

Air Pollution - What Do You Think?



Online Consultation, DG Environment, 01/12/2004 - 31/01/2005

Preliminary results

11574 responses

Background information on you

Country of residence

		% of total
AT - Austria	382	(3.3%)
BE - Belgium	694	(6%)
CY - Cyprus	106	(0.9%)
CZ - Czech Republic	28	(0.2%)
DE - Germany	918	(7.9%)
DK - Denmark	170	(1.5%)
EE - Estonia	229	(2%)
EL - Greece	66	(0.6%)
ES - Spain	247	(2.1%)
FI - Finland	174	(1.5%)
FR - France	780	(6.7%)
HU - Hungary	82	(0.7%)
IE - Ireland	78	(0.7%)
IT - Italy	142	(1.2%)
LT - Lithuania	12	(0.1%)
LU - Luxembourg	13	(0.1%)
LV - Latvia	59	(0.5%)
MT - Malta	22	(0.2%)
NL - Netherlands	164	(1.4%)
PL - Poland	63	(0.5%)
PT - Portugal	6022	(52%)
SE - Sweden	154	(1.3%)
SI - Slovenia	363	(3.1%)
SK - Slovak Republic	65	(0.6%)
UK - United Kingdom	295	(2.5%)
IS - Iceland	24	(0.2%)
LI - Liechtenstein	6	(0.1%)
NO - Norway	104	(0.9%)
CH - Switzerland	38	(0.3%)
BG - Bulgaria	5	(0%)
TR - Turkey	5	(0%)
RO - Romania	13	(0.1%)
Other	51	(0.4%)

I am answering as...

		% of total
An individual	10331	(89.2%)
Another expert (university, research body, etc)	390	(3.4%)
A representative of an industry association and/or private business	245	(2.1%)
A representative of a Non Governmental Organization (NGO)	182	(1.6%)
A representative of a trade union	13	(0.1%)
Other	105	(0.9%)
An expert working in a public authority	308	(2.7%)

Your Profile NGO

Number of members in your organisation:

		% of total
<50	41	(0.4%)
51-100	18	(0.2%)
101-1000	64	(0.6%)
>1000	58	(0.5%)

Public authority - Profile

Which kind of public Authority do you represent?

		% of total
Local Authority- agglomeration <250.000 inhabitants	82	(0.7%)
Local Authority- agglomeration >250.000 inhabitants	50	(0.4%)
Regional Authority	82	(0.7%)
National/Federal Authority	98	(0.8%)

Your profile (organisation)

Number of employees/members in your organisation:

		% of total
1-9	2	(0%)
10-49	1	(0%)
50-249	0	(0%)
250-499	2	(0%)
500+	7	(0.1%)

In which sector are you active?

		% of total
Energy industry	0	(0%)
Manufacturing industry (non-automotive)	0	(0%)
Manufacturing industry (automotive and suppliers)	1	(0%)
Service sector (not in the transport sector)	3	(0%)
Transport sector	1	(0%)
Process Industry	0	(0%)
Agricultural sector	0	(0%)
Health care	1	(0%)
Other	6	(0.1%)

Your Profile (Organisations)

Number of employees/members in your organisation:

		% of total
individual	3	(0%)
1-9	52	(0.4%)
10-49	39	(0.3%)
50-249	44	(0.4%)
250-499	24	(0.2%)
500+	81	(0.7%)

In which sector are you active?

		% of total
Energy industry	24	(0.2%)
Manufacturing industry (non-automotive)	86	(0.7%)
Manufacturing industry (automotive and suppliers)	32	(0.3%)
Service sector (not in the transport sector)	57	(0.5%)
Transport sector	32	(0.3%)
Process Industry	28	(0.2%)
Agricultural sector	8	(0.1%)
Health care	7	(0.1%)
Other	34	(0.3%)

Your profile

Age Range

		% of total
under 18	100	(0.9%)
18-24	1697	(14.6%)
25-44	6173	(53.3%)
45-64	2090	(18%)
65+	123	(1.1%)

Gender

		% of total
Female	4579	(39.5%)
Male	5513	(47.6%)

Do you have any children?

		% of total
Yes	4126	(35.6%)
No	6007	(51.9%)

In terms of inhabitants, what is the approximate size of the city/town/village where you live?

		% of total
More than 250.000	3764	(32.5%)
Between 10.000 and 250.000	4511	(38.9%)
Less than 10.000	1832	(15.8%)

As an individual, please tick your most appropriate personal transport profile:

		% of total
I never use a car	926	(8%)
I use a car occasionally	3581	(30.9%)
I use a car for most of my transport needs	5696	(49.2%)

1. Please rate the present situation of air quality in the following areas

Air quality in your neighbourhood

		% of total
Very good	1653	(14.3%)
Satisfactory	6024	(52%)
Poor	2761	(23.8%)
Very poor	994	(8.6%)
No opinion	84	(0.7%)

Air quality in your city or in the nearest city

		% of total
Very good	584	(5%)
Satisfactory	4542	(39.2%)
Poor	4425	(38.2%)
Very poor	1867	(16.1%)
No opinion	101	(0.9%)

Air quality in your country

		% of total
Very good	845	(7.3%)
Satisfactory	6716	(58%)
Poor	3173	(27.4%)
Very poor	463	(4%)
No opinion	275	(2.4%)

2. In your view, has air quality improved in your neighbourhood in the past 5 to 10 years?

Please tick the most appropriate answer:

		% of total
Yes, significantly	414	(3.6%)
Yes, somewhat	1819	(15.7%)
No change	3723	(32.1%)
Become worse	5462	(47.2%)

3. How much do you know about air quality and its implications?

Air quality in your neighbourhood

		% of total
Well informed	1981	(17.1%)
Somewhat informed	4916	(42.4%)
Not enough informed	4624	(39.9%)

Peaks of air pollution

		% of total
Well informed	1966	(17%)
Somewhat informed	4375	(37.8%)
Not enough informed	5154	(44.5%)

Emissions of air pollutants in your neighbourhood

		% of total
Well informed	1587	(13.7%)
Somewhat informed	3760	(32.5%)
Not enough informed	6114	(52.8%)

Health impact of poor air quality

		% of total
Well informed	3899	(33.7%)
Somewhat informed	5046	(43.6%)
Not enough informed	2541	(21.9%)

Impact on ecosystems (forests, vegetation) of poor air quality

		% of total
Well informed	3912	(33.8%)
Somewhat informed	4977	(43%)
Not enough informed	2602	(22.5%)

4. How many people do you think are affected by poor air quality?

Please tick one or more of the following proposals:

		% of total
Everyone, everywhere, all the time	5756	(49.7%)
Everyone living in polluted areas	5565	(48%)
Only people at risk (children, the elderly, people with breathing problems)	723	(6.2%)
Everyone, during times of peak pollution	2506	(21.6%)
Nobody	21	(0.2%)

5. How concerned are you about the following impacts of air pollution?

Your health and the health of your family

		% of total
Very concerned	6374	(55%)
Somewhat concerned	3830	(33.1%)
Slightly concerned	1099	(9.5%)
Not concerned at all	224	(1.9%)

Damage to environment like acid rain and nitrogen deposition in forests, lakes, soils

		% of total
Very concerned	7679	(66.3%)
Somewhat concerned	2954	(25.5%)
Slightly concerned	782	(6.8%)
Not concerned at all	105	(0.9%)

Damage to buildings and cultural heritage sites (for instance, erosion of stone)

		% of total
Very concerned	3645	(31.5%)
Somewhat concerned	5131	(44.3%)
Slightly concerned	2292	(19.8%)
Not concerned at all	401	(3.5%)

Other damage like loss of visibility (eg smog obscuring the landscape)

		% of total
Very concerned	4115	(35.5%)
Somewhat concerned	4493	(38.8%)
Slightly concerned	2203	(19%)
Not concerned at all	673	(5.8%)

6. Do you think that improving air quality is...

Taking action to reduce the risk of climate change?

		% of total
More important	2513	(21.7%)
Equally important	8309	(71.7%)
Less important	703	(6.1%)

Improving the water quality in rivers, lakes and seas?

		% of total
More important	2092	(18.1%)
Equally important	8920	(77%)
Less important	494	(4.3%)

Taking measures to reduce noise in your neighbourhood?

		% of total
More important	5308	(45.8%)
Equally important	5017	(43.3%)
Less important	1172	(10.1%)

Improving road safety?

		% of total
More important	4023	(34.7%)
Equally important	5823	(50.3%)
Less important	1619	(14%)

Generating jobs and reducing unemployment?

		% of total
More important	3522	(30.4%)
Equally important	6079	(52.5%)
Less important	1878	(16.2%)

Fighting against terrorism?

		% of total
More important	4662	(40.2%)
Equally important	4458	(38.5%)
Less important	2353	(20.3%)

7. How important would you consider measures to increase life expectancy via improved air quality?

Please tick the most appropriate answer:

		% of total
Very important, we should spend substantial funds to improve the situation	8262	(71.3%)
Somewhat important, we should spend some funds to improve the situation	2946	(25.4%)
Not at all important, we should not spend any additional funds to improve the situation	242	(2.1%)

8. What level of risk are you prepared to accept as a result of breathing poor air quality?

The future acceptable level of risk associated with air quality will be defined in the action plan. This will determine the ambition level of the measures to be taken. Please tick one answer in the following list:

		% of total
Low level of risk like drinking tap water	6792	(58.6%)
Moderate level of risk like breathing cigarette smoke from others	2271	(19.6%)
Moderately high level of risk like driving a car or cycling on road	1406	(12.1%)
High level of risk like smoking	1271	(11%)

9. In your view, is it important to take measures to reduce risks for the environment?

Please tick the most appropriate answer:

		% of total
Very important, we should spend substantial funds to improve the situation	9688	(83.6%)
Somewhat important, we should spend some funds to improve the situation	1674	(14.5%)
Not at all important, we should not spend any additional funds to improve the situation	73	(0.6%)

10. In general, how would you rate the following approaches to improve air quality?

Establish new stricter limits for the concentration of pollutants in the air that people breathe?

		% of total
To be done as soon as possible	7079	(61.1%)
Interesting	3426	(29.6%)
Not so interesting	639	(5.5%)
Not a good approach at all	299	(2.6%)

Establish new stricter limits for the amount of pollution that is allowed from sources such as cars, industry, domestic heating, etc.

		% of total
To be done as soon as possible	8063	(69.6%)
Interesting	2875	(24.8%)
Not so interesting	363	(3.1%)
Not a good approach at all	153	(1.3%)

Increase prices of polluting goods and services

		% of total
To be done as soon as possible	4512	(39%)
Interesting	4415	(38.1%)
Not so interesting	1588	(13.7%)
Not a good approach at all	929	(8%)

Establish financial incentives (such as subsidies or tax reductions) for less polluting activities

		% of total
To be done as soon as possible	7418	(64%)
Interesting	3426	(29.6%)
Not so interesting	408	(3.5%)
Not a good approach at all	199	(1.7%)

Promote less polluting behaviour through information campaigns

		% of total
To be done as soon as possible	6963	(60.1%)
Interesting	3461	(29.9%)
Not so interesting	825	(7.1%)
Not a good approach at all	191	(1.6%)

Promote energy efficiency

		% of total
To be done as soon as possible	8999	(77.7%)
Interesting	2211	(19.1%)
Not so interesting	178	(1.5%)
Not a good approach at all	45	(0.4%)

11. In your view, at what level should air pollution measures be taken to make them most effective?

Please tick one or more levels of competence:

		% of total
International	8091	(69.8%)
European	5991	(51.7%)
National	5202	(44.9%)
Regional	3437	(29.7%)
Local/Municipal	4965	(42.9%)
Individual	4265	(36.8%)

12. What are the priority sources of air pollution for which further action is required?

Please tick the sources/sectors that you would consider as priorities:

		% of total
Existing cars, trucks, buses	9054	(78.2%)
Shipping	2352	(20.3%)
Industrial production	9221	(79.6%)
New cars, trucks, buses	5054	(43.6%)
Agriculture	2509	(21.7%)
Domestic heating	3082	(26.6%)
Aviation	4867	(42%)
Energy production	6135	(53%)
Other domestic sources (use of paints, solvents)	2726	(23.5%)

13. In the transport sector, what do you consider the priorities for future action?

Please tick one or more actions:

		% of total
Establish stricter emission standards for new vehicles/engines	7582	(65.5%)
Establish stricter emission standards for existing vehicles/engines	4965	(42.9%)
Ban the most polluting vehicles/engines in some areas such as polluted city centres or mountain valleys	6262	(54.1%)
Ban the most polluting vehicles/engines during times of peak pollution	3859	(33.3%)
Make the most polluting transport modes pay for their pollution	5609	(48.4%)
Promote the use of less polluting vehicles or transport modes using subsidies or lower taxes	8438	(72.8%)
Urban transport plans supporting e.g. walking, cycling, parking policy and public transport	9133	(78.8%)

14. In the field of Industry, what are the priority actions to be achieved?

Please tick the actions that you consider as priorities:

		% of total
Establish stricter emission standards for polluting industries	8036	(69.4%)
Make industry pay for the pollution emitted	6517	(56.3%)
Promote clean processes and products through subsidies	6615	(57.1%)
Always require the cleanest means of production	6441	(55.6%)
Ban specific polluting products if an alternative is available, even if it is more expensive	7123	(61.5%)

15. As an individual, what are you prepared to do in order to improve air quality?

Use public transport or walk/cycle more frequently

		% of total
Yes	8009	(69.1%)
Maybe	2456	(21.2%)
Only if this is mandatory	413	(3.6%)
No	294	(2.5%)
Not relevant for me	273	(2.4%)

Not use my car in the city centre and/or during times of peak pollution

		% of total
Yes	8025	(69.3%)
Maybe	1875	(16.2%)
Only if this is mandatory	686	(5.9%)
No	282	(2.4%)
Not relevant for me	565	(4.9%)

Pay more for products and services if they are produced and transported in a less polluting way

		% of total
Yes	4698	(40.6%)
Maybe	4248	(36.7%)
Only if I have no choice	1407	(12.1%)
No	1032	(8.9%)

Replace/improve my heating installation and/or house insulation

		% of total
Yes	5953	(51.4%)
Maybe	3058	(26.4%)
Only if this is mandatory	646	(5.6%)
No	251	(2.2%)
Not relevant for me	1462	(12.6%)

16. As an individual, how much would you be prepared to pay every month to have clean air?

Please choose the most appropriate answer in the following list. [Click here to get the corresponding range in other currencies:](#)

		% of total
Yes, definitely	5496	(47.4%)
Probably, at least for a couple of years	2008	(17.3%)
Yes, if other Europeans agree, too	2814	(24.3%)
I am not prepared to pay this	1092	(9.4%)

Why are you not prepared to pay to improve the air quality? Please tick the most appropriate reason:

		% of total
Air quality is already good enough	51	(0.4%)
The government or the industry should pay for this	343	(3%)
Prices are already too high	203	(1.8%)
I already pay too much taxes	356	(3.1%)
Some other reason	107	(0.9%)