



40 years of success: The UNECE Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution



Key facts

ENVIRONMENT



- Signed in 1979, entry into force in 1983
- First international treaty to deal with air pollution on a broad regional basis
- 51 Parties in the UNECE region
- Framework Convention with 8 protocols
- Emission reduction targets for several pollutants
- Results: Emission reductions by 40 to 80 per cent since 1990 in the region (sulphur: 70%, nitrogen oxides: 40%)



Areas of work

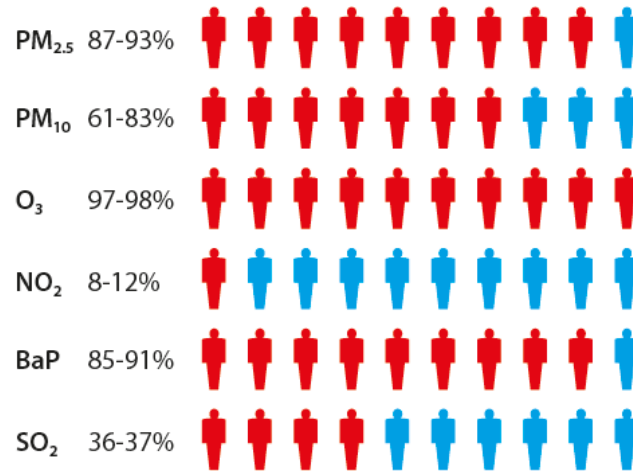
ENVIRONMENT



- Policy: international agreement setting emission reduction targets
- Science underpinning policy:
 - The Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP) and the Working Group on Effects
- Compliance monitoring
- Capacity-building and awareness raising

ENVIRONMENT

► The proportion of the population living in areas exceeding WHO air quality guideline values varies by pollutant, with over 87% of the EU population exposed to high levels of fine particles (PM_{2.5}) and 98% to high levels of ozone (O₃).^{viii}



- Decoupling of economic growth and air pollution trends
- **600,000 premature deaths avoided annually**
- Average life expectancy is today 12 months more than in a hypothetical unabated world.
- Recovery of forest soils and lakes
- **Remaining issues:**
 - **Reduction of background levels in UNECE region calls for cooperation beyond the region**
 - **Ozone and particulate matter**

ENVIRONMENT



- Exchange of experiences on strategies, policies and measures
- Emission Limit Values and guidance documents
- Batumi Action for Cleaner Air initiative
- Outreach and cooperation across scales: local, national, regional, global
- SDGs:



Capacity building

ENVIRONMENT



Activities: Roundtable discussions on national legislation analyses and workshops on the development of national emission inventories

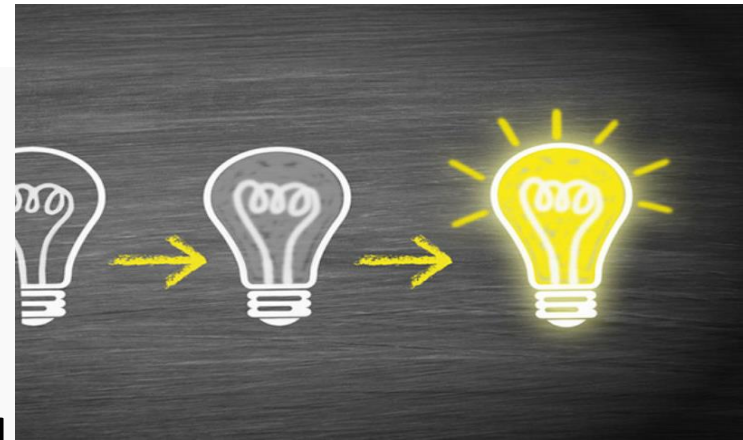
Results: Progress in emissions reporting and improved quality and completeness of reporting

Lessons learned

ENVIRONMENT



- Science-policy interface: development over time
- Strong expert network
- Financing: mix of mandatory and voluntary cash and in-kind contributions
- Policy guidance to Parties
- Exchange of experiences
- Capacity building to create level-playing field



UNECE



Priorities ahead

ENVIRONMENT



- Air pollution has been recognized as a problem at the global level
- Remaining pollution issues: ground-level ozone, particulate matter
- Cooperation across the scales needed – local, national, regional, global
- Cooperation with organizations and networks beyond the UNECE region
- Lessons learnt from the Convention to contribute to solutions around the globe





Thank you!

<http://www.unece.org/env/lrtap/welcome.html>

