSTRIAL SECTOR

4. Question 5: Please provide information on non-technical measures in your country for addressing the control of emissions from the industrial sector:

(a) Please describe the programmes and measures (whether mandatory or voluntary) that are in place in your country to address emissions from the industrial sector, including their potential impacts and positive or negative effects. These could include programmes to promote energy efficiency, renewable energy and energy conservation, programmes for reducing emissions from existing sources, financial assistance schemes, labelling schemes, classification of environmental preferability, product substitution, etc.;

Answer: The energy use in the industrial sector is partly covered by the European Trading scheme for CO₂, (e.g. energy intensive industry, aluminium production and steel works). See also below under the Energy sector.

Several development, innovation and demonstration programmes, such as the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme – Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (CIP EIP)¹³ and LIFE+¹⁴, provide direct financial support to bring new and innovative technologies to markets.

The EU Ecolabel¹⁵ covers several relevant products that contribute to air pollution, both in their manufacturing and their use. Important product categories are paints (VOC content) and treatment of textiles (toxic and persistent organic chemicals)

Under the IPPC Directive comprehensive information is exchanged between stakeholders and disseminated on BAT, aiming to prevent and limit emissions of pollutants, enhancing the efficient use of energy and preventing the generation of waste. This is an important means to raise awareness of effective measures.

(b) Does your country have in place any economic instruments for this sector? If so, please describe your country's most important economic instruments (e.g. tax incentives, fees, charges, subsidies, credit guarantees and low interest loans) and market-based programmes (e.g. emission trading programmes);

Answer: the main economic instrument in reducing air pollution (CO₂ and implicitly classical air pollution) is the European Trade Scheme described below.

It should be noted that the Member States as a general rule are not allowed to provide state aid (subsidies, specific types of loans). However, they can do so under certain conditions

¹³ The Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme – Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme, See http://ec.europa.eu/cip/eip/index_en.htm

¹⁴ LIFE+ regulation EC No 614/2007. Official Journal 9.6.2007 L149, p. 9

¹⁵ EU Ecolabel. See <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/>

where the aid may have a beneficial impact in overall Union terms. For instance, Member States may provide state aid that go beyond EU legislative requirements, including BAT as set out in EU BAT Reference documents. State aid measures¹⁶ can therefore be effective tools for achieving objectives of common interest (services of general economic interest, social and regional cohesion, employment, research and development, sustainable development, promotion of cultural diversity, etc.) and for correcting "market failures".

(c) What innovative and alternative approaches, if any, are you using to control emissions from this sector?

III. TRANSPORT SECTOR

5. Question 6: Please provide information on non-technical measures in your country for addressing the control of emissions from the transport sector.

(a) Please describe the programmes and measures (whether mandatory or voluntary) that are in place in your country to address emissions from the transport sector including their potential impacts and positive or negative effects. These could include financial assistance schemes to promote public transport, labelling schemes, traffic management schemes, use of electrical vehicles, cleaner fuels, etc.;

Answer: The transport sector has comprehensive EU legislation:

- Emission standards for road vehicles aka EURO standards, including personal cars, light duty vehicles and heavy duty vehicles as well as two and three wheelers¹⁷
- Emission standards for agricultural and forestry tractors¹⁸
- Locomotives and inland water way vessels¹⁹
- Nonroad machinery, e.g. excavators, bulldozers, front loaders, back loaders, compressors²⁰
- Small machinery, such as hand held machinery
- Fuel standards with low levels of sulphur, aromatics (benzene) and lead²¹

16 Info on rules for State aid for environmental protection see http://ec.europa.eu/competition/state_aid/legislation/horizontal.html

17 Regulation (EC) No 715/2007 on type approval of motor vehicles with respect to emissions from light passenger and commercial vehicles (Euro 5 and Euro 6) and on access to vehicle repair and maintenance information

18 Directive 2003/37/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on type-approval of agricultural or forestry tractors, their trailers and interchangeable towed machinery, together with their systems, components and separate technical units and repealing Directive 74/150/EEC. Official Journal 9.7.2003, L171, p.1

19 Directive 2004/26/EC of 21 April 2004 amending Directive 97/68/EC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to measures against the emission of gaseous and particulate pollutants from internal combustion engines to be installed in non-road mobile machinery. Official Journal 30.4.2004, L146, p. 1

20 Directive 97/68/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 1997 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to measures against the emission of gaseous and particulate pollutants from internal combustion engines to be installed in non-road mobile machinery. Official Journal, 27.2.1998, L59, p. 1)

21 Council Directive 1999/32/EC relating to a reduction in the sulphur content of certain liquid fuels and amending Directive 93/12/EEC. Official Journal L 121 , 11.05.1999 p.13 and Directive 2003/17/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 98/70/EC relating to the quality of petrol and diesel fuels Official Journal L 076 , 22.03.2003. p. 10

(b) Does your country have in place any economic instruments for this sector? If so, please describe your country's primary economic instruments (e.g. tax incentives, fees, charges, subsidies, credit guarantees and low interest loans) and market-based programmes (e.g. road pricing programmes);

(c) What innovative and alternative approaches, if any, are you using to control emissions from the transport sector?

IV. ENERGY SECTOR

6. Question 7: Please provide information on non-technical measures in your country for addressing the control of emissions from the energy sector.

(a) Please describe the programmes and measures (whether mandatory or voluntary) that are in place in your country to address emissions from the energy sector including their potential impacts and positive or negative effects. These could include programmes to promote energy efficiency, renewable energy and energy conservation, financial assistance schemes, labelling schemes, energy performance coefficients for buildings and housing, etc.;

Answer: The Member States must apply minimum requirements as regards the energy performance of new and existing buildings, ensure the certification of their energy performance and require the regular inspection of boilers and air conditioning systems in buildings.

(b) Does your country have in place any economic instruments for this sector? If so, please describe your country's primary economic instruments (e.g. tax incentives, fees, charges, subsidies, credit guarantees and low interest loans) and market-based programmes (e.g. emission trading programmes)?;

Answer: The European Trading Scheme is EU wide and a cornerstone in the fight against climate change. It covers over 11.500 energy-intensive installations across the EU, which represent close to half of Europe's emissions of CO₂. These installations include combustion plants, oil refineries, coke ovens, iron and steel plants, and factories making cement, glass, lime, brick, ceramics, pulp and paper.²² Since these sectors are major sources of classical air pollutants measures to reduce CO₂ by energy efficiency increases and fuel switching from coal to gas also reduce emissions of SO₂, NO_x and dust.

(c) What innovative and alternative approaches, if any, are you using to control emissions from the energy sector?.

V. AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

7. Question 8: Please provide information on non-technical measures in your country for addressing the control of emissions from the agricultural sector.

²² Directive 2009/29/EC amending Directive 2003/87/EC so as to improve and extend the greenhouse gas emission allowance trading scheme of the Community. Official Journal, 5.6.2009, L 140 p. 63

(a) Please describe the programmes and measures (whether mandatory or voluntary) that are in place in your country to address emissions from the agriculture sector including their potential impacts and positive or negative effects. These could include good agricultural practices, programmes to promote energy efficiency (greenhouses), renewable energy and energy conservation, programmes for reducing emissions from stables, financial assistance schemes, labelling schemes, etc.;

Answer: One of the major issues in the agriculture sector is integrated management of nitrogen deriving from mineral fertilisers and manure. The Nitrates Directive²³ aims to protect water quality across Europe by preventing nitrates from agricultural sources polluting ground and surface waters and by promoting the use of good farming practices. These practices also address emission to air of ammonia, thanks to the reduction of total nitrogen inputs (limitations of fertilisers).

(b) Does your country have in place any economic instruments for this sector? If so, please describe your country's primary economic instruments (e.g. tax incentives, fees, charges, subsidies, credit guarantees and low interest loans) and market-based programmes (e.g. emission trading programmes);

(c) Are there any programmes in your country that promote organic farming or consuming products from organic farming?;

Answer: The EU policy for organic farming²⁴ contributes to the protection of our natural resources, to biodiversity and animal welfare, and helps in the development of rural areas. The main action is to promote organic farming in the EU and with common EU rules²⁵ for production and labelling of organic products. Also, agro-environmental measures, implemented in the context of the common agriculture policy (CAP) aim at promoting the use of good agricultural practices, having positive effects on water and air quality, and on biodiversity.

(d) What innovative and alternative approaches, if any, are you using to control emissions from the agriculture sector?

VI. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND MONITORING

8. Question 9: Please provide information related to air pollution in your country on research, development and monitoring; on the exchange of technology; and on information to the general public. Provide websites where relevant documentation is available.

(a) Please provide information on activities undertaken with a view to encouraging research, development and monitoring;

Answer: The EU has comprehensive RTD activities related to air pollution and often

²³ Council Directive 91/676/EEC concerning the protection of waters against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources. Official Journal, 31.12.1991, L 375, p. 1

²⁴ http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/organic/eu-policy_en

²⁵ Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91. Official Journal, 20.7.2007, L 189, p. 1

with a direct link to the CLRTAP programmes under the WGE and EMEP. The main recent programmes includes the ACCENT Network of Excellence²⁶ and more detailed projects on effects, atmospheric chemistry and physics as well as projects on socio-economic aspects of air pollution. The main database for searching for RTD projects is CORDIS²⁷.

(b) To what extent is your research, development and monitoring activities linked to international activities?;

Answer: the EU 7th Framework programme on RTD²⁸ explicitly refers to support to the the CLRTAP objectives and the UNFCCC.

(c) In what language is the information on research, development and monitoring available?.

Answer: Mainly English

VII. EXCHANGE OF TECHNOLOGY

9. Question 10: Please provide information on exchange of technology in your country:

(a) Please provide information on measures taken to create favourable conditions to facilitate the exchange of information on technologies and techniques;

Answer: The EU organises an exchange of information between Member States and the industries concerned on Best Available Techniques (BAT), associated monitoring and developments in them as required by the IPPC Directive (2008/1/EC). The results of the exchange of information are best available techniques reference documents or BREFs. Currently 33 BREFs addressing major industrial activities have been adopted by the Commission. BREFs are to be taken into account by the competent authorities of Member States in determining the conditions to include in IPPC permits. The revision of the documents has started and the first updated documents will be available soon.

The EU also organises on a regular basis workshops to facilitate exchange of information on the development and implementation of air quality plans and programmes. Workshops are also organised to exchange information on technologies used in the different economic sectors, such as on industry and agriculture practices and technologies that reduce emissions to air and water.

(b) How does your country actively promote the exchange of technology internationally?;

Answer: The EU pursues an active dialogue with its Eastern neighbours²⁹. Candidate countries for EU membership participate in assistance and support programmes in order to

26 ACCENT NoE, See http://www.accent-network.org/farcry_accent/

27 http://cordis.europa.eu/home_fr.html

28 http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home_fr.html

29 European Neighborhood Policy. See http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/index_en.htm

comply with EU legislation including environmental legislation. In the Balkans the perspective of eventual membership of the Union gives additional momentum and focus and EU environmental legislation provides a concrete target to be achieved. With other neighbouring countries the Union is developing a neighbourhood policy based on bilateral action plans agreed between the EU and each partner. These set out an agenda of political and economic reforms with short and medium-term priorities. Furthermore, the EU and the countries of the South East European region have established a regional co-operation under the Treaty establishing the Energy Community. The Contracting Parties have taken on a legally binding obligation to implement the relevant legislation (e.g. the Large Combustion Plant Directive) , to set up regulatory structures and to liberalise their energy markets.

(c) In what language is the information on exchange of information on technologies and techniques available?.

Answer: All EU documents are available in English. The project «Harmonisation of Environmental Standards II 30 carried out training on integrated environmental permitting in EECCA Countries and made key documents available in the Russian language.

VIII. INFORMATION TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

10. Question 11:

(a) Please provide information on the process for public participation in developing legislation and strategies related to air pollution in your country;

Answer: The development of EU wide policies, including the policies on air pollution, is done in close consultation with stakeholders in the Member States administrations, Industry and Non-governmental organisations. Most studies to underpin policy are published on the Commission webpages or on other publically available sites. In particular the Commission programme "Clean Air For Europe"³¹ had extensive and broad consultations leading up to the preparations of the 2005 Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution. These consultations have continued but at a lower intensity awaiting new major policy initiatives on air pollution.

(b) Please indicate whether your country has a programme that alerts citizens to days when poor air quality is predicted. If so, please describe it;

Answer: The AQ Directives require EU Member States to provide the wider public with relevant information when there is an exceedance or risk of exceedance of alert thresholds for poor air quality.

Answer: The AQ Directives the EU Member States to provide the wider public with information on ambient air quality and air quality plans.

30 <http://www.ippc-russia.org>

31 The Clean Air For Europe Programme. See <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/archives/cafe/general/keydocs.htm>

- (c) Please provide information about the way in which the general public is informed about air pollution policy in your country;
- (d) In what languages is the information to the general public available?.

IX. PARTICIPATION IN THE WORK OF THE CONVENTION AND STATUS OF RATIFICATION OF THE PROTOCOLS

11. Question 12: Please provide information on your country's current participation in the technical and scientific work under the Convention and the status of ratification of the Protocols, by completing the tables below.

Table 2: Question 12

(a) Participation in the technical and scientific work under the Convention

1. International Cooperative Programmes (ICPs) under Working Group on Effects^{1/}	Participation
(a) ICP Waters	N
(b) ICP Vegetation	A (JRC RTD orientation)
(c) ICP Forests	A (JRC databases)
(d) ICP Materials	N
(e) ICP Integrated Monitoring	N
(f) ICP Mapping and Modelling	N (?)
2. Technical and scientific groups^{2/}	
(a) Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections	R
(b) Task Force on Measurements and Modelling	R
(c) Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling	R
(d) Expert Group on Techno-economic Issues	O
(e) Network of Experts on Benefits and Economic Instruments	O
(f) Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution	R
3. Other task forces and expert groups^{2/}	
(a) Task Force on Health	O
(b) Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen	R
(c) Task Force on Heavy Metals	R
(d) Task Force on POPs	R

^{1/} Please indicate with A = active, meaning taking part with one or more monitoring sites, or P=passive, meaning taking part without sites, N = not taking part

^{2/} Please indicate with R = regularly, O = occasionally or N =never

(b) Ratification of protocols

Protocol	Ratification^{1/}	Potential obstacles to ratification and needs for assistance^{2/}	Timescale for ratification^{3/}
1. EMEP Protocol ^{4/}	Yes		
2. 1985 Sulphur Protocol	No	None specific – the obligations now largely covered by the Gothenburg protocol	No plans -
3. Nitrogen Oxides Protocol	Yes		
4. Protocol on Volatile Organic Compounds	No	None specific – the obligations now largely covered by the Gothenburg protocol	No plans -
5. 1994 Sulphur Protocol	Yes		
6. Protocol on Heavy Metals	Yes		
7. Protocol on POPs	Yes		
8. Gothenburg Protocol ^{5/}	Yes		

^{1/} Indicate with **Y** if you have ratified this Protocol or **N** if you have not yet ratified.

^{2/} If not yet ratified

^{3/} If not yet ratified, please provide details of the timescale within which your country intends to ratify the Protocol

^{4/} 1984 Geneva Protocol on Long-term Financing of the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe

^{5/} 1999 Gothenburg Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone

X. APPLICATION OF BEST AVAILABLE TECHNIQUES TO MOBILE AND STATIONNARY SOURCES

12. Question 13: Please describe how your country applies best available techniques (BAT) to mobile sources and to each new or existing stationary source with regard to the Gothenburg Protocol obligations and taking into account guidance documents I to V adopted by the Executive Body at its seventeenth session (decision 1999/1).

XI. FEEDBACK ON THE QUESTIONNAIRE

13. Question 14: Have you encountered difficulties in answering this questionnaire, whether technical or interpretative? Please use the table below to provide further details.

Table 3: Question 12

Question no.	Problem	Suggestion for improvement
