

Four countries bring air pollution under EU limit

March 18 2013



Smoke rises from stacks at a factory in Lille, France, on January 17, 2013. Eight European Union countries exceeded the bloc's air pollution limits in 2011, down from 12 the previous year, the European Environment Agency said in a report published on Monday.

Eight European Union countries exceeded the bloc's air pollution limits in 2011, down from 12 the previous year, the European Environment Agency said in a report published on Monday.

According to preliminary data, Denmark, Malta, the Netherlands and Sweden managed to bring their air pollution under the authorised levels in 2011.

But Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg and Spain remained above the limits.

The EU's National Emissions Ceiling directive covers sulphur dioxide (SO₂), [nitrogen oxides](#) (NO_x), non-methane [volatile organic compounds](#) (NMVOCs) and ammonia (NH₃).

Countries that exceed the authorised levels can in theory face fines.

"Although the new data shows some clear improvement between 2010 and 2011, Europe still needs to work hard to reduce air pollution," EEA executive director Jacqueline McGlade said in a statement.

"Emissions from transport are still a major problem, particularly in some cities."

A map published with the data showed that Paris, Marseille, Turin, Milan, Rome and several Czech, Polish and Bulgarian cities had the highest levels of [particle pollution](#), with an annual average of more than 50 microgrammes per cubic metre.

(c) 2013 AFP

Citation: Four countries bring air pollution under EU limit (2013, March 18) retrieved 26 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2013-03-countries-air-pollution-eu-limit.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.