

Medium combustion plants: New rules on emissions adopted

On 10 November 2015, the Council adopted a new directive to **limit the emissions** from combustion plants of medium size. These new rules are part of the **clean air** legislative package, which aims at improving air quality in the EU.

The new directive sets emission limit values for **certain pollutants**. These limits will be applied for **new and existing combustion plants of medium size** (between 1 and 50 MW).

Closing a gap

While smaller and bigger plants are covered by respective EU directives, the emissions from medium combustion plants were **not yet regulated at EU level**. The new rules **fill that gap** to complete the regulatory framework for the combustion sector, as an important source of certain pollutants.

Medium combustion plants are used for a wide variety of uses, including domestic heating and cooling, electricity generation and providing steam for industrial processes. The approximate number of medium combustion plants in the EU is over 140 000.

Main elements

The new directive includes:

- compulsory **registration** of medium combustion plants
- specific **emission limits** for certain pollutants: sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and dust
- rules to **monitor** another pollutant: carbon monoxide

There are different deadlines to apply the emission limits:

- for **bigger** existing plants (5-50 MW): from 2025
- for **smaller** existing ones (1-5 MW): from 2030
- for **new** plants: after a transposition period of two years following entry into force
- extended compliance deadlines until 2030 may be granted to **some plants** (district heating systems, plants firing biomass as their main fuel, plants in small isolated systems and plants linked to a national gas transmission system)

Timeline

The Commission submitted its **proposal** to the Council and the European Parliament on 18 December 2013 as part of the 'Clean Air Programme for Europe'. The Council closed a **general approach** on the proposal on 17 December 2014 and it reached a provisional **agreement** with the European Parliament in a trilogue meeting on 23 June 2015.

The European Parliament adopted its position at first reading reflecting the agreement on 7 October 2015. With the approval of the Council as a point without discussion during its meeting on 10 November 2015, the new directive is **adopted**.

- [Richtlinie zu Emissionen bestimmter Schadstoffe aus mittelgroßen Feuerungsanlagen](#)

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