GMES User Forum Preparatory Workshop

27/10/2011

EU air quality policies

Review of the EU Air Quality and Pollution Policies

Scott Brockett, André Zuber

ENV.C3 Industrial Emissions, Air Quality and Noise

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Reviewing the Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution

The College Orientation Debate

6EAP objective (2002)

‘to attain levels of air quality that do not give rise to significant negative impacts on, or risks to, human health and the environment’

College debate

- Comprehensive review of EU Air Quality Policy in 2012/2013
- Revised NEC directive latest as part of the review
- Immediate action in specific policy areas (sulfur in shipping fuels, vehicles and non-road emissions, international negotiations eg. Gothenburg Protocol but also energy, cohesion, agriculture, research)
- Co-operation with Member States, assisting in achieving compliance (not stopping infringements)
- Co-benefits with climate change / Europe 2020 agenda

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Reviewing the Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution
Key Elements

- **Review of the current air quality legislation** (including reasons for non-compliance)
- **Review of the current air quality limits and targets**
  - $PM_{2.5}$ as required by Directive
  - Latest scientific evidence of air pollution impacts for ozone, PM_{10}, heavy metals, PAHs, others?
  - new targets – long term objectives (2020 – 2030 – 2050?)
- **Possible new measures**
- **Link to climate change** (eg. co-benefits, short lived climate species)
- **Integration into sectorial policies** (transport, energy, vehicle emissions, etc.) – already 2011 (White Paper and 2050 roadmaps)
- **R&I, innovation**
- **Simplification / smart regulation / streamlining**

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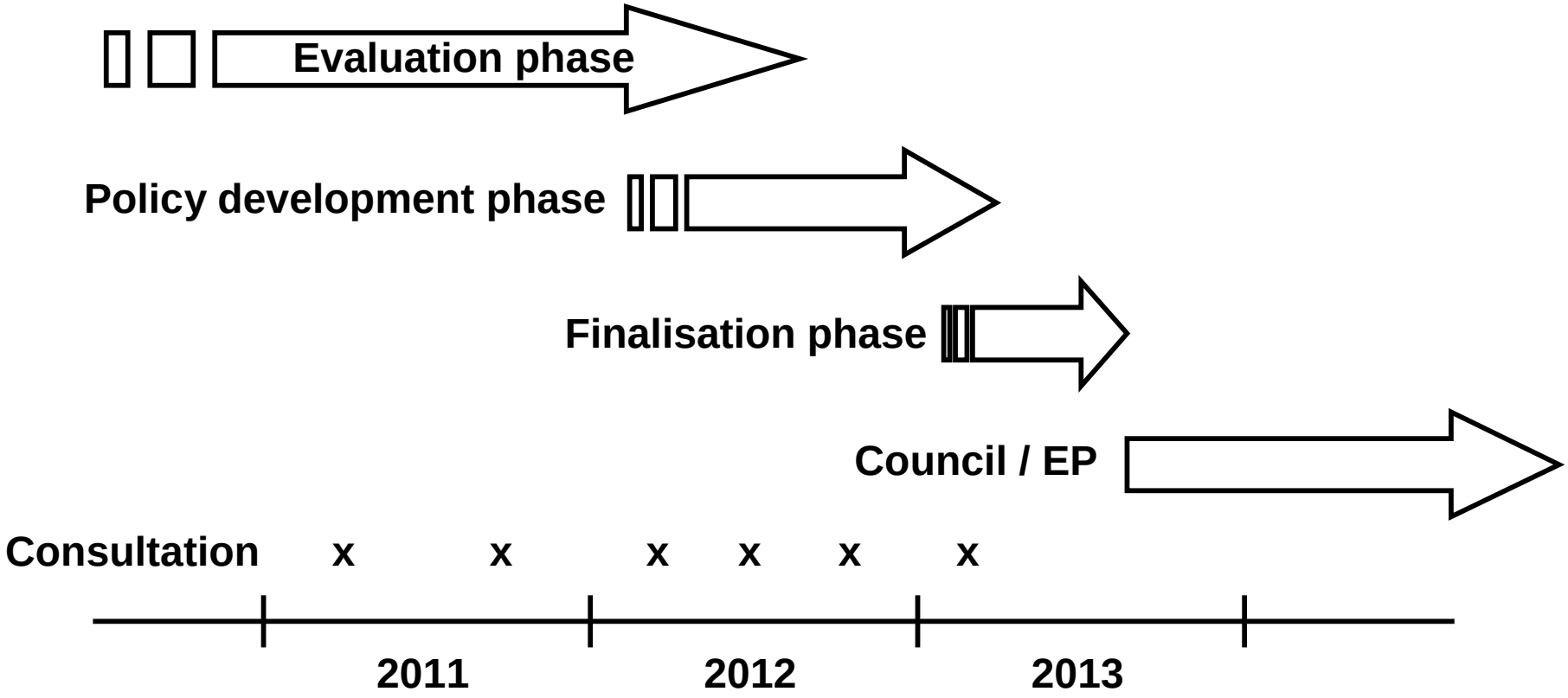
Reviewing the Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution

Process and Timetable



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Main strands of work for the review and beyond

- **Enhanced cooperation**
  - **between the Commission services (RTD, JRC, EUROSTAT and the EEA**
  - **between the Commission and the EU RTD activities**
  - **Between DG ENV and other policy DG:s of development of policy**
- **Service contracts for analysis of policy performance (*ex post analysis*)**
  - **What has worked in EU policy and legislation?**
  - **Where can legislation be better implemented?**
- **and policy options (*ex ante*)**
  - **Modelling framework of baseline and policy options**
  - **Economic and technical analysis of options**

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Main issues identified

- **Environmental issues**
  - **Achievements of EU air quality standards, NO2, PM, O3**
  - **Reaching long term objectives for human health, in particular PM health damage, and the environment, in particular eutrophication**
- **Policy issues**
  - **Addressing the effects of**
    - **agriculture,**
    - **transport,**
    - **small scale installations**
    - **continued efforts to integrate environment policy in sector policies**

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Key research questions: Emerging issues

- **Those for which there is enough information to take action (BC/EC, PM1, ultrafines, others?)**
  - **Quantified link to health and environmental impacts**
  - **Monitoring of concentrations**
  - **Inventories of emissions**
  - **Identification of measures**
  - **…**
- **Those for which there is insufficient information**
  - **Priorities (notably cost-effectiveness of local vs EU action)**
  - **Programme to fill the information gaps in medium/long term**
  - **…**

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Air quality policy and GMES

- **Contributions to the 2013 reviews**
  - **Better assessment of air quality in Europe and its effects**
  - **Validation of effectiveness of national and EU action plans to mitigate air pollution**
  - **Monitoring of concentrations at different scales**
  - **Inverse modeling and assessment of inventories**
  - **Assessment of transboundary air pollution**
- **Contribution to current policy**
  - **Better implement the EU air quality legislation, in particular on updated information to the public and stakeholder – links to requirements to inform and "alerts"**
  - **Better implement the requirement to assess air quality in the Member States – links with AQUILA and FAIMODE**

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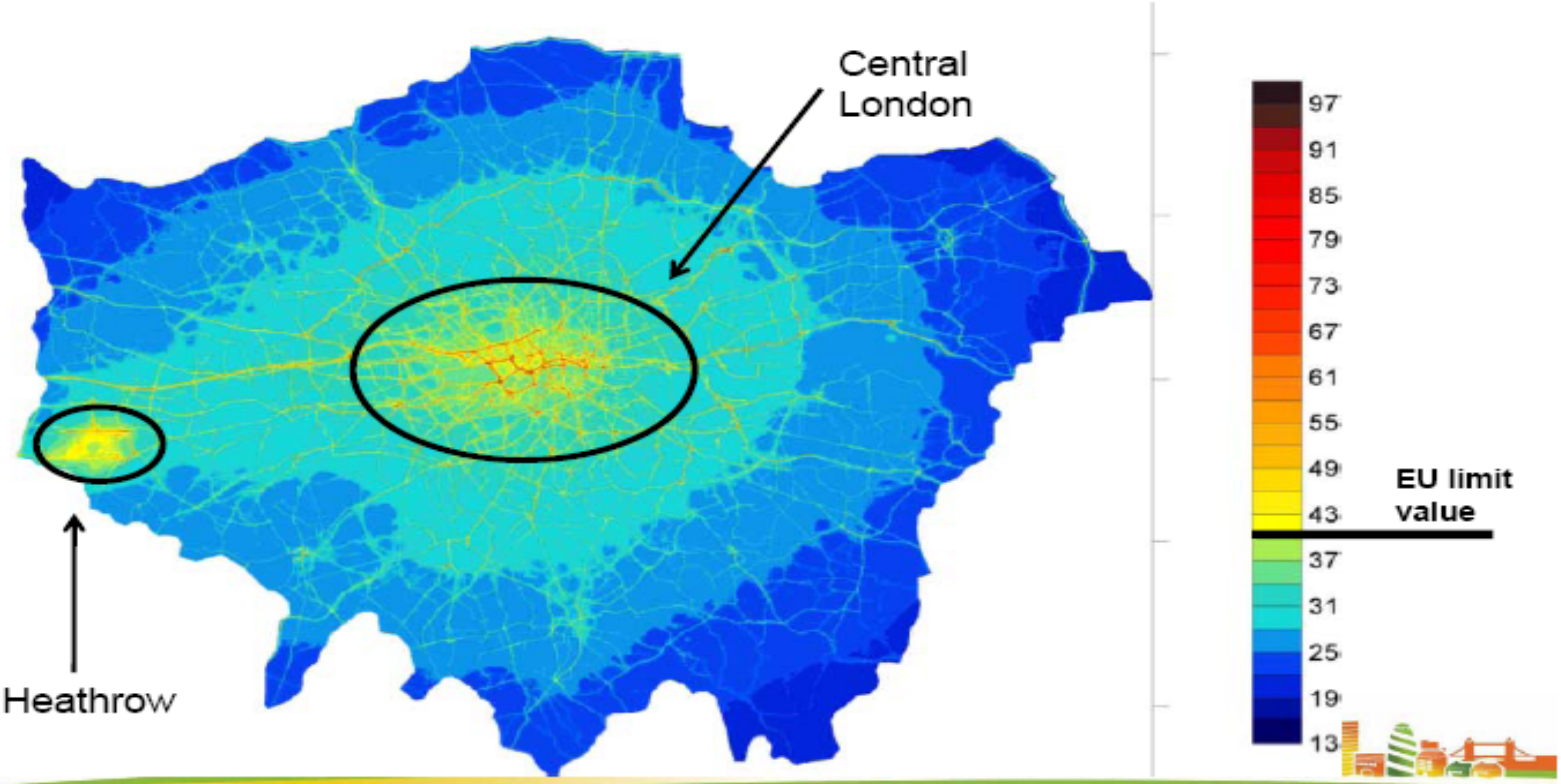
Achievements and Remaining Challenges
EU Air Quality Standards

NO_2 exceedences of EU Limit Value in 2015



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