

SUMMARY RESULTS OF THE IPPC REVIEW INTERNET CONSULTATION QUESTIONNAIRE

1. INTRODUCTION

An internet consultation was organized during the period 17 April till 18 June. About 450 responses were received and analysed. Most of the replies originated from private companies (~ 40%), organizations representing the private sector (~ 25%) and individuals (22%). Some national and international environmental NGOs (~ 4%) and some authorities (~ 6%) also responded to the questionnaire. Five countries (UK, Germany, Belgium, France, Spain) accounted each for more than 10% of the total number of responses and together represented more than 65% of the replies received.

2. SUMMARY OUTCOME

The main outcome of the consultation can be summarized as follows:

- The very large majority (more than 97%) of the respondents agreed that the EU legislation should continue to cover all main environmental impacts of the IPPC installations in an integrated way. More than 80% of the respondents expressed their strong agreement with this view.
- Most of the respondents (over 90%) also agreed that the implementation of Best Available Techniques (BAT) should remain the key instrument of the EU policy on industrial emissions. Nearly 70% expressed a strong agreement. About 60% were of the opinion that additional action at EU level was necessary to improve the implementation of the BAT.
- A very large majority (more than 90%) agreed that the BREFs should play a more central role in determining the required standards for industrial installations (but not be binding in order to leave some flexibility in setting permit conditions). About 95% also agreed that the possible deviation from the environmental performance associated with BAT given in the BREFs should be documented and justified by the authorities in a transparent way.
- The issue of the possible harmonization through the setting up of EU-wide minimum standards for certain sectors raised split views: about 60% were against and 38% in favour of such an initiative if insufficient progress is made towards the implementation of BAT.
- Most of the respondents (~80%) considered it very or relatively important to set some minimum rules at EU level regarding the issue of inspection. In the field of the monitoring and reporting of emissions, the very large majority (about 90%) expressed support for additional actions at EU level. Fewer respondents (about 50%) supported actions regarding the review of permit conditions to ensure continuous environmental improvement.

- The very large majority (more than 90%) supported specific research that can help to identify new techniques for consideration as potential future BAT. About 60% agreed with the suggestion to allow for temporary derogations from the permit obligations during the testing phase of new innovative techniques with the potential of pollution reduction.
- As regards actions to reduce unnecessary administrative burden, more respondents (about 75%) supported an amendment of existing legislation to improve their interaction rather than an integration of the pieces of legislation into a single legal framework (about 30%). Large support was expressed for the following proposed initiatives: to remove unnecessary monitoring and reporting requirements from operators (90%), to combine and streamline all the reporting requirements from Member States to the Commission (70%) and to develop an Action Plan to assist the Member States to reduce their administrative burden (60%).
- A majority of the respondents (about 75%) disagreed with the suggestion that Member States should have the possibility to reduce SO₂ and NO_x emissions through emission trading (instead of requiring individual BAT-based permits). If such possibility would be established, about 45% of the respondents supported the setting up of rules at EU while 30% had no opinion about this issue.