

Federal Council for Sustainable Development (FRDO-CFDD)

Opinion on federal actions in the combat against air pollution (summary)

The council thinks a better integration of the federal and regional policy is necessary to guarantee a greater efficiency of government actions. Regional and federal matters are mutually enforcing and interdependent, especially when it comes to air pollution. The federal level should take the lead in this case. The council praises the efforts that were made to ensure at federal level for a better integration between different problems regarding air quality. A coordination between different departments for air quality like energy, transport, health, fiscal policies, ... still is necessary. The council again asks the federal minister in charge for environment to take the lead for a better integration. The FCSD Also asks that when applicable, the REACH regime should be integrated in this plan.

The council stresses that the combat against air pollution should be framed in a SD approach. This means an improvement for public health, limiting the environmental impact, the development of quality employment and an enhancement of the competitive position of our companies. Regarding the public health, the impact of air pollution should be diminished. Measuring this impact is often difficult by a lack of data. The government should therefore contribute to more scientific research to these impacts. The council also asks to create a proper framework for best class companies to develop within Belgium, and to produce innovating and less polluting products. The government should also create a market for these products (e.g. by government procurement). The federal government has indeed the task to prepare the Belgian market and the Belgian companies on future European standards which will be much more severe. Concerning the pollution by transport, the council thinks that the support for vehicles with less CO₂ emissions also the pollution with other particles should be considered. The council thinks it is necessary to stimulate the selling of vehicles which are in line with the new Euro 5 norm. The council also has the opinion that there should be at EU level an agreement on taxes for gasoline and diesel.