



## About Air Quality in Europe's Cities and Regions

obsAIRveYourBusiness, Final Event; Monday, 16 November 2015

Room "Germany", Hotel Thon EU, Rue de la Loi 75, B-1040 Brussels

Air quality in Europe has become a challenge for Europe's metropolitan centres. Traffic along major long-distance transport routes mixed with local commuter traffic through and in Europe's hubs regularly causes exceedances of one of Europe's strictest EU regulations, the one on air quality. Albeit EU, Member States and local governments have taken actions to improve the air quality this topic is still on the agenda. The limit values set in the current air quality directive (2008/50/EC) are not met in many European cities. The situation and possible ways to tackle the problems in an integrated manner have been described in the Clean Air Programme for Europe (COM (2013)918 final).

The recently adopted 7<sup>th</sup> Environment Action Program (EAP) will be guiding European environment policy until 2020. It identifies three key objectives:

- To protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital
- To turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green, and competitive low-carbon economy
- To safeguard the Union's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing.

Public consultations were held and a series of stakeholders and expert groups have met to set-up reports.

One of the hopes was that Euro 5 and especially Euro 6 emission standards would decisively help to reduce exhaust emissions in cities in the future e.g. through stricter regulations for motor vehicles. Real life away from automotive laboratory test cycles shows that this hope has not been fulfilled and therefore concerned citizens and environmental interest groups go to court due to frequent exceedances of air quality limiting values, especially close to city centres. Recent software manipulations by diesel car manufacturers in order to meet international air quality regulations do not contribute to enhance trust. In fact, public discussions have become more emotional and call for stricter monitoring of regulations. At the end city administrations are left with the challenge to suggest effective measures in order to counter air pollution whilst traffic on average is constantly increasing. The event highlights a few of these aspects, the problematics seen from different sides of stakeholders and also tries to suggest solutions while taking account of recent progress, trends and discussions.

The event is a private public partnership supported by the EU Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) as part of the "European Mobile & Mobility Industries Alliance Initiative (EMMIA)". The underlying project is co-ordinated by the Bavarian Aerospace Cluster Management bavAIRia e.V. and involves the German Aerospace Center (DLR), GAF AG, a leading solution provider in the geo-information sector, Regio Augsburg Wirtschaft from the Bavarian Region of Augsburg, Airparif from Paris, and the research & innovation support networks CORILA and INNOVA from Italy. EMMIA supports through obsAIRveYourBusiness air quality measurements and location-based air quality modelling and forecasts building on data gathered by the European Earth Observation Programme Copernicus.



## DRAFT AGENDA

10:30 Registration & Coffee

11:00 Welcome by host and intro by moderator

### Session 1: **obsAIRveYourBusiness – scope, achievements, products, solutions**

Moderator: Martin Lutz, Berlin

11:15 Introduction by Emanuele Barreca, *DG Growth, EC, Brussels*

- EMMIA + COPERNICUS initiatives
- obsAIRveYourBusiness linking today's key technologies: Earth observation, mobile services & satellite navigation

11:30 Round table: The obsAIRveYourBusiness solution

Moderation: Jürgen Vogel, bavAIRia e.V., Oberpfaffenhofen

- DLR, Regio Augsburg Wirtschaft, GAF, Airparif
- Satellite data for air quality measurements
  - Customized apps
  - Experiences from partner cities

12:00 The obsAIRveYourBusiness offer, Aleardo Furlani, Innova Spa, Rome

- The way ahead: offers to cities and regions

12:15 The obsAIRveYourBusiness roadshows, Pierpaolo Campostrini, CORILA, Venice

Examples from selected cities:

- Mária Kazmuková, City of Prague
- Paolo Lauriola, City of Modena, Environmental Protection Agency of Emilia-Romagna Region (ARPA)
- Status, individual challenges and solutions, future actions and plans

**13:00 Lunch**

### Session 2: **Clean Air in all of Europe – still a long way to go?**

Moderator: Martin Lutz, Berlin

14:15 Air Quality Policies for Europe – Thomas Verheye, DG Environment, EC

- The Air Quality situation in the EU: Still need for action?!
- EU Policy supporting Member States and cities to meet air quality limits
- Role of and challenges for cities' air quality management
- Improve implementation at local level and support from EC side

14:35 h The Cities' point of view - Peter Pluschke, Environmental Forum, EUROCIITIES

14:55 h Air quality abatement - challenges and solutions from a city perspective  
Gabriela Barrera, POLIS city network

15:15 h

Panel discussion: “Healthy Urban Air Quality - A challenge for Europe” -

Some key issues for discussion:

- What’s being done by cities? Is it sufficient? If not, how to foster local air quality management capacities
- National & EU policy: supportive, effective and ambitious enough? If not, where’s room for improvement?
- Example EU Diesel emission control: Too little, too late, too lenient!
- Are technical measures enough? If not, how to change people’s attitudes and habits?
- Who cares? How to get policy support by the public? Could better & easy AQ information raise awareness?

Panellists:

Thomas Verheye, European Commission, DG Environment

Peter Pluschke, EURO CITIES, Environment Councillor, City of Nuremberg

Oliver Lord, Air quality manager, Greater London Authority

Gabriela Barrera, POLIS city network, Brussels

Louise Duprez, European Environmental Bureau, Brussels

Moderation: Martin Lutz, Berlin

16:45 h

Wrap-up & outlook - Hermann Heich, Heich Consult, Cologne

16:45 - 17:15 h “Belgian Cocktail”

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