



Breath of Fresh Air: how can the new Air Quality Package deliver cleaner air for EU cities and regions

19 November 2014, 14.00 – 17.00, followed by a cocktail reception
European Parliament, JAN 2Q2, Brussels

Event briefing

About the event:

This event is organised by the AIR Group and hosted by Julie Girling MEP, who is Parliament's Rapporteur on the National Emission Ceilings Directive (NECD). The agenda is attached for more detail.

In December 2013 the Commission adopted its **Clean Air Policy Package** consisting of A new Clean Air Programme for Europe with new air quality objectives for the period up to 2030, a revised **National Emission Ceilings Directive** with stricter national emission ceilings for the six main pollutants, and a proposal for a new **Directive to reduce pollution from medium-sized combustion installations** (MCPD).

The aim of the event is to contribute to the current deliberations in the European Parliament and the Council, and explore how the new air quality package can support EU cities and regions in their efforts to curb air pollution. The **two panels** – on NECD and MCPD – will present in detail the **AIR regions' views and best practice to date**, as well as having a discussion on the key issues. The event will bring together around 200 key players at European and regional level, such as regional politicians and technical experts, MEPs, Commission and Council representatives, industry associations and NGOs.

The **first panel on NECD** is chaired by Julie Girling MEP. The speakers – Elliot Treharne from London, Josep Enric Llebot i Rabagliati from Catalonia, Ralph De Vries from Utrecht, Maurizio Conte from Veneto and Seb Dance MEP (S&D Shadow Rapporteur on NECD) will each have **5-6 min to present their views**, after which a **Q&A** with the audience will follow.

The **second panel on MCPD** is chaired by Massimo Paolucci MEP (S&D Shadow Rapporteur on MCPD). The speakers – Gerhard Kurzmann from Styria, Guiseppe Bortone from Emilia-Romagna, Edgar Freund from Hessen, Claudia Maria Terzi from Lombardy, Jan Huitema MEP (ALDE Shadow Rapporteur on MCPD) and Fredrick Federley MEP (Rapporteur for ITRE Opinion) will each have **5-6 min to present their views/reactions**, after which a **Q&A** with the audience will follow.

Twitter: #AIRQ14

About AIR Group:

The **Air Quality Initiative of Regions** (AIR) was founded in 2011 and represents 13 regions from seven European Union (EU) Member States. These are: Baden-Württemberg, Catalunya, Emilia-Romagna, Greater London, Hessen, Madrid, Lombardia, North Rhine-Westphalia, Piemonte,

Randstad, Steiermark, Veneto and Vlaanderen. Together these regions represent 22% of EU GDP and 18% of the EU's population (87.6 million inhabitants).

These regions, which include some of the most densely populated and industrialised areas of the EU, have been at the forefront of air quality management over recent years. However, despite these efforts, these regions, like many others in the EU, are struggling to meet some of the limit and target values set in the EU Ambient Air Quality Directive.

AIR welcomes the European Commission's current review of air pollution policy. AIR is committed to working with all European institutions to contribute a regional perspective to the current legislative deliberations to ensure that EU-level action complements that taken at local level.

This is the third political event organised by the AIR Group.

Speakers' Biographies

London: Elliot Treharne



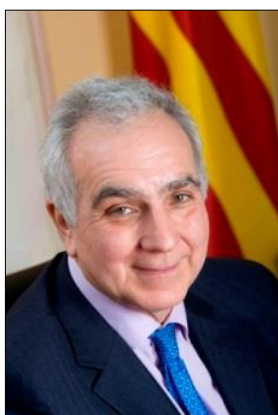
Elliot Treharne is currently the Air Quality Manager at the Mayor of London's Office with responsibility for all of London's air quality and green transport projects and programmes. He co-wrote the Mayor's Air Quality Strategy in 2009 and 2010, developing the local measures concept to reduce poor air quality at the worst hotspots in London and played a pivotal role in developing proposals for London's new Ultra Low Emission Zone.

Previously, Elliot worked for Transport for London developing London's congestion charging scheme.

Elliot chairs both the EUROCITIES Air Quality Working Group and the experts group of the Air Quality Initiative of the Regions, representing the major European industrial and urban regions in discussions with the European Union.

Catalonia: Josep Enric Llebot i Rabagliati

A physicist by education, Josep Enric Llebot has been the Secretary for Environment and Sustainability of the Catalan Government since January 2011.



Before that, his rich academic career includes running the Faculty of Sciences of the Autonomous University of Barcelona and of the University of Girona as well as being a member of the Advisory Board for Research of the Generalitat de Catalunya (1997-2004), and of the Advisory Board for Sustainable Development of the Catalan government (2001-2010).

Dr. Llebot chairs an independent advisory panel of climate scientists in Catalonia, he was previously head of the Centre for Environmental Studies of the Autonomous University of Barcelona (1997-2000) and Scientific Secretary of the Institute of Catalan Studies (1995-2002).

Utrecht: Ralph de Vries



Ralph de Vries is a member of the Executive Board of the Province of Utrecht (the Netherlands). The Provincial Executive is responsible for the province of Utrecht's daily administration. Ralph de Vries' portfolio contains Environment, therefore air quality is one of his key areas of expertise.

Ralph de Vries is also a member of the Committee of the Regions and regular attends the Brussels meetings. He is the ALDE (Alliance of Liberals and Democrats in Europe) coordinator of the COTER (Territorial Cohesion Policy) commission.

Veneto: Maurizio Conte



Maurizio Conte is the Minister of Veneto Region for the Environment since 2010.

After his candidacy for the role of City Councilman in 1995, his successful political career brought him to the role of Councillor of the Padua Province in 1999. Since 2000 he has been Regional Councillor and the President of the Commission for the Environment and Public Works for the Veneto Region until his election as Minister of the region in 2010.

Architect by education, Mr. Conte has been working as a freelance professional in the fields of the cadastral survey, civil engineering, architecture and assistance to project management since 1992. From 1990 to 2009 he has been member of the home-building commission of several municipalities in the Padua Province.

Emilia-Romagna: Giuseppe Bortone



Mr Bortone has been the General Director of the Environment, Soil and Coastal Defence of Emilia-Romagna Region since January 2007. This department is in charge of regional air quality management, including compliance with national and EU legislation.

Prior to that, Mr. Bortone was the head of the Waste water Treatment and Water Cycle Unit at the Italian National Agency for Energy, New Technology and Environment (1998 – 2001) and the head of the Water Unit at the Environment Directorate of the Emilia Romagna Region (2001 2006).

Being an expert on water and sediment treatment and management, he has published around 100 national and international scientific papers.

Hessen: Edgar Freund



Mr Edgar Freund has been the Head of Hessen's Ministry for Environment, Climate, Agriculture and Consumer Protection since 2000, in charge of all aspects of air quality policy at regional level.

Prior to that, Mr Freund was responsible for planning and supervision of the enforcement of municipal waste and sewage disposal at the regional Ministry for Environment, Energy, Agriculture and Consumer Protection of Hessen (1988 - 2000), he was also in charge of inspections of sewage treatment plants and expert reports of water pollution control at the Hessian Agency for Environment.

Mr Freund has a civil engineering degree.

Styria: Gerhard Kurzmann



Landesrat Dr. Gerhard Kurzmann, Regional Minister responsible for the Environment, Transport and Animal Welfare in Styria.

Lombardy: Claudia Maria Terzi



Ms Terzi is Lombardy's Regional Minister for the Environment, Energy and Sustainable Development since March 2013, in charge of air quality, energy, waste, water, drainage, parks and landscaping policies.

While in her current position, Ms Terzi has coordinated some of the most ambitious environmental plans in Lombardy, such as "Pria" (Regional action plan for air quality), Pear (Regional action plan for energy) and PRGR (Regional plan on waste remediation). Previously, Ms Terzi was the mayor of the City of Dalmine (2009-2013).

Piemonte: Alberto Valmaggia

Alberto Valmaggia is the regional minister in charge of environment, urban planning, land and landscape planning, as well as development of natural infrastructures. Prior to that, Mr Valmaggia was the Administrator for the City of Cuneo in 1995, first as councillor, and since 1998 as Deputy Mayor. He was elected Mayor of the city of Cuneo in 2002 and re-elected in the first round in 2007. Since 2012 he has continued the administrative work as a city councillor.

Mr Valmaggia studied Agriculture at the University of Turin and is a teacher at the local technical institute for surveyors.