

Consultation on the EU Action Plan “Towards a Zero Pollution Ambition for air, water and soil”

A Eurelectric response paper

Eurelectric represents the interests of the electricity industry in Europe. Our work covers all major issues affecting our sector. Our members represent the electricity industry in over 30 European countries.

We cover the entire industry from electricity generation and markets to distribution networks and customer issues. We also have affiliates active on several other continents and business associates from a wide variety of sectors with a direct interest in the electricity industry.

We stand for

The vision of the European power sector is to enable and sustain:

- A vibrant competitive European economy, reliably powered by clean, carbon-neutral energy
- A smart, energy efficient and truly sustainable society for all citizens of Europe

We are committed to lead a cost-effective energy transition by:

investing in clean power generation and transition-enabling solutions, to reduce emissions and actively pursue efforts to become carbon-neutral well before mid-century, taking into account different starting points and commercial availability of key transition technologies;

transforming the energy system to make it more responsive, resilient and efficient. This includes increased use of renewable energy, digitalisation, demand side response and reinforcement of grids so they can function as platforms and enablers for customers, cities and communities;

accelerating the energy transition in other economic sectors by offering competitive electricity as a transformation tool for transport, heating and industry;

embedding sustainability in all parts of our value chain and take measures to support the transformation of existing assets towards a zero carbon society;

innovating to discover the cutting-edge business models and develop the breakthrough technologies that are indispensable to allow our industry to lead this transition.

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Public consultation on the EU Action Plan “Towards a Zero Pollution Ambition for air, water and soil”

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Introduction

The European Green Deal announced that to protect Europe’s citizens and ecosystems, the EU needs to move towards a zero pollution ambition, and better prevent and remedy pollution from air, water, soil, and consumer products. To address these interlinked challenges, in 2021 the Commission will adopt a Zero Pollution Action Plan.

Pollution causes multiple physical and mental diseases. In the EU, despite important improvements over the last decades, every year over 400 000 premature deaths (including from cancers) are attributed to ambient air pollution, and 48 000 cases of ischaemic heart disease as well as 6.5 million cases of chronic sleep disturbance to noise, next to other diseases attributable to both. Pollution’s most harmful health impacts are typically born by vulnerable citizens, notably children, people with certain medical conditions, the elderly and people living in socio-economic deprivation.

Pollution of air, water and soil is also one of the five main drivers of biodiversity loss and contributes largely to the current 6th species extinction. It comes at a high price for society and ecosystems, including health-related costs (healthcare, lost workdays, lost productivity), reduced yields (e.g. in agriculture, fisheries and tourism), remediation costs (e.g. water treatment, soil decontamination, marine depollution) and loss of ecosystem services (e.g. pollination). Pollution is also strongly interrelated with other environmental, social and economic risks for businesses and citizens.

The purpose of this open public consultation (OPC) is to gather the perception and views of Europeans on a range of issues that the Action Plan may address, including:

- How pollution affects citizens and the environment
- How well current policies address pollution
- What actions should be taken on pollution in the future
- How to monitor pollution in the future
- What potential there is for digital solutions to address pollution

The consultation is divided into three parts:

- Part I: The first part asks for some information about you (such as which country you come from).
- Part II: The second part is directed towards the general public. You do not need any specialist knowledge to reply to this.
- Part III: The third part (Expert section) is mainly directed towards specialists and interested experts and includes a set of questions on specific issues

Finally, there is an opportunity to share documents and provide complementary information, such as

position papers, more detailed reports or studies on the issues mentioned, as well as examples, practical cases, etc

About you

Language of my contribution

English

I am giving my contribution as

Business association

First name

Helene

Surname

LAVRAY

Organisation name

255 character(s) maximum

Eurelectric

Organisation size

Small (10 to 49 employees)

Transparency register number

255 character(s) maximum

Check if your organisation is on the transparency register (<http://ec.europa.eu/transparencyregister/public/homePage.do?redir=false&locale=en>). It's a voluntary database for organisations seeking to influence EU decision-making.

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Email (this won't be published)

hlavray@eurelectric.org

Country of origin

Please add your country of origin, or that of your organisation.

Belgium

Publication privacy settings

The Commission will publish the responses to this public consultation. You can choose whether you would like your details to be made public or to remain anonymous.

☐ **Anonymous**

Only your contribution, country of origin and the respondent type profile that you selected will be published. All other personal details (name, organisation name and size, transparency register number) will not be published.

☒ **Public**

Your personal details (name, organisation name and size, transparency register number, country of origin) will be published with your contribution.

☒ I agree with the personal data protection provisions (https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/specific-privacy-statement_en)

Part II

1. General awareness of pollution and related policies

This section of the questionnaire seeks to gather information on the general level of knowledge of EU environmental pollution and related policies in Europe, and their evolution over time. It seeks to gather information about knowledge of the effects of pollution on people and the environment, and about knowledge of related EU policy in broad terms.

1.1 To what extent do you agree with the following statements about the impact of pollution through air, water and soil?

	Compl etely agree	Some what agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Some what disagr ee	Compl etely disagre e	I don't kno w
Current levels of pollution have a negative impact on my health or the health of those immediately around me	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
Pollution has negative impacts on the wellbeing of the population in specific locations in the EU	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Current levels of pollution have negative impacts on the health of the overall population in the EU	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Currently, pollution has negative impacts on the environment and particularly biodiversity in my immediate surroundings	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
Currently, pollution has general negative impacts on the environment and particularly biodiversity	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Current levels of pollution have general negative impacts on the economy	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
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1.2 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Compl etely agree	Some what agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somew hat disagre e	Comple tely disagree	I don't know
Pollution is an issue of concern worldwide	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Pollution is an issue of concern in the EU	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Pollution is an issue of concern primarily outside of the EU	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Pollution is an issue of concern in my country	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
Pollution is an issue of concern in my municipality	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
I feel sufficiently informed about pollution where I live	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
I feel sufficiently informed about health consequences of pollution where I live	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
Pollution has been reduced in the last decade where I live	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

1.3 To what extent do you agree with the following statements about the impact of pollution on different population groups?

	Compl etely agree	Some what agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somew hat disagre e	Comple tely disagre e	I don't know
People living in cities are more exposed to pollution than in rural areas	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
People living in rural areas are the most exposed to pollution than in urban areas	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐

People living in poverty/at risk of poverty are the more exposed to pollution than others	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Everyone in our society is equally exposed to pollution	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐
Children and the elderly suffer more from pollution than others	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

1.4 Have you heard about the following EU initiatives addressing pollution? If so, how much do you know about them?

	Very well informed	Mode rately inform ed	Not well informed	Not at all informed	No opinion
EU Clean Air policies such as the Ambient Air Quality Directives and the National Emission reduction Commitments (NEC) Directive	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
EU Water policies such as the Water Framework Directive, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive, the Drinking Water Directive and the Bathing Water Directive, the Nitrates Directive	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
EU Soil policies such as the Soil Thematic Strategy or the Sewage Sludge Directive	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
EU Noise policies such as the Environmental Noise Directive	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
EU policies on industrial emissions, notably the Industrial Emissions Directive	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
EU policies on chemicals, such as the REACH Regulation and regulation on pesticides	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
EU policies on medicines (also known as medicinal products), such as directives or regulations, and the 2019 EU Strategic Approach to Pharmaceuticals in the Environment	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐
Farm to Fork Strategy	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐
Biodiversity Strategy	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
EU policies limiting air pollution at source, such as Euro standards for cars, buses and trucks, or eco-design rules for heating appliances	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐

EU policies addressing pollution from waste, such as from persistent organic pollutants (POPs)	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
Other EU policies on pollution	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐

If other please specify

300 character(s) maximum

2. Views on the state of pollution and related policies

This section of the questionnaire seeks to gather views about the state of pollution and the importance of pollution in the wider context of environment policy.

2.1 How important is it to address the following pathways (the way pollution moves from its source once it has been released into the environment) and depositories (the eventual recipients of pollution, where it then accumulates) of pollution at the EU level?

	Very important	Important	Neither important nor unimportant	Not a priority	Irrelevant	I don't know
Ambient air pollution	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Indoor air pollution	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Pollution of rivers, lakes and ground water	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Marine pollution	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Soil and sediment pollution	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Noise pollution	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐
Other types of pollution	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐

If other please specify

300 character(s) maximum

EU legislation regarding noise pollution should focus on manufacturers (e.g. vehicles). The regulation of general outdoor levels of noise can be handled at national or local levels.

2.2 How do you evaluate the impact of the following activities on pollution?

	Highly polluti ng	Somew hat polluting	No significa nt impact	Somewhat helps reducing pollution	Very much helps reducing pollution	I don't know
Agriculture: animal farming	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Agriculture: crop production	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Fisheries	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Aquaculture	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Mining and extraction of raw materials	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Industrial production	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Road transport	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Rail transport	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐
Shipping	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Air transport	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Waste landfilling	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Waste incineration	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Waste recycling	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐
Energy production from fossil fuels	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Energy production from biomass	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Wind and solar energy production	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐
Accidental release of hazardous substances	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Littering	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Heating and cooling buildings	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐

Other	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
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2.3 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Compl etely agree	Some what agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somew hat disagre e	Comple tely disagre e	I don't know
My consumption habits contribute to environmental pollution in my immediate surroundings	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
My consumption habits contribute to environmental pollution in my country	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
My consumption habits contribute to environmental pollution in the EU	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
My consumption habits contribute to environmental pollution globally	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

2.4 Which level of government is the most appropriate to address pollution in the EU Member States?

	EU level authoriti es	National level authorities	Regional level authorities	Local authori ties	I don't know
Overall, the most appropriate level of government to address pollution is...	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
The most appropriate level of government to address ambient air pollution is...	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
The most appropriate level of government to address pollution of rivers, lakes and ground water is...	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
The most appropriate level of government to address marine pollution is...	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
The most appropriate level of government to address soil and sediment pollution is...	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
The most appropriate level of government to address noise pollution is...	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

2.5 In your opinion, is each of the following currently doing too much, enough, or not enough about pollution?

	Doing too much	Doing enough	Not doing enough	I don't know
Product manufacturers	☐	☐	☐	☒
Service providers	☐	☐	☐	☒
Food producers (farmers, aquaculture producers, fisheries)	☐	☐	☐	☒
Energy producers	☐	☒	☐	☐
Banks and investors	☐	☐	☐	☒
Consumers	☐	☐	☐	☒
Your local or regional government	☐	☐	☐	☒
Your national government	☐	☐	☐	☒
The European Union	☐	☒	☐	☐
International organisations	☐	☐	☐	☒
Social partners	☐	☐	☐	☒

3. Ways forward to address pollution

This section of the questionnaire seeks to gather views on how pollution should be addressed in the future.

3.1 In your opinion, how effective would the following ways of tackling pollution be?

	Very effective	Somewhat effective	Neither effective nor ineffective	Somewhat ineffective	Completely ineffective	I don't know
Greater powers to national authorities to sanction breaches to EU legislation on pollution	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
Easier access to justice and other tools for civil society organisations to act against breaches to EU legislation on pollution	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
Introducing heavier fines for breaches of pollution-related legislation	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
Securing an overall better implementation of pollution-related legislation	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Modernising existing EU law on pollution	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐
Additional EU law on pollution, e.g. on soil pollution	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐
Financial incentives to address pollution (e.g. taxes and subsidies favouring less-polluting activities by industry and consumers)	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ensuring a more positive impact of the banking and insurance systems on pollution	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
More research on pollution (e.g. to better understand sources and impacts of pollution, prevent and remediate it)	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Better monitoring of pollution levels	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Better anticipating how pollution may develop in the future (e.g. using modelling)	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Stepping up international action on pollution	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Enhancing cooperation between stakeholders	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Increasing awareness on pollution, e.g. funding for clean-up/remediation activities with citizen involvement	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Formal education: Integrating pollution-related issues more into education curricula, e.g. training activities on the interplay between pollution, climate change, and public health, on sustainable consumption of products and energy, on sustainable mobility	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Influencing behavioural change (e.g. through social media, culture, sports,...) to shift to a 'zero pollution mentality', by informing citizens more, e.g. on the interplay between pollution, climate change and public health, on sustainable consumption of products and energy, on sustainable mobility	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Social innovation (e.g. shifting from physical to digital solutions, changes in work organisation)	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

If applicable, please specify in which area you would like to see new EU legislation on pollution

300 character(s) maximum

3.2 In your view, how much should the following groups contribute (financially and by actions) to reducing pollution, compared to the current situation?

	Much more	Somewhat more	Same as currently	Somewhat less	Much less	I don't know
Product manufacturers	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
Service providers	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
Food producers (farmers, aquaculture producers, fisheries)	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Energy producers	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
Consumers	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
Taxpayers via public funding	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
Other	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

If other please specify

300 character(s) maximum

3.3 In your view, which lessons could be learned for zero pollution policies from recent developments, such as changes observed during Covid-19 related measures (e.g. changes related to less commuting and traffic)?

	Completely agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Completely disagree	I don't know
More can and should be done to reduce ambient air pollution in cities	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
More can and should be done to reduce noise pollution in cities	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
More can and should be done to reduce pollution from food (from farmer to consumer)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
More can and should be done to reduce pollution from waste (from production to recycling/disposal)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
More can and should be done to reduce pollution in our seas	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
More can and should be done to reduce the need for passenger and goods transport (e.g. adapting work organisation, more teleworking)	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐

More can and should be done to incentivise active and clean mobility (e.g. walking and cycling)	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
More can and should be done to incentivise other alternatives to private car ownership, such as shared mobility solutions and public transport	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.4 In your view, what impacts should be the most decisive for implementation of pollution related policies?

	Complet ely agree	Somewh at agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewha t disagree	Completel y disagree	I don't know
Human and animal health impacts	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Environmental impacts	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Economic impacts	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Social impacts	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

Part III: Expert section

This part is dedicated to experts and specialised public. It includes two thematic sections which are cross-cutting in nature, namely the monitoring and digitalisation. Other thematic consultations have already taken place or are planned in the context of specific impact assessment or evaluation work (see introductory section). These dedicated consultations will also be considered in the zero pollution work. However, the focus here is on cross-cutting themes.

4. Towards an integrated zero pollution monitoring and outlook framework

This section of the questionnaire seeks to gather views of experts on the development of a more integrated and holistic zero pollution monitoring and outlook framework. Monitoring can describe the levels and impacts of pollution now and in the past, including the analysis of trends. An outlook can identify potential changes and (new) developments in the future either in a quantitative manner (e.g. through modelling and scenarios) or in a qualitative manner (through foresight and horizon scanning).

This section is particularly suited for respondents who do have an in-depth knowledge of monitoring and

assessing pollution in a policy context.

4.1 What is your opinion about the following statements?

	Com pletel y agree	Som ewha t agre e	Neither disagre e nor agree	Some what disagr ee	Compl etely disagr ee	I don' t kno w
Existing pollution monitoring frameworks at EU and national level are sufficient.	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐
Integrating (zero) pollution monitoring frameworks, such as on different pollutants or under different laws at EU level is an important initiative for the EU action plan .	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Developing an overarching 'Zero Pollution' monitoring framework at EU level is relevant for your own work .	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Communicating on health impacts from pollution at EU level needs to be improved.	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Communicating on environmental impacts from pollution at EU level needs to be improved.	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Communicating on socio-economic impacts related to pollution at EU level needs to be improved	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Linkages of health data with pollution data need to be improved	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Linkages of socio-economic data with pollution data need to be improved	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐

4.2 In your opinion, what should be the main purpose for a zero pollution monitoring and outlook at EU level?

	Some what agree	Neither disagre e nor agree	Some what disagr ee	Compl etely disagr ee	I don' t kno w
Providing a guidance ('compass') for the Zero Pollution ambition towards 2050 for the purpose of policy making and communication	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
Being 'a driver for change' through better communication with and engagement of citizens	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐

Showing implementation progress ('what is the distance to target?') and effectiveness ('have the past measures worked?') of existing EU policies and legislation	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Monitoring progress towards benchmarks related to human health and well-being (e.g. on air or water pollution) and to planetary boundaries (e.g. on pollution from excess nutrients)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
Assessing the total pollution load (exposure) as well as the main impacts of pollution on humans and on ecosystems	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐

4.3 In your opinion, which pollutants should be addressed as a priority at EU level and therefore included in the monitoring framework?

	Completely agree	Some what agree	Neither disagree nor agree	Some what disagree	Completely disagree	I don't know
Particulate matter in ambient air (PM10, PM2.5)	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other air pollutants (e.g. nitrogen dioxide, ozone, sulphur dioxide)	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Excess nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) in air, water and soil	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Heavy metals in air, water and soil	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Pesticides / biocides	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Pharmaceuticals and especially pharmaceutical substances representing a risk with respect to the development of antimicrobial resistances	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
Hydrocarbons including oil spills	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other industrial chemicals	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
Marine litter, including plastics	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
Microbiological and viral pollution	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
Noise	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐
Other physical pollution not listed above	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

Other pollutants not listed above	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
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If other pollutants, please specify

100 character(s) maximum

Black carbon should be addressed as a priority at EU level.

5. Digital solutions for zero pollution

This section of the questionnaire seeks to gather views of experts on the digital tools and services (such as the use of artificial intelligence or blockchain) and how they can be used for achieving the zero pollution ambition.

This section is particularly suited for respondents who do have an in-depth knowledge of digitisation ideally applied in the context of pollution prevention, reduction and remediation.

5.1 What is your opinion about the following statements?

	Compl etely agree	Some what agree	Neither disagree nor agree	Some what disagr ee	Compl etely disagr ee	I don't kno w
Digital solutions offer a significant potential for reducing pollution.	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Digital solutions are already widely applied by businesses for reducing pollution.	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Administrations (in my country) are using digital tools to trace pollution and inform the public.	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Administrations (in my country) are using digital tools to implement EU pollution legislation and enforce rules on the ground.	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Significant investment is needed in innovation and digitalisation to help achieve the 'zero pollution ambition'	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Excessive data collection and storage risks contributing to pollution more than it reduces pollution	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐

5.2 In your opinion, what are the areas of digital application with the biggest potential for pollution prevention, reduction and remediation?

	Compl etely agree	Some what agree	Neither disagree nor agree	Some what disagr ee	Compl etely disagre e	I don't kno w
Data generation and monitoring of pollution (e.g. through remote sensing)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
Data transmission and management	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
Data analytics and artificial intelligence	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Blockchain and distributed ledger technology	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Internet of things (IoT)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
Information about pollution for consumers and businesses (e.g. pollutants present in products through product passports)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
3D printing or additive manufacturing	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
Online platforms and cloud systems	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
Digital twins and models	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Changing work organisation, shifting from physical to digital solutions (e.g. teleworking)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

Can you give examples for digital solutions to reduce pollution in your area of work?

2,000 character(s) maximum

Further comments

Do you have any other comments or any other issues that should be addressed in the context of the Zero Pollution Action Plan? Why?

2,000 character(s) maximum

Eurelectric fully understands the need for and supports an ambitious anti-pollution policy in Europe. The electricity sector is historically one of the sectors in Europe that has the more drastically reduced its emissions and its overall environmental footprint for the last thirty years in the frame of EU environmental and climate policies. Moreover the power sector is committed to make a key contribution to the decarbonisation of transport, buildings and industry through electrification. Direct and indirect electrification will allow to make a positive impact on the emission of pollutants to air in particular from these sectors.

Eurelectric would however like to raise potential issues with the concept of "zero emission". Firstly if this concept is worthwhile for substances of very high health concern like endocrine disruptors, it may not be adapted for all pollutants. Hence for pollutants primarily regulated because of their impact on acidification and eutrophication, the concept of critical load is still relevant. Secondly, Zero Pollution in Europe should not result in increased pollution outside of the borders of the EU. Synergies may be found with the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism. Zero Pollution is a concept that may need to be used with care in the context of any human activity since there is no such thing as "zero emission" when it comes to limit of quantification or detection.

You may upload a document adding additional relevant observations. Please keep the contents short and focused on the subject of the consultation.

Please note that the uploaded document will be published in its entirety.

Contact

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Eurelectric pursues in all its activities the application of the following sustainable development values:

Economic Development

- Growth, added-value, efficiency

Environmental Leadership

- Commitment, innovation, pro-activeness

Social Responsibility

- Transparency, ethics, accountability



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