

Brussels, 27 November 2017

Conference on mobility and air pollution

CURRENT CHALLENGES AND IMPLICATIONS FOR THE CITIZENS

THE CONCLUSIONS

As a follow-up to its previous initiatives **TAO-AFI**, the Association of Independent Officials, invited two eminent experts, Dr.-Ing Axel FRIEDRICH and Dr. Benoit NEMERY, to give their views on mobility and air pollution at this conference organised by **TAO-AFI** for all the Commission personnel. You will find their presentations herewith attached.

The following **conclusions** can be drawn from their interventions:

1. The existing standards for diesel emissions are not reflecting reality, since they are based on laboratory situations. What is needed are test cycles based on realistic driving conditions and test results from a Portable Emissions Measurement System (PEMS). A new certification system should take the "best of both worlds" (US and EU best practices).
2. Results of PEMS-test often give surprising results for some automobile brands, and they are not necessarily in line with assumptions made in the press. For more information on exhausts gases for some popular car makes and models, see:
<http://www.theicct.org/publications/road-tested-comparative-overview-real-world-versus-type-approval-nox-and-co2-emissions>
3. Manufacturers have developed a wide range of innovative ways to circumvent the correct measurement of emissions. The details of the software used in engines are not being communicated for reasons of protection of industrial secrets. The existing legislative texts on emissions are often a solid legal basis, but their strict implementation and enforcement is lacking.
4. Small cars are the future, because their lower weight and better aerodynamics are simple solutions towards lower emissions.
5. Belgium is one of the "black spots" in the EU when it comes to pollution. The PM10 (see explanation in presentation) value is often above 20 micrograms per cubic metre. This

is the (non-binding) World Health Organisation (WHO) limit. Contrary to EU limits, the WHO figure is based on health effects rather than the result of negotiations. See www.irceline.be for regional measurement results.

6. Exposure to fine particles and gases resulting from combustion (traffic, but also wood burning and smoking) causes premature mortality and disability. More deaths are registered on days with pollution peaks. The long-term effects point in the direction of higher mortality not only from lung diseases, but also due to heart failure. In addition, long term exposure increases atherosclerosis and even cognitive development.
7. Some negative effects are, however, reversible: an increase of the air quality results in an improvement of the lung quality.

What you can do as an individual :

- Influence governments (also at local and regional level). Use legislative arguments if needed.
- Use less polluting means of transport
- Use filters to clean the inhaled air where possible
- Stop smoking: cigarettes reduce your life expectancy by 10 years, while exposure to pollution in Belgium reduces it by 1 year "only".

What TAO-AFI can do :

TAO-AFI will continue its efforts to offer correct information, analysis and proposals on this important issue. We will also reiterate our request to the Commission for appropriate measures to safeguard the health of its staff.

We are at your disposal!

TAO-AFI

*proximity
independence*



Association of Independent Officials



Executive committee

TAO-AFI

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Join TAO-AFI to reinforce the staff's action and to be informed on your rights!



TAO-AFI, The Association of Independent Officials

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