

**Question for written answer E-010833/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Ivan Jakovčić (ALDE)

Subject: Additional measures to encourage Member States to comply with legal limits on air pollutant emissions

According to a European Environment Agency (EEA) report published on 11 June 2015, many Member States exceeded one or more of their emission ceilings for key pollutants.

Under the National Emission Ceilings (NEC) Directive, Member States have individual air pollutant emission limits, or 'ceilings', for sulphur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), ammonia (NH₃) and non-methane volatile organic compounds (NMVOC).

The four pollutants addressed in the directive harm human health and the environment, causing respiratory illnesses, acidifying soil and surface waters, and damaging vegetation.

Findings show that ten Member States exceeded at least one ceiling in 2013, while six Member States exceeded their NO_x emission ceilings in all years from 2010 to 2013. Emissions from road transport are one of the main reasons for the large number of NO_x exceedances, partly owing to the increased number of diesel vehicles producing higher NO_x emissions than petrol-fuelled vehicles.

Six Member States also have persistent problems meeting their national emission targets for NH₃. Almost 95 % of NH₃ emissions stem from agriculture, mainly from the use of fertilisers and the handling of animal manure.

What additional measures will the EU take to encourage Member States to fulfil their emission limits?