



PRESS RELEASE - 29 October 2015 - BRUSSELS

## Big cities aim higher on emissions targets

Binding 2025 emissions reductions targets on some of the most harmful pollutants in our air agreed by MEPs yesterday are a positive step, but the big European cities would like to see these go further. Many of the sources of pollution that affect the air we breathe in cities are beyond the control of local authorities, so stricter limits at national level are essential.

MEPs were voting on the revision of the National Emissions Ceilings (NEC) Directive, a cornerstone of EU's Clean Air Policy Package.

Anna Lisa Boni, EURO CITIES secretary general, said:

"Binding 2025 targets for major pollutants including ammonia is good news for cities, but we would like these to be stricter. Air pollution is the most important environmental health problem in Europe, and while it is concentrated in our cities, many sources are beyond our control. Stricter national limits can go a long way to improving air quality for the three quarters of our population that lives in urban areas."

In particular, MEPs agreed to binding targets on ammonia, a major pollutant linked to the agricultural sector. Ammonia emissions, along with particulate matter and nitrogen oxides, present a serious threat to our air quality and to our citizens' health.

### Taking car emissions seriously

MEPs also expressed support for a quick introduction of realistic and effective car emissions testing. Emissions on the road from vehicles can be up to seven times higher than official tests indicate, and the current testing procedure does not reflect the reality of urban driving conditions. This has a huge impact on the quality of the air we breathe. The introduction of real world emissions testing in the Euro 6 standard would go a long way towards solving this problem. Improved tests of single sample vehicles must be complemented by spot checks on vehicles in use.

ENDS

### Notes to editors

- EURO CITIES: [www.eurocities.eu](http://www.eurocities.eu)
- EURO CITIES & Polis joint letter on air policy review: <http://bit.ly/1L5iMQV>
- Letter to Commissioner Bieńkowska on Euro 6: <http://bit.ly/1zniHAb>
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