

EU Member States make only mixed progress in reducing emissions under UN convention, latest air pollution data shows



Image © Brent Pearson

The [EEA report](#) confirms, as highlighted in the [recent EEA briefing on the EU's National Emissions Ceilings Directive earlier this month](#), that after many years of past declines, for more than half of the 26 pollutants monitored emissions increased slightly in 2017 compared to the previous year. Releases came from key sources such as agriculture, transport, industry and private households.

The report notes that between 2016 and 2017, emissions of nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and sulphur oxides (SO_x) dropped by 1.8% and 1.3% respectively. However, emissions of non-methane volatile organic compounds (NMVOCs) increased by 1.3%, carbon monoxide (CO) emissions by 0.2% and ammonia (NH_3) by 0.4%. Emissions of particulate matter, and several heavy metals and persistent organic pollutants also all increased slightly in 2017 compared to the previous year. In recent years, the rate of emission reductions has stagnated for many pollutants. And as noted, for a number, it has actually slightly increased. For example, ammonia emissions, which can lead to particulate matter formation in the atmosphere, have fallen less than emissions of the other main pollutants since 1990 and increased in each of the past four years.

The report also highlights the growing importance of the residential stationary combustion sector, which includes the burning of fuels in domestic stoves. This source makes a significant contribution to the total emissions of many pollutants and contributed 51% of fine particulate matter ($\text{PM}_{2.5}$) emitted directly into the air in 2017. Further, 42% of total carbon monoxide, 42% of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, 24% of the dioxin and furan compounds and 16% of the heavy metal cadmium were released by this single source.

The [LRTAP report](#) tracks the emissions of key air pollutants over past years. It is submitted by the EU to the UNECE under the requirements of the Gothenburg Protocol to the LRTAP Convention, which aims to limit, and as far as possible, gradually reduce and prevent air pollution. The protocol also sets emission limits for a range of air pollutants that have to be met from 2010 onwards, which for Member States are either equivalent to or less ambitious than those specified under the 2010 EU NEC Directive. Air pollution is the single largest environmental risk to human health in Europe, causing respiratory problems and shortening lifespans. Poor air quality caused by air

pollution can also harm vegetation and sensitive ecosystems. Moreover, several air pollutants also contribute to climate change.

Humanitarian Aid: €10.5 million for South and South East Asia

To help the most affected communities in South and South East Asia hit by natural disasters and humanitarian crises, the Commission has mobilised a new humanitarian funding package worth €10.5 million. This includes €1.5 million in emergency aid for the victims of ongoing monsoons in India and Bangladesh. The remaining funds will be provided in Nepal and the Philippines as well as for disaster risk reduction initiatives in the region.

*"The countries in South Asia are facing an increasingly worse monsoon season. Heavy rains and flooding have created a large-scale humanitarian situation in India and Bangladesh. During these difficult times, EU solidarity makes a difference: our support will reach those most in need providing water, sanitation and essential supplies. In the wider region, the EU is also supporting Nepal and the Philippines to be better prepared for natural disasters and get aid to those most in need,"*said Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos **Stylianides**.

EU funding for monsoon victims will be distributed between India and Bangladesh, where more than 500,000 people have been displaced. The situation has affected mainly the states of Assam and Bihar in India and the North of Bangladesh. Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh where almost 1 million refugees live in the world's largest camp, is also affected.

This support comes on top of €2 million allocated to support several regional disaster risk reduction initiatives in South and Southeast Asia, and an additional €2 million dedicated to Nepal to improve both national and local response capacities in the events of fire, floods and earthquakes, particularly in cities. In the Philippines, €1 million will help consolidate disaster risk reduction and resilience-building initiatives.

The EU has also mobilised €2 million for humanitarian assistance in the Philippines to assist the most vulnerable people in Mindanao. Out of this funding, €1 million will be used to cover gaps in the current response in food security, nutrition, health, water and sanitation, and protection from gender and age-based violence. The remaining €1 million will contribute to increase access to safe, equitable and quality primary and secondary education.

Background

Continuous monsoon rains have impacted several districts in the north, north-

east and south-east of Bangladesh, resulting in flooding and landslides. More than 4 million people have been affected. Floods in India are affecting almost 10 million people.

Since 1998, the European Commission has invested over €88 million to fund Disaster Risk Reduction and preparedness programmes in South and Southeast Asia, supporting – among others – initiatives such as the building of flood-resistant infrastructures and the reinforcement of Early Warning Systems.

For more information

[Factsheet – Bangladesh](#)

[Factsheet – Nepal](#)

[Factsheet – The Philippines](#)

[Factsheet – Vietnam, Cambodia and Lao PDR](#)

[Factsheet – Disaster Risk Reduction](#)

State aid: Commission approves €171.7 million compensation to Poste Italiane for distributing newspapers at reduced tariffs

The Commission has approved under EU State aid rules a €171.74 million public service compensation granted by Italy to Poste Italiane for distributing, at reduced tariffs, newspapers and publications of book publishers and non-profit organisations in the period 2017-2019.

Italy entrusted Poste Italiane with the obligation of providing this service of general economic interest (“SGEI”), which aims at preserving and fostering media plurality and diversity of views by charging reduced rates to publishers and newspapers for the distribution of certain categories of press.

The Commission assessed the measure under the [EU State aid rules on public service compensation](#). These rules enable Member States, subject to certain conditions, to compensate companies that have been entrusted with public service obligations for the extra cost of providing these services.

The Commission found that the level of compensation did not exceed the amount needed to cover the net cost borne by Poste Italiane for providing the service. As a result, it concluded that the measure was proportionate and did

not lead to overcompensation.

Furthermore, in 2018, the Italian authorities carried out a public consultation with a view to verifying the public interest perception for the protection of press distribution for the publishing materials at issue. The consultation confirmed that the SGEI consisting in the reduced tariffs offered to publishers and not-for-profit organizations is considered as important by users.

The Commission concluded that the Italian measure is in line with EU State aid rules, as it fosters a service of general public interest and promotes media plurality, without unduly distorting competition.

Background

Poste Italiane is the largest provider of postal services in Italy. Since 1999, it has been designated as the universal postal service provider for the entire national territory of Italy.

The non-confidential version of the decision will be published in the [State-Aid Register](#) on [DG Competition's](#) website under case number SA.48492 once any confidentiality issues have been resolved. The '[State Aid Weekly e-News](#)' electronic newsletter lists the most recent decisions on State aid published in the Official Journal and on the internet.

[ESMA publishes its annual peer review report on EU CCPs supervision](#)

The review focused on the effectiveness of NCAs supervisory practices to assess CCPs' compliance with EMIR's requirements on collateral and funding arrangements.

Overall, the review found that NCAs' supervisory activities on CCPs' collateral and funding arrangements, is satisfactory. However, the review found that the use by NCAs of quantitative metrics to assess the liquidity and low market risk of collateral was quite limited. While, regarding funding arrangements, the degree of convergence on the basic conditions that identify committed credit and repo lines is in general high, different supervisory practices apply for pre-arranged funding arrangements involving repos and liquidity generation from outright sales of securities.

The report also identifies several best practices and considerations to further enhance supervisory convergence with respect to CCPs' collateral and liquidity arrangements.

On the functioning of the colleges, ESMA acknowledges the efforts of chairing

NCA's to meet the expectations and best practices highlighted in past peer reviews in this area.

ESMA will follow up on the report's findings to identify, where relevant, the most appropriate tools to further enhance supervisory convergence.

Background

ESMA is required, at least annually, to conduct a peer review analysis of the supervisory activities of all NCAs in relation to the authorisation and the supervision of CCPs in accordance with Article 30 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010 (ESMA Regulation).

ESMA's peer reviews under EMIR assess the overall functioning of CCP colleges and provide an in-depth analysis of supervisory activities by NCAs on CCPs in relation to EMIR's requirements. The reviews also assess if NCAs are following the relevant guidelines and opinions agreed at ESMA and identifies best practices.

CALENDRIER du 22 au 28 juillet 2019

(Susceptible de modifications en cours de semaine)

Déplacements et visites

Lundi 22 juillet

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** meets Mr Joseph Muscat, Prime Minister of Malta, in Valletta, Malta.

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** meets Mr Joseph Muscat, Prime Minister of Malta, for a working dinner, in Senglea, Malta.

Mr Neven **Mimica** in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: meets Mr Abiy Ahmed, Prime Minister of Ethiopia; Mr Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission.

Mr Karmenu **Vella** receives Mr Jari Leppä, Minister for Agriculture and Forestry of Finland.

Mr Vytenis **Andriukaitis** receives representatives of the European Association of Hospital Pharmacists (EAHP).

Ms Věra **Jourová** receives Ms Martina Lubyová, Minister for Education, Science, Research and Sport of Slovakia.

Mr Tibor **Navracsics** receives Mr Thomas de Maizière, Chairman of Deutsche Telekom Foundation.

Mr Tibor **Navracsics** in Brussels: participates in and speaks at the event 'Digital Skills in the EU' organised by the Representation of North Rhine-Westphalia to the EU and the Deutsche Telekom Foundation, alongside Mr Thomas de Maizière, Chairman of Deutsche Telekom Foundation, and Ms Yvonne Gebauer, Education Minister of North Rhine-Westphalia.

Mardi 23 juillet

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** meets Mr George Vella, President of Malta, in Valletta, Malta.

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** is awarded honorary membership of the National Order of Merit by Mr George Vella, President of Malta, in Valletta, Malta.

Mr Jyrki **Katainen** receives Ms Krista Kiuru, Minister for Family Affairs and Social Services of Finland.

Mr Jyrki **Katainen** receives Ms Sanna Marin, Minister for Transport and Communications of Finland.

Mr Jyrki **Katainen** receives Ms Katri Kulmuni, Minister for Economic Affairs of Finland.

M. Pierre **Moscovici** à Paris, France: rencontre M. Philippe Wahl, Président Directeur Général du Groupe La Poste.

Ms Violeta **Bulc** receives Ms Sanna Marin, Minister for Transport and Communications of Finland.

Mercredi 24 juillet

Meeting of the College of Commissioners.

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** and Mr Johannes **Hahn** meet Ms Maia Sandu, Prime Minister of Moldova.

Mr Frans **Timmermans** receives members of the #FreeCourts Initiative, a group of lawyers, from Poland.

Mr Jyrki **Katainen** receives Mr Timo Harakka, Minister for Employment of Finland; and Ms Aino-Kaisa Pekonen, Minister for Social Affairs and Health of Finland.

Mr Jyrki **Katainen** receives Mr Ville Skinnari, Minister for Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade of Finland.

Mr Neven **Mimica** receives Mr Ville Skinnari, Minister for Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade of Finland.

M. Pierre **Moscovici** reçoit M. Luca Vicentini, Secrétaire-Général de la Confédération Européenne des Syndicats (ETUC).

M. Pierre **Moscovici** reçoit M. Oliver Roethig, Secrétaire Régional d'UNI Europa.

Mr Carlos **Moedas** in Ponta Delgada, Portugal: meets Mr Vasco Cordeiro, President of the Regional Government of the Azores; visits the University of the Azores.

Jeudi 25 juillet

President Jean-Claude Juncker **receives** a group of members of the Christian Social Youth of Luxembourg.

Mr Johannes **Hahn** in Skopje, North Macedonia: on official visit.

M. Pierre **Moscovici** à Paris, France : rencontre M. Thomas Buberl, Directeur Général d'AXA.

Ms Violeta **Bulc** attends the final meeting of the Africa-Europe Alliance Transport Task Force, in Brussels.

Mr Carlos **Moedas** in Lagoa, Portugal: visits the NONAGON – Science and Technology Park of São Miguel; delivers a keynote speech at the dialogue on the future of science in Europe and the role of the Azores.

Mr Carlos **Moedas** in Ponta Delgada, Portugal: attends an official lunch hosted by Mr Gui Manuel Machado Menezes, Regional Secretary for the Sea, Science and Technology.

Mr Carlos **Moedas** in Ribeira Grande, Portugal: visits the Pico Vermelho Geothermal Power Plant.

Vendredi 26 juillet

Mr Johannes **Hahn** in Belgrade, Serbia: on official visit.

Mr Carlos **Moedas** in Horta, Portugal: visits the Department of Oceanography and Fisheries of the University of the Azores; visits the LULA submarine of the Rebikoff-Niggeler foundation (FRN); visits the Azores Maritime School; visits the Capelinhos Volcano Interpretation Centre (CIVC).

Prévisions du mois d'août:

24-26/08 G7 Summit in Biarritz, France

28-29/08 Informal meeting of defence ministers

29-30/08 Informal meeting of foreign affairs ministers (Gymnich)

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