

Under the auspices of



Conference:

**Healthy cities, healthy people:
Pathways for clean air in the EU's urban environments**

Date: Tuesday, 23 April 2024

Venue: nhow Brussels Bloom Hotel, located at Rue Royale 250, 1210 Brussels, Belgium

Format:

- Translation FR – NL – EN
- Livestream

Aim of the conference:

The majority of Europeans live in cities, and the rate of urbanization is set to further increase.

Poor air quality is a major and persistent challenge in urban environments, impacting the health and quality of life of residents, irrespective of where they live. In the overwhelming majority of cities in the EU, air quality is worse than what the World Health Organization (WHO) recommends, as a result of pollution from the household sectors and transport.

For decades, city infrastructure was built to ensure a smooth flow of cars, not to focus on people's health and well-being. However, this approach is slowly but surely changing, as many urban decision-makers have started to invest in healthy mobility, also as part of climate efforts. At the same time, pollution from wood burning in household increases, also due to a rise in energy poverty.

The conference, bringing together EU and urban decision-makers, health stakeholders, scientists and civil society, aims to present recent evidence on the health and economic benefits of

sustainable mobility, and share good practice on measures initiated by city decision-makers, and showcase stakeholders engagement for cleaning up the air in the city of Brussels. On the eve of the 2024 EU elections, and next EU policy cycle 2024-2029, this conference aims to identify pathways to reach good air quality for everyone, everywhere in cities.

Provisional programme

Moderator: Sonja van Renssen, Editor in Chief, Energy Monitor

8.15 Registration opens

9.00 Welcome

- Xavier Brenez, CEO Mutualités Libres/Onafhankelijke Ziekenfondsen
- Anne Stauffer, Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL)
- Anya Schneider, Bloomberg Philanthropies

9.10 Keynote speeches

- Patrick Child, Deputy-Director General of DG Environment
- Alain Maron, Minister of the Government of the Brussels-Capital Region, responsible for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Participatory Democracy

9.30 What's at stake for clean air and health in cities?

- Alberto Gonzalez Ortiz, European Environment Agency (EEA), *Air pollution in cities*
- Mark Nieuwenhuijsen, UBDPolicy project, ISGlobal, *Sources of air pollution in cities, and benefits of improving air quality in 1000 European cities*
- Zorana Jovanovic Andersen, EU Exhaustion project & European Respiratory Society, *Health impacts of air pollution & climate change in cities*
- Rachel Aldred, University of Westminster, *How Low Traffic neighbourhoods can reduce motor traffic and improve health*
- Luk Bruyneel, Mutualités Libres/Onafhankelijke Ziekenfondsen, *Health effects resulting from the introduction of low-emission zones in Brussels, Antwerp, Ghent*

11.00 Coffee break

11.30 Stakeholder engagement for clean air in Brussels

A Q&A between moderator and following representatives:

- Tim Cassiers, BRAL – Citizen Action Brussels

- Renaud Leemans, Les Chercheurs d’Air
- Marie-Charlotte Debouche, ClientEarth
- Dr. Patricia Palacios, Société Scientifique de Médecine Générale (SSMG)

12.00 Panel discussion: Pathways for clean air in cities

- Jacek Kisiel, City of Warsaw
- Dorthe Nielsen, Eurocities
- Julia Poliscanova, Transport & Environment / Clean Cities Campaign
- Oskar Bonte, Flemish Youth Council

13.00 Closing

- Christian Horemans, Mutualités Libres/Onafhankelijke Ziekenfondsen

13.05 Conference Lunch