



# ONLINE DISCUSSION HEALTH COSTS OF AIR AND TRANSPORT POLLUTION IN EUROPEAN CITIES

21 OCTOBER 2020 | 10.30 - 12.00

## BACKGROUND TO THE DISCUSSION

Transport pollution puts a particular burden on cities, damaging the health of urban dwellers. 5 years after Dieselgate, new research aims to estimate the social costs of air pollution at the level of 432 individual cities through a common methodology that has been developed in peer-reviewed work for the European Commission (DG Move, CE Delft and INFRAS, 2019).

The most lethal legacy of Dieselgate has been its dangerous impact on human health. Dirty cars continue to pollute the air of European cities, aggravating the health and climate burden of emissions, with Europeans on the frontline. There are 51 million grossly-polluting diesel cars and vans currently on Europe's roads - with a higher burden on Eastern Europe - and not enough has been done to protect people's health.

The '**Health costs of air pollution in European cities and the linkage with transport**' study offers an opportunity to investigate to what extent air pollution can be reduced by transport related policies. Through planning, organizing and regulating various modes of transport, city governments can decisively improve air quality. At the same time, new EU transport regulations are being introduced to protect consumers, public health and the environment,

Not only are national authorities now required to check a larger number of cars on the road (one for every 40,000 newly registered cars), but the European Commission will also, for the first time, be able to issue EU-wide recalls or impose fines on carmakers if no appropriate action is taken by Member States. In addition, EU lawmakers are currently reviewing the nitrogen oxide (NOx) limits applicable to Euro 6 cars and vans.

This year, city dwellers across Europe enjoyed cleaner air, as many political barriers were suddenly cleared in an effort to tackle COVID19 and find new ways to encourage people to walk and cycle around our cities, encouraging healthier, more active mobility.

Many cities are responding positively to their citizens' demands and are leading the healthy and green recovery through innovative solutions to decrease pollution, increase physical activity and re-design the urban environment to have a green economic recovery.

During this on-line discussion, after the presentation of new data on the estimated healthcare costs of transport pollution in cities EU decision makers and city officials in charge of transport policies, will discuss the following questions:

- What are the estimated healthcare costs of air and transport pollution in cities?
- What will be the impact of the changes to the regulatory framework for vehicles on cities?
- What measures have cities undertaken to address transport pollution?
- What lessons have been learned from the COVID19 lockdowns to ensure healthier, more active mobility?
- How can the EU help cities contribute to a healthy, green recovery?

## MORE INFORMATION:

<https://epha.org/online-discussion-health-costs-of-air-pollution-in-european-cities/>



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