

Consultation on the Implementation Report of the Environmental Noise Directive (END) and on the EU Noise Policy

Who are you?	
In which capacity are you participating in this consultation? -single choice reply- (compulsory)	As an organisation
Please specify the type of your organisation: -single choice reply- (compulsory)	NGO, civil society, environmental group, charity
Please give the name of the organisation which you represent: -open reply- (compulsory)	Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL)
Please give your name (Title, First Name, Last Name): -open reply- (compulsory)	Anne Stauffer, Deputy Director
Please indicate the country where you reside: -single choice reply- (compulsory)	Belgium
1 - Policy context	
How important to your quality of life is the level of noise in your surroundings? -single choice reply- (optional)	Very important
Noise from neighbours -single choice reply- (optional)	4
Noise from bars or restaurants or shops in your vicinity -single choice reply- (optional)	4
Noise from motor vehicles -single choice reply- (optional)	1
Noise from aircrafts -single choice reply- (optional)	1
Noise from trains -single choice reply- (optional)	1
Noise from industrial installations -single choice reply- (optional)	3
Other -single choice reply- (optional)	
If you chose "other", please specify: -open reply- (optional)	
What do you think of the level of noise	High

<p>pollution near your home? -single choice reply-(optional)</p>	
<p>How much do you know about the environmental noise legislation in your country? -single choice reply-(optional)</p>	<p>Much</p>
<p>EU legislation on noise includes directives that provide a framework for monitoring and where necessary reducing environmental noise and directives that control the level of noise emissions from specific sources. How much do you know about the relevant EU noise legislation (which is an important basis for national legislation)? -single choice reply-(optional)</p>	<p>Very much</p>
<p>2 - Strategy/approach of the environmental noise directive (END)</p>	
<p>The use of noise mapping, the preparation of action plans and the reporting to the public and to the EU: -single choice reply-(optional)</p>	<p>Very much</p>
<p>Noise limit values: -single choice reply-(optional)</p>	<p>Hardly</p>
<p>If you do not consider the current approach to limit values appropriate, which of the following alternatives would in your view be best: -single choice reply-(optional)</p>	<p>3) EU limit value (if the value is exceeded in any location, action must be taken and the value must be attained)</p>
<p>If you wish to outline an alternative position or expand on the issue please do so. -open reply-(optional)</p>	
<p>The END aims at providing a basis for developing (separate) EU measures to reduce noise emitted by major sources, in particular road and rail vehicles and associated infrastructure, aircraft, outdoor and industrial equipment and mobile machinery. Do you think that the END has provided a good basis for developing source-based regulatory measures? -single choice reply-(optional)</p>	<p>No</p>
<p></p>	

Please explain your reply in both cases; particularly if no, please suggest how the END could serve this aim in a better manner? -open reply-(optional)

The END aims at protecting areas within and outside cities where the noise quality is good. Are you aware of any quiet areas in the vicinity of your home?

-single choice reply-(optional)

No

3 - Assessment/reporting

Are you aware of any noise mapping in your city, region or country?

-single choice reply-(optional)

A little

If yes, do you consider that the results of maps accurately reflect the reality of noise exposure in your city or region?

-single choice reply-(optional)

In 2008, Commission efforts started on developing harmonized methods for assessing noise exposure. A project entitled "CNOSSOS-EU" (Common Noise Assessment Methods in Europe) led by DG Environment and DG Joint Research Centre provided the technical basis for preparing an agreed method to be used by MS in future rounds of noise mapping.

Are you aware of CNOSSOS-EU?

-single choice reply-(optional)

Yes

If yes, and based on your current understanding, do you think that the CNOSSOS-EU methodological framework will improve comparability and consistency in strategic noise mapping in the EU?

-single choice reply-(optional)

Much

Do you think that the 5 years cycle in between the noise mapping rounds is appropriate?

-single choice reply-(optional)

Please explain your reply: -open reply-(optional)

Do you consider the period of one year between making the noise maps and drawing up the action plans is sufficient? -single choice reply-(optional)

No

Please explain your reply: -open reply-(optional)

Noise pollution significantly impacts our health, and the body of evidence on health effects has grown tremendously. The priority should therefore be to have as little a time lag as possible between finding out about high noise levels and taking measures through action plans.

The European Environment Agency's tool Reportnet has been developed since 2000. Reportnet was initially used for reporting environmental data to the European Environment Agency, but now also hosts some of DG Environment's reporting tasks, including those related to the Environmental Noise Directive and its associated compliance checks.

Yes

Do you support the idea to make Reportnet the mandatory reporting tool to submit information to the Commission pursuant to the END?

-single choice reply-(optional)

Please explain your reply: -open reply-(optional)

According to the latest WHO recommendations, adverse health effects due to night time noise exposure can commence to occur at 40 dB Lnight. The current reporting neglects the fact that there is a considerable share of EU population exposed to noise pollution at levels lower than 50 dB which are still likely to cause harmful effects on health. Though, the current noise assessment methods do not allow assessing accurately exposure to such low levels.

Yes

Would it result in any benefit to lower the reporting thresholds according to WHO recommendations?

-single choice reply-(optional)

Please explain your reply: -open reply-(optional)

With a view to protecting the health of the population, the first step is to get a comprehensive picture of exposure to harmful noise levels.

Mapping should start where health effects begin.

A number of possible technical improvements to the END were identified including clarifications of the definitions and obligations related to agglomerations, quiet areas, major roads, major railways, major airports, industrial noise and action plans.

Do you think that a revision of these definitions or unclear provisions needs to be done?

-single choice reply-(optional)

If you wish, you can give your view in your own words here: -open reply-(optional)

Could the INSPIRE Directive (OJ L 108/1, 25.04.2007. p1) be used as a basis when modifying the data needed of END?

-single choice reply-(optional)

If you wish, you can give your view in your own words here: -open reply-(optional)

4 - Noise management in Member States

Do you agree that the END has had sufficient impact in your country/region to reduce noise levels so far?

-single choice reply-(optional)

Totally disagree

Do you think that the EU should have more influence regarding measures within Member States? -single choice reply-

(optional)

More influence

If yes, please indicate in what way the EU should take a more active role: -open reply-(optional)

Review legislative framework to reduce noise at source with the aim to initiate further measures to reduce noise at source; facilitate support for more ambitious vehicle noise standards; start the discussion on noise trigger/limit values; facilitate the exchange of best practice on measures, especially at source measures to reduce noise; encourage walking&cycling as a way to not only reduce noise levels but also increase the overall health of the population.

Many aspects of the Directive were not prescribed in detail or leave room for interpretation. Many Member States suggested that these issues could be addressed through dedicated action assisting in the implementation and compliance at EU level,

such as the development of guidance documents, the information exchange of best practices or the organisation for specific workshops and training courses.

Are you aware of any guidance documents, internet pages or workshops related to noise mapping or action planning? If yes please specify. -open reply-(optional)

Do you think there are synergies in air quality and noise management that should be better exploited in EU policy?

-single choice reply-(optional)

No

5 - Public information and dissemination

...in your neighbourhood? -single choice reply-(optional)

Not at all sufficient

...in your region? -single choice reply-(optional)

Not at all sufficient

...in the EU? -single choice reply-(optional)

Not at all sufficient

Has the population been consulted by the relevant authorities in your country concerning noise mapping and action planning? -single choice reply-(optional)

Do you consider that products including private vehicles and outdoor equipment should be labelled according to their noise emission level, so that consumers are appropriately informed? -single choice reply-(optional)

Yes

Do you think that dwellings in residential areas should have a noise label, similar to the energy label? -single choice reply-(optional)

Yes

6 - Governance

How effective has the EU noise legislation (END) been as a driver for

national, regional and local authorities to take action for reducing noise exposure where needed? -single choice reply-

(optional)

7 - Your most important issues

If you have a view on improvements of the directive and that you would like to be considered in the review, please describe it in your own words in the text box below. Please express your view concisely, in less than 300 words and preferably in English, German or French.

You may wish to comment on:

- *Overall approach of the EU noise policy*
- *Consistency with other policy fields*
- *The concept of guideline, threshold, target, limit values*
- *The concept of exposure reduction targets*
- *Link to the source legislations (e.g.: noise from cars or trains)*
- *Reporting*
- *Guidance on action planning and quiet areas*
- *The added value of the CNOSSOS-EU methodological framework over existing noise assessment methodologies used in EU Member States*
- *Differences between Member States in taking action where noise reduction is needed*
- *Public information*
- *Public participation (e.g.: on development of noise action plans)*

If you wish you can give your view in your own words here: -open reply-(optional)

The body of evidence on health effects of environmental noise, especially traffic noise, has grown tremendously in the last years. What is missing is a comprehensive EU approach to reducing exposure to noise as a way to ensure a healthy population (and cut down on health costs and lost productivity). Reducing noise needs to be much more of an EU and member state political priority. We hope that the commitment to act on noise pollution will also be expressed in the forthcoming proposal for the 7th EU Environmental Action Programme with a clear goal.

8 - Your own involvement

As an individual, what are you prepared to do to reduce noise exposure?

Please tick as appropriate:

-multiple choices reply-(optional)

Use alternative transport e.g. cycling or walking - Raise awareness about the health effects of noise pollution - Participate in public consultations regarding noise mapping and action planning - Share information related to noise and health on websites/local forums

