

## BELGIUM

### CASE STUDY OF A SUCCESSFUL NATIONAL ATMOSPHERE/AIR POLLUTION PROGRAMME/STRATEGY

1. The problem or issue addressed:

NEC: National Emission Ceilings from European Directive 2001/81/EG

The emission ceiling from the NEC-directive have been divided in four parts: one for the stationary sources from each of the regions and one for mobile sources, since this is largely a federal competence. However, at the time of writing the programmes it turned out to be easier to split the ceiling for mobile sources between the regions (which was done based on the emission from 1999).

The process described in this case study does not include stakeholder involvement in the preparation of the NEC directive and the negotiations with the European Commission.. The process is described for the Flemish Region; similar actions have been taken in the other regions.

2. Name of the programme:

NEC-programme for Flanders

3. Timeframe: 9 years

Year started: 2001

4. Status:  Ongoing     Completed in year \_\_\_\_\_

5. Main objectives:

- Meet the emission ceilings from directive 2001/81/EG
- Investigate the best way to implement these ceilings: which measures in which sectors
- establish a programme for reporting to the European Commission

6. Lead institution: Flemish Environmental Administration (AMINAL) – section on air policy

7. Other implementation arrangements and stakeholders involved (public, private, NGOs, CBOs, international support, etc.):

The NEC-programme that was sent to the European Commission, was elaborated in co-operation with the cabinet of the minister for the environment and has been approved by the Flemish Government at the end of 2003. Before that, it was already advised on by the two advisory councils, the Flemish Social-Economic Council (SERV) and the Council for Environment and Nature (MINA). SERV is the consulting and advisory institution of the Flemish social partners and holds representatives from both employers' and

employees' organisations. MINA consists of representatives from nature and environmental organisations and of the social-economic organisations.

The programme is based on the sectoral studies that were available at that moment (a reviewed version of the programme will take into account sectoral studies that have been finished since then) and for each of these studies, the concerned industrial sector was involved as a member of the steering group (be it by individual companies, by the sectoral federation or by both).

8. The results achieved (if possible, please address the social, economic and environmental impacts of the programme):

Two aspects should be distinguished:

- the elaboration of the programme as a report to the EC;
- the decision on measures to be taken.

The identification of measures and decision on the implemented measures consists of three major phases:

- in a first phase, for all major industrial sectors, sectoral studies have been elaborated. These studies describe, each for a specific sector:
  - actual emissions and abatement measures and evolution from the past;
  - previsions concerning activities and abatement measures;
  - possible techniques to reduce emissions (efficiencies and costs);
  - the socio-economic parameters of the sector.

These data are the basis for cost-curves per sector in which all possible measures are ranked according to marginal costs. The concerned industrial sector were represented in the steering group of these studies.

- On the basis of these cost curves, a first set of measures is implemented; it concerns measures that are technically feasible, with a high reduction potential and a low marginal cost
- The results of the sectoral studies are the basis for the intersectoral weighing. In this project, a methodology is elaborated and applied on the data for Flanders. This methodology takes into account social, economical and financial data for the industrial sectors (as f.e. the financial strength, environmental burden, employment, working costs, ...). This intersectoral weighing is the basis for the decision which further measures will be taken to ensure that the NEC-ceilings will be met.

These three steps will be repeated regularly.

Apart from these three phases, a study on the possibilities of the use of economic instruments in the emission reduction policy is being executed.

The programme that was reported to the European Commission at the end of 2003 was based on sectoral studies that were available at the time of writing. Since then, new studies and other information (on f.e. emission data) became available; that information will be integrated in the reviewed NEC-programme that is to be reported to the European Commission in 2006. In preparation of that reviewed programme and to identify where more measures are needed and what measures can be taken, a progress

report is being prepared at this moment (may 2005) and should be ready by the end of 2005. This will include a list of options to make sure that the ceilings will be met.

9. The relationship of the programme to internationally agreed goals and targets:  
The aim of the program is to make sure that the obligations of the European NEC-directive and the Göteborg-protocol (LRTAP) are met.

Note: Kindly provide any appropriate facts, figures or charts that document the problem addressed and the results achieved. Noteworthy case studies may be published and/or summarized in UN publications as a means of sharing information on best practices.