

EU Year of Air – how can we reduce air pollution to improve health?

Objectives of the workshop:

While there have been some improvements in air quality in Europe, air pollution continues to be a massive public health problem, which is responsible for nearly half a million deaths each year in the European Union alone. It is of concern not only to political decision-makers and environmental groups, but also to researchers and the health community.

Janez Potočnik, the EU Commissioner for Environment, has designated 2013 as the Year of Air, to bring health & environment impacts from air pollution back into the spotlight. The EU is carrying out a major review of its air policy with cities, regions, member states, WHO, health experts, NGOs and industry to see where further EU action to curb air pollution is necessary, and to address the problems that many EU member states have with sticking to EU air quality standards.

The aim of this policy workshop is to build capacity through the following:

- To hear about health evidence and why cities, member states and the EU need to do more to protect our health
- To inform on the state of discussions on EU policy changes, especially regarding the Directive on Ambient Air Quality (DR 2008/50)
- To provide HEAL members and guests with an overview of activities in the EU Year of Air and where they can become involved
- To facilitate exchange with health partners, campaigners, environmental groups and researchers on policy demands

During the workshop, the air pollution levels outside of the HEAL office will be measured with the support of Bert Brunekreef and the Institute for Risk Assessment Sciences (IRAS), University of Utrecht.

The workshop is organised in close collaboration with the European Respiratory Society (ERS) and the European Federation of Allergy and Airways Diseases Patients Associations (EFA).

Registration is required for this event as space is limited.

Please register by 7 September through the following link: [Registration Air Policy Workshop](#)
Registration on 13 Sept opens at 14:15.



Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL)

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Programme:

14:30 Welcome and opening remarks by *Anne Stauffer, HEAL*

14:30 Session One

Chair: *Maeve Barry, European Respiratory Society (ERS)*

- The air quality situation in Europe and the link between climate and air quality – *John van Aardenne, European Environment Agency (EEA)*
- The EU Year of Air and the EU policy review process - *Scott Brockett, DG Environment, European Commission*
- APHEKOM findings on air pollution and children's health - *Hanns Moshhammer, Medical University of Vienna*

15:30 Air quality measuring : air pollution in the Brussels European quarter
External visit to measuring vehicle of IRAS with introduction by Bert Brunekreef and Kees Meliefste, Institute for Risk Assessment Sciences (IRAS), University of Utrecht

16:00 Coffee break

16:30 Session Two

Chair: *Scott Brockett, European Commission, DG Environment*

- What is the evidence on air pollution and health impacts - *Bert Brunekreef, IRAS, University of Utrecht*
- *European Respiratory Society (ERS): 10 principles for Clean Air*

Air quality case studies

- Lessons learnt from the city ranking project : *Arne Fellermann, BUND Germany*
- Cross-party campaign for cleaner air: *Simon Birkett, Clean Air in London*

17:45 How does outdoor air pollution relate to indoor air quality?
Anne Stauffer, HEAL

18:10 Final words on measuring results and air quality in Brussels

18:20 Concluding remarks by *Roberta Savli, European Federation of Allergy and Airways Diseases Patients Associations (EFA)*

18:30 Reception in the HEAL wintergarden