



To:

Mr. Jean-Claude Juncker  
President of the European Commission  
1049 Brussels

Cc: First Vice-President Frans Timmermans, Commissioner Vytenis Andriukaitis,  
Commissioner Karmenu Vella

Brussels, 18 November 2014

Dear President Juncker, dear Vice-President Timmermans, dear Commissioners,

We, the undersigned public health, patients', and medical organisations, are writing to you to express our dismay at any considerations to withdraw the EU Clean Air Policy Package, as presented by EU Environment and Health Commissioners Potočník and Borg in December 2013. We call on you to keep the proposal and work with the European Parliament and Council to ensure a swift and ambitious adoption.

As you read this, 9 out of 10 Europeans living in cities are breathing air which is harmful to their health. We write to you on their behalf, but also on behalf of the 400,000 Europeans whose premature deaths are caused each year by air pollution in Europe, and all those suffering from ill-health linked to air pollution<sup>1</sup>.

Through the Clean Air Policy Package and the National Emissions Ceiling (NEC) Directive, you have a unique opportunity to reduce the harmful level of pollutants in the air - putting the health of European citizens at the core of EU policy making. It will also be a prime example to citizens on the added value of EU action. The air quality package will be a positive driver for innovation in industry, for climate change actions and for energy policy targets. It will contribute to Europe's role as a leader in green growth, innovation and environmental protection at international level.

According to the EU Commission's own assessment, and the European Parliament's additional report, the NEC directive alone will reduce premature deaths by 34% and bring gains of about 180 million life years in 2030. It will substantially reduce the health related economic costs of air pollution, which amounted to between €330 and €940 billion for the EU in 2010 alone.

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<sup>1</sup> There is a large body of evidence on health effects of air pollution, including cardio-vascular and respiratory disease such as asthma, allergies, chronic bronchitis, COPD, but also increasingly effects on prenatal and early childhood development, and even diabetes.

These improvements come at total emission control costs of only €3.3 billion per year or 0.02% of GDP in 2030. The benefits of further emission controls far outweigh the costs.

At the same time, the NEC Directive will help the European Union to reach its long-standing aim of achieving “levels of air quality that do not give rise to significant negative impacts on, and risks to human health and environment”, an aim which is enshrined in the EU’s 7<sup>th</sup> Environmental Action Programme.

As healthcare professionals, patients, scientists, and public health advocates concerned with health and environmental protection, we urge you to include the Air Policy Package and National Emissions Ceiling Directive in your 2015 Work Programme and in turn improve not only the health of European citizens but also our economy.

In view of the public interest in this matter, we intend to make the contents of this letter more widely available.

Yours sincerely,

Anne Stauffer

Professor. Bert Brunekreef

Breda Flood



Deputy Director  
**Health and Environment  
Alliance (HEAL)**

Environment and Health  
Committee Chair  
**European Respiratory Society  
(ERS)**

President  
**European Federation of  
Allergy and Airways Diseases  
Patients’ Associations (EFA)**

On behalf of:

- European Public Health Alliance (EPHA)
- Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME)
- European Lung Foundation (ELF)
- European COPD Coalition (ECC)
- European Academy of Allergy & Clinical Immunology (EAACI)
- European Kidney Health Alliance (EKHA)
- International Network on Children’s Health, Environment and Safety (INCHES)
- Royal College of Physicians
- North of England EU Health Partnership
- The Cancer Prevention & Education Society (CPES), UK
- Longfonds, Netherlands
- Leefmilieu (Human Environment), Netherlands
- Alborada Foundation, Spain
- Spanish Association of Environmental Education (Asociación Española de Educación Ambiental)
- Action for Breast Cancer Foundation, Malta
- WECF - Women in Europe for a Common Future, The Netherlands, France and Germany

