



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

---

*Committee on Petitions*

---

30.4.2014

## NOTICE TO MEMBERS

**Subject: Petition 0193/2012 by Erick Labrousse (French), on behalf of ‘Groupement pour le Respect des Fuseaux en Europe’, on the threshold values in Directive 2008/50/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe and, in this connection, the insufficient protection of public health and the environment**

### 1. Summary of petition

The petitioner expresses his dissatisfaction with the target values and long-term objectives of Directive 2008/50/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe and he also expresses severe criticism of the way in which France is enforcing the provisions relating to this area. He therefore calls on the Commission to take action with regard to France and to make the relevant threshold values more stringent.

### 2. Admissibility

Declared admissible on 13 June 2012. Information requested from Commission under Rule 202(6).

### 3. Commission reply, received on 28 September 2012

Directive 2008/50/EC on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe<sup>1</sup> provides for an hourly nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) limit value of 200 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, not to be exceeded more than 18 times a calendar year and an annual limit value of 40 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. The limit values for NO<sub>2</sub> are applicable since 1 January 2010. According to this directive, Member States have, however, the possibility to notify the Commission of a postponement of the deadline to apply the limit

---

<sup>1</sup> OJ L 152. 11.6.2008

values for NO<sub>2</sub> until 1 January 2015 at the latest. To be granted such a postponement the Member States have to fulfil certain conditions, inter alia they must have prepared an air quality plan showing how the limit values will be reached by the extended deadline.

The Commission is currently evaluating the notification by the French government of a postponement of the deadline for attaining compliance with the limit values for NO<sub>2</sub> (letter of 8 March 2012). After an initial examination, the Commission has found that the notification is incomplete and has requested additional information from the French authorities. The French authorities submitted the additional information in June 2012. The Commission has nine months to assess the notification.

The Commission has launched a comprehensive review of EU air quality policies which is due to be completed in 2013. The review will focus, inter alia, on updating the scientific basis of the health and environment impact and will come forward, as necessary, with new proposals and revisions to existing proposals. More information can be found on the dedicated website and on the related CIRCA library publicly available at:-

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/air/review\\_air\\_policy.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/air/review_air_policy.htm)

## Conclusion

Depending on the outcome of the evaluation of the French notification, the Commission will decide what further action may be needed.

## 4. Commission reply (REV), received on 30 April 2014

By Decision of 22 February 2013 C(2013)920 final the Commission decided to raise objections to all the zones notified by the French government of a postponement of the deadline for attaining compliance with the limit value for NO<sub>2</sub> notification.

According to the latest available report referring to year 2012, the NO<sub>2</sub> annual limit value was still exceeded in many French zones. As a result, in February 2014 the Commission requested French authorities to clarify the expected date of compliance and the measures taken to achieve compliance. In case the Commission is not satisfied with the answer, it will take further measures to address the non-compliance with the NO<sub>2</sub> limit values by France.