

To: Executive Vice-President Ribera, Commissioner Roswall

Brussels, 26 November 2025

EU Healthy Air Coalition call to speed up on reducing and preventing air pollution emissions from all sources

Dear Executive Vice-President Ribera,
Dear Commissioner Roswall,

As the Commission is about to conclude the review of the National Emission reduction Commitments Directive (NECD), the EU Healthy Air Coalition ([EUHAC](#)), a coalition bringing together nonprofit health expert voices in the EU to advocate for better health for all through clean air, urges you to decisively address the current slow pace and narrow scope of mandatory reductions of air pollution emissions at the national level.

Air pollution remains the top environmental risk to health in Europe, resulting in hundreds of thousands of premature deaths and hundreds of billions of euros of costs annually. Air pollution is a cause of all major non-communicable diseases, including cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, stroke, diabetes, dementia, and lung cancer, as well as acute respiratory infections, with growing evidence on adverse impacts on mental and neurological health.

The disease burden caused by air pollution is huge. Yet as repeatedly highlighted in the [Clean Air Outlook](#), most of the health and economic impacts of air pollution are preventable by major emissions reductions and prevention. Moreover, measures to improve air quality can be a win-win for both health and climate mitigation and adaptation and help relieve the burden on increasingly strained health care systems.

The European Environmental Agency (EEA) recently [highlighted](#) the following key points, which are highly relevant for the NECD review:

1/ Despite emission declines since 2005, the reduction rate for some pollutants is now levelling off, and all but two Member States must further reduce all main pollutants to meet their reduction commitments for 2030.

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2/ The [Fourth Clean Air Outlook report](#) recommends that further measures are implemented in the agricultural sector to reduce ammonia (NH₃) emissions.

3/ Efforts to reduce sulphur dioxide (SO₂) and particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) emissions should focus on measures in the manufacturing and extractive industry, and energy supply sectors as these two sectors contribute most to emissions.

4/ Efforts to reduce nitrogen oxide (NO_x) emissions should focus on road transport.

Back in 2022, the EEA already [underlined](#) that the reduction of methane emissions in the EU urgently needs to accelerate. In this regard, EUHAC would also like to remind the Commission of its own [Declaration](#) on the Review of Methane Emissions in Directive (EU) 2016/2284.

Building on the above, the EUHAC urges you to:

- **Accelerate the binding pace of air pollutants emissions reduction by 2030 and onwards**
- **Introduce binding methane (CH₄) emissions reduction targets**
- **End direct and indirect subsidies for fossil fuels (coal, oil, gas)**
- **End subsidies for biomass burning and remove “renewable” label from biomass**
- **End subsidies for ammonia (NH₃) emitting practices**
- **Redirect investments towards pollution reduction and prevention**

We thank you in advance for considering our call and would be happy to meet with your relevant cabinet and service members to provide further information.

Sincerely,

Anne Stauffer, Deputy Director – Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL),
on behalf of the EU Healthy Air Coalition (EUHAC) other founding members:

Dr Ole Johan Bakke, President – Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME)
Dr. Wolfgang Fecke, Executive Director – Association of European Cancer Leagues (ECL)
Susanna Palkonen – European Federation of Allergy and Airways Diseases Patients' Associations (EFA)
Dimitris Kontopidis, Chair – European Lung Foundation (ELF)
Dr. Milka Sokolović, Director General – European Public Health Alliance (EPHA)
Prof. Dr. Barbara Hoffmann MPH, Advocacy Council Chair – European Respiratory Society (ERS)
Xavier Brenez, Chief Executive Officer – Independent Health Insurance Funds (Mutualités Libres)