



## **Clean Air Dialogue between the Commission and Hungary promotes measures for cleaner air**

Brussels, 5 October 2017

**On 3 and 4 October 2017 the Commission held a Clean Air Dialogue with Hungary to promote actions to improve air quality and contribute to Hungary's compliance with EU air regulations. The dialogue focused on the main challenges faced by Hungary – emissions from the burning of solid fuel in homes, as well as from agriculture, transport and industry.**

While emissions of several air pollutants have decreased significantly since 1990, air pollution continues to give cause for concern and has a significant impact on the health of Hungarians. The European Environment Agency estimated that more than 12,000 premature deaths in Hungary in 2013 were linked to fine particulate matter and other air pollutants. Estimates also indicate that bad air quality has health-related costs in Hungary of over €5 billion per year, including the loss of 3 million workdays per year.

### **The main conclusions of the dialogue:**

1. There is an urgent need for planning and execution of further actions to reduce particle emissions from burning solid fuel in private households. Actions at many levels will need to be analysed and measures decided as appropriate, nationally, regionally and locally.
2. Agricultural growth will need to be accompanied with a strategy to reduce ammonia emissions. The first national air pollution control programme to be finalised in 2019 under the revised National Emission Ceilings Directive will provide an opportunity for Hungary to do just that.
3. While there is already a strong focus in Hungary on clean public transportation, e-mobility and sustainable urban mobility planning, there is also a need for short term measures to reduce emissions from existing vehicles in the urban areas. To achieve this, a range of possible tools exists including low emissions zones, fiscal incentives such as vehicle taxation, and retrofitting schemes.
4. Possibilities to draw on experiences from other Member States will be considered where suitable.

### **Background**

Recent reports – including the annual air quality report published by the European Environment Agency – show that despite some successes in curbing air pollution, Member States have not succeeded in reducing significantly the high number of premature deaths from air pollution in the EU (more than 400,000 in 2013).

The [Environmental Implementation Review \(EIR\)](#) reconfirmed that air quality is a particularly challenging policy area for many Member States. Therefore the Commission has started a series of Clean Air Dialogues, to facilitate the implementation of air policies, and share knowledge and lessons learned from the experiences of other Member States.

A **peer-to-peer tool** funded by the European Commission allows frontrunners to provide tailored support to other Member States and encourage mutual learning and exchange of best practices through expert missions, study visits and workshops supported by the Commission.

**More information:**

EIR – [Hungary country sheet](#)

A link to shared conclusions from the dialogue will be posted [here](#) as soon as available.