

**PRESS RELEASE**

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## **Limitation of emissions from medium combustion plants: the Council agrees its position**

The Council reached a general approach on a draft directive on the limitation of emissions of certain pollutants into the air from medium combustion plants. The aim of the proposal is to improve air quality and human health.

The new directive is intended to cover, for the first time, medium-sized combustion plants with a rated thermal input of between 1 and 50 MW. These plants are a major source of emissions of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and particulate matter (dust).

Italian Environment Minister and President of the Council Gian Luca Galletti said: "The Environment Council has taken Europe a step further towards the reduction of pollution and the improvement of air quality. This directive fills a gap in legislation and provides emission limits for small and medium combustion plants. The Council confirmed today the willingness to go further towards a concrete and ambitious emissions' reduction. We hope that this strong signal from the Council will promptly lead to an agreement with the Parliament".

The directive aims at closing the regulatory gap between the provisions of the directive on industrial emissions and the ecodesign directive. The new piece of legislation will set rules to control and reduce these emissions into the air and the risk for human health and the environment.

Compared to the initial European Commission proposal, the text agreed by ministers introduces differentiated regimes based on plant size, with the aim of reducing costs and administrative burdens for the smallest plants (1-5 MW). It also extends compliance deadlines for remote or isolated areas, end-of-life plants and district heating systems.

The general approach will provide a basis on which the incoming Latvian Presidency of the Council will start negotiations with the European Parliament next year. The European Parliament's ENVI Committee is expected to vote on the proposal in April 2015.

The Commission proposal was presented in December 2013 as part of the Clean Air Package.

[General approach of the Council on the limitation of emissions from medium combustion plants](#)