



# Air quality – revision of EU rules

**11th International Conference on Atmospheric Particulate**

28 May 2024

*European Commission  
Director Zero Pollution*

*“The Commission will draw on the lessons learnt from the evaluation of the current air quality legislation.*

*It will also propose to strengthen provisions on monitoring, modelling and air quality plans to help local authorities achieve cleaner air.*

*The Commission will notably propose to revise air quality standards to align them more closely with the World Health Organization recommendations.”*

Communication on the European Green Deal  
(COM/2019/640 final)

#EUGreenDeal

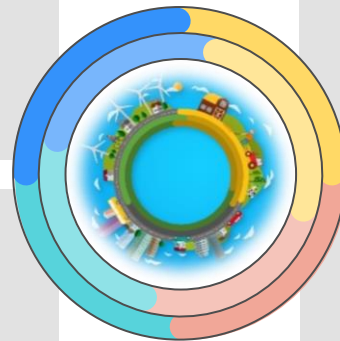
# What will the new Directive bring?

## Environment & health

- **Zero pollution objective** at the latest by 2050
- **Intermediate 2030 EU air quality standards**
- Update of **other air quality metrics**, including more refined average exposure obligations
- **Regular review mechanism**

## Governance & enforcement

- Air quality plans to be more effective in **ending and preventing exceedances** of EU standards
- **Improved enforceability**: new provisions on access to justice, compensation and penalties
- More **transboundary cooperation** on air quality



## Monitoring & assessment

- Refined approach to **air quality monitoring**, increased use of **air quality modelling**
- Additional information on representativeness of **sampling points**, better inform air quality action
- Monitoring **pollutants of emerging concern** (e.g. ultrafine particles, black carbon, ammonia)

## Information & communication

- More **up-to-date air quality information**
- Requirements for **air quality indices** to provide hourly reporting of available air quality data
- **Informing the public** about possible health impacts and provide recommendations

# Legislative procedure: state of play today

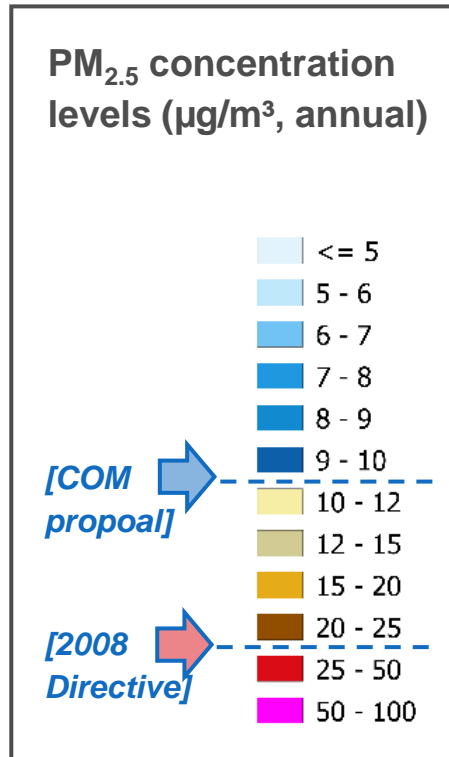


Agreed text available at:  
<https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-7335-2024-INIT/en/pdf>

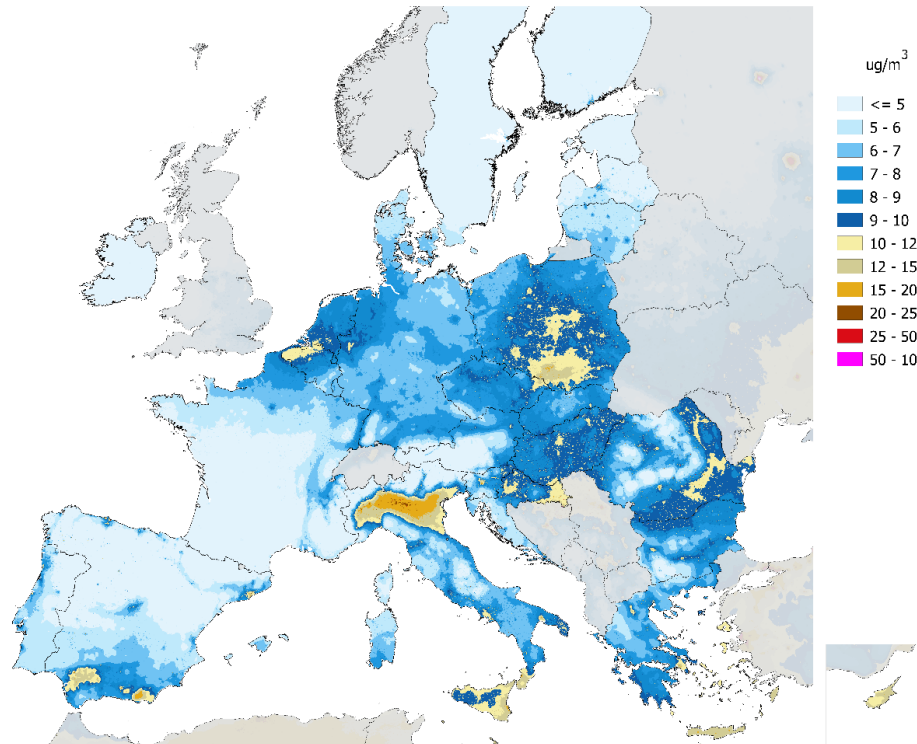
# What do we expect the proposal will achieve?

Significant reductions of PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels, based on baseline projections plus additional measures (note: no hotspot specific measures assessed)

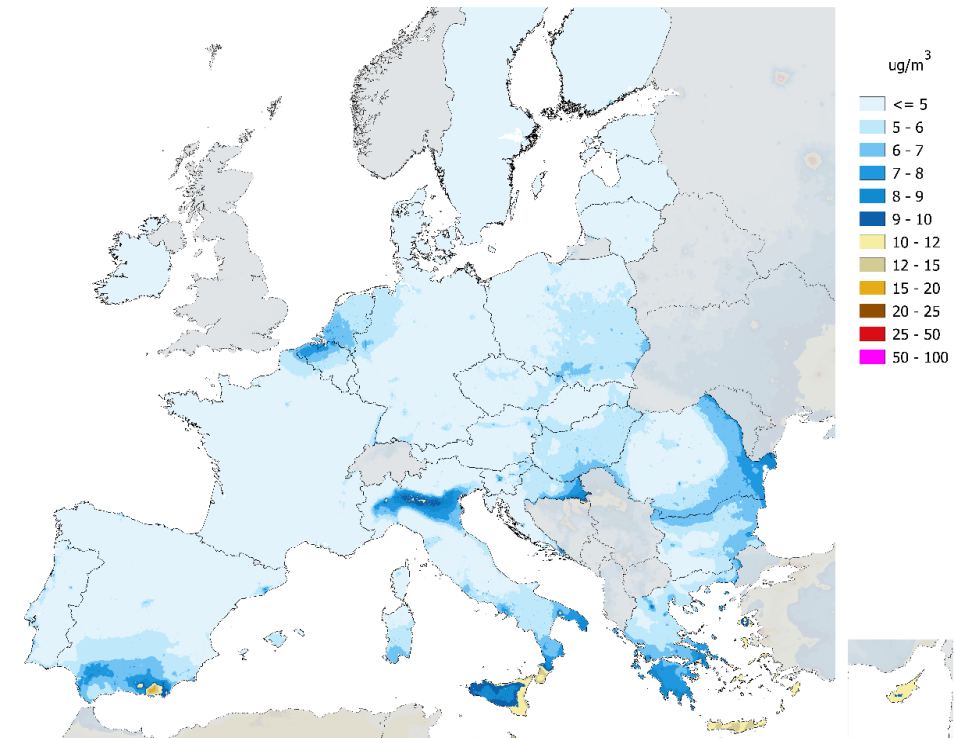
94%  
of sampling points to  
meet proposed limit  
values by 2030



PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels in 2020



PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels in 2030 with COM proposal



Based on GAINS/EMEP/uEMEP. Note that these maps show the total concentration levels, and include also contributions from natural sources of wind blown dust and sea salt.

# What do we expect the proposal will achieve?

- **Health benefits:** Reduces **annual mortality** (premature deaths) linked to air pollution by more than 75% (and by 50% more than without this policy)<sup>(1)</sup>
  - also reduces **related morbidity** (illnesses) by 50% more than without this policy.
- **Social benefits:** Stricter limit values particularly protect sensitive populations and vulnerable groups; Directive requires additional health impact information.
- **Environmental benefits:** Decreases in **eutrophication (-22%)** and **acidification (-63%)** of ecosystems; less crop losses and damage to forests.
- **Economic benefits:** Benefits far outweigh the costs, with annual total gross **benefits estimated at €42 bn** (and up to €121 bn depending on the valuation method) in 2030, compared to measures that costs less than €6 bn annually.



# Some concluding reflections

- **EU Clean Air Policy works!** We have seen major improvements in air quality since the 1990s.
- Air quality monitoring (4.000 monitoring stations) and air quality modelling provide us with an **exceptionally robust, comparable and harmonized information basis** across the EU.
- The proposed revised Ambient Air Quality Directive – when adopted and implemented – will render **significant health, social, environmental and economic benefits** across the EU.
- **Some regions** in the EU face more of a challenge to reach current and future EU air quality standards, but also these regions have seen striking improvements in recent years.
- **Implementation, governance and communication** will be key to bank benefits of EU Clean Air Policy. EU funding available for clean air amounts to €147 bn (2021-2027).

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# Thank you

