

EURELECTRIC welcomes the publication of EU's ambitious air quality proposals; consistency with existing and expected EU legislation is key

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The European Commission today published its proposals for a review of EU air quality legislation, including emission reduction targets for 2020 and 2030. EURELECTRIC used the opportunity to express its support for an ambitious air quality policy for Europe.

The package includes three main elements:

- a revised National Emission Ceilings (NEC) Directive to reduce emissions up to 2030;
- the ratification of the Gothenburg Protocol, which sets emissions levels for a number of air pollutants for the period from 2020; and
- a legislative proposal to reduce emissions from medium scale combustion installations.

EURELECTRIC welcomes the certainty provided by implementing the 2020 Gothenburg Protocol emission reduction commitments as part of the NEC Directive commitments.

We also welcome setting emission reduction targets for 2030, which will facilitate much needed coherence with the EU's 2030 energy and climate policy framework, due to be agreed next year. We will closely analyse the proposed commitments in detail to ensure that they do not go beyond what is economically or even technically feasible. Full alignment with the energy and climate policy framework for 2030 is critical to achieve clean air for Europe in a cost-effective approach.

On the proposal to regulate the emissions from medium combustion plants, EURELECTRIC acknowledges attempts to take into consideration the difficulties the proposal could cause for smaller combustion plants. We remain concerned that the proposals will require some plants to take uneconomical abatement measures that are unjustified in view of their limited emissions, which are usually already regulated at national level.

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