



Jean-Claude Juncker
President of the Commission
European Commission
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
1049 Brussels
Belgium

2015MME11

Cc: First VP Frans Timmermans, VP Maroš Šefčovič, Commissioner Karmenu Vella

1 December 2014

Dear President Juncker,

We – the AIR Group – are writing to express our grave concern at the possibility that the Commission could withdraw its recently proposed Clean Air Policy Package, in particular the proposals on national emission ceilings and medium combustion plants.

The National Emission Ceilings Directive is the only instrument at EU level aimed at tackling background concentration levels of air pollutants and as such is key to addressing trans-boundary pollution. New national limit values beyond 2020 are necessary to complement local action on air quality, to implement the Gothenburg Protocol and to aid compliance with the EU Ambient Air Quality Directive. In fact, we see the NECD as an essential measure to help regions achieve compliance with the EU air quality standards and avoid future infringement procedures. The proposal for the Medium Combustion Plant Directive closes an important gap in EU source policy, under which no emission standards for plants between 1 and 50 MW currently exist.

Given the proven health impacts of poor air quality the AIR Group believes European citizens have a right to clean air. While we are committed to delivering improvements in air quality in our regions, we look to the European Commission to put in place an appropriate legal framework which focuses on combatting pollutant emissions at source. The new Clean Air Policy Package puts forward some of the measures necessary to complement regional authorities' efforts to curb pollution and deliver improved health and environment for the population of the EU.

The Air Quality Initiative of Regions (AIR) was founded in 2011 and represents some of the most densely populated and industrialised regions, together accounting for over 20% of EU GDP and 18% of the EU's population. These regions have been at the forefront of air quality management over recent years despite struggling to meet the EU air quality standards.

We urge you, the Commission President, to keep the Clean Air Policy Package on the table, and allow the European Parliament and the Council to refine and improve the proposals during the next year in order to reach a robust agreement on this important piece of legislation as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

AIR Group, on behalf of:

Baden-Württemberg, Catalunya, Emilia-Romagna, Greater London, Hessen, Madrid, Lombardia, Piemonte, Randstad Region, Steiermark, Veneto and Vlaanderen.