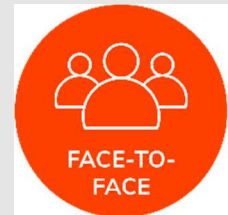




EU Air Quality and Noise Legislation

Workshop for judges, prosecutors, and court staff

Thessaloniki, 13-15 October 2025



EXCELLENCE IN
EUROPEAN LAW⁷

Planned Speakers (TBC)*

Luisa Cortat, Course Director, European Public Law, ERA, Trier

Christina Olsen Lundh, Judge at Division 2 of the Land and Environment Court, Vänersborg

Christoph Sobotta, Legal Secretary (AG Kokott), CJEU, Luxembourg

Ugo Taddei, Head of Clean Air, Client Earth, Brussels

Peter Vajda, Senior Environmental Expert, Energy Community Secretariat, Vienna

Vojtěch Vomáčka, Advisor in Environmental Law and EU Law Matters, Supreme Administrative Court of the Czech Republic

EC Representative

EEA Representative

Greek judge

*invitation pending

Key topics

- Scientific and technical aspects of air pollution
- Aims and main elements of the Air Quality Directive (AQD)
- Limit and target values – Art. 13(1) and Art. 16 AQD
- Air Quality Plans – Art. 23(1) AQD
- Litigation for air quality and noise
- Environmental Noise Directive
- Access to justice & clean air cases across the EU
- Relevant CJEU case law
- Preliminary ruling procedure

Language
English

Organiser
ERA (Dr Luisa Cortat) on behalf of the European Commission

Monday, 13 October 2025

- 08:45 Arrival and registration of participants
09:00 **Welcome, practical information and introduction of participants**
Lúisa Cortat

I. SETTING THE SCENE

- 09:30 **Effects of air and noise pollution on human health: a scientific and technical introduction**
EEA Representative
10:00 Discussion
10:15 **Introduction to the framework of EU clean air policies**
 - Overview of the EU's long-term air quality objectives and main policy and legislative tools
 - Policy and legislation changes and the adoption of the Revised AQD
 - Overview of the NEC Directive*EC Representative*
11:00 Discussion
11:15 Coffee break

II. OVERVIEW OF THE MAIN EU AIR QUALITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL NOISE LEGISLATION

- 11:45 **Air Quality Directive (AQD)**
 - Genesis and development
 - Main objectives and key features
 - Links with other relevant EU legislation*Peter Vajda*
12:30 Discussion
12:45 Lunch
13:45 **Environmental Noise Directive and Related Legislation**
 - Main objectives and key features of the Directive
 - Quiet areas and legal consequences
 - Noise maps and noise management action plans
 - Regulation 598/14 on the Balanced Approach*Christoph Sobotta*
14:30 Discussion and Quiz

III. AIR QUALITY DIRECTIVE UNDER SCRUTINY

- 15:00 **Limit and target values – Focus on PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀**
 - Different air quality objectives for the protection of human health
 - Overview of limit values for the protection of human health (Article 13(1) and Annex XI)
 - Limit values under the new AQD
 - Evolution of the PM_{2.5} legal standards (Article 15 and Article 16 AQD) and comparison with the World Health Organization guidelines*EC Representative*
15:45 Discussion
16:00 Coffee break
16:30 **Assessment of air quality**
 - Different assessment methods: monitoring, modelling and indicative measurements
 - Requirements for number, type and location of sampling points (Articles 6 and 7 AQD)
 - Citizen science and low-cost sensors*EEA Representative*
17:00 Discussion
17:15 End of first workshop day
19:00 Joint dinner

Tuesday, 14 October 2025

III. AIR QUALITY DIRECTIVE UNDER SCRUTINY (cont.)

- 09:30 **Adoption of an air quality plan according to Article 23 AQD**

Objective

The goal of this 2.5-day workshop is to develop a comprehensive understanding of the key legal aspects of EU air quality and noise legislation, and for judges from various Member States to be able to exchange views on this topic.

Emphasis will be given to the analysis of the main provisions relating to limit and target values for certain pollutants (PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀) as well as air quality plans. In addition to this, the spotlight will be put on the right to clean air and access to justice in air quality cases both at EU and national level.

By addressing these issues concerning the implementation of the Air Quality Directive and the Environmental Noise Directive, the workshop aspires to facilitate the handling of future national court proceedings relating to these topics.

About the Project

This seminar is part of a large-scale project sponsored by the European Commission entitled "Cooperation with national judges in the field of environmental law". It consists of four seminars to take place online, and in Sofia, Warsaw and Florence.

Who should attend?

Judges and prosecutors interested in environmental law.

Venue

Hellenic School of the Judiciary
Terma Ikaron, Finikas Kalamaria
Thessaloniki, 55102, Greece

Networking opportunity

Our legal training events offer a fantastic opportunity to connect with judges, prosecutors, and other high-level speakers from different parts of Europe. Together, you will have the chance to exchange experiences during our coffee breaks and conference dinner.

- Main provisions
 - Implementation at national level
 - Similarities and differences compared with other “plans” required by EU Environmental Law
- Christoph Sobotta*
- 10:15 Discussion
- 10:30 Coffee break
- 11:00 **Case study on the main provisions of the Air Quality Directive (AQD)**
- Introduction to the case study
 - Working groups
 - Plenary discussion of the results
- Peter Vajda*
- 12:30 Lunch

IV. ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS – FOCUS ON AIR POLLUTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL NOISE

- 13:30 **Access to justice within the EU in cases relating to air quality and environmental noise (Part: I)**
- Aarhus Convention
 - Commission Notice on Access to Justice in Environmental Matters
 - Standing: key principles and case law of the CJEU
- Vojtěch Vomáčka*
- 14:15 Discussion
- 14:30 **Access to justice within the EU in cases relating to air quality and environmental noise (Part: II)**
- Intensity of judicial review of the content of air quality and noise area plans
 - Adequate and effective remedies: key principles and case law of the CJEU
- Vojtěch Vomáčka*
- 15:30 Discussion
- 15:45 Coffee break
- 16:15 **The right to clean air before national courts – mapping the reality**
- Ugo Taddei*
- 17:00 Discussion
- 17:15 End of the second workshop day

Wednesday, 15 October 2025

V. ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS – FOCUS ON AIR POLLUTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL NOISE (cont.)

- 09:30 **Case study on access to justice for citizens and NGOs in cases relating to air quality (role-play exercise)**
- Introduction to the case study
 - Working groups
 - Plenary discussion of the results
- Greek judge and Ugo Taddei*
- 11:00 Coffee break

VI. ENFORCEMENT AT NATIONAL LEVEL

- 11:30 **What is the role of a national judge in air quality and noise litigation? – Preliminary reference**
- Christina Olsen Lundh*
- 12:00 Discussion
- 12:15 **ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**
- National experiences and practices relating to challenges in implementing AQD and Environmental Noise Directive**
- Speakers experience
 - Exchange of national viewpoints in plenary
- Christina Olsen Lundh and Greek judge*
- 13:00 Take-home messages and evaluation of the workshop
- Christina Olsen Lundh and Luisa Cortat*
- 13:30 End of the workshop

Your contacts



Luísa Cortat
Course Director
E-Mail: LCortat@era.int



Sabine Framing
Assistant
E-Mail: sframing@era.int

For programme updates: www.era.int
Programme may be subject to amendment.
Further details about the workshop, e-learning, and project can be found at environmental-law.era.int/

Apply online for EU AIR QUALITY AND NOISE LEGISLATION

Workshop for judges, prosecutors, and court staff

Thessaloniki, 13-15 October 2025 /

Event Number: 425DV136



Financed by the "Cooperation with National Judges in the field of Environmental Law"
programme of the European Union

Terms and conditions of participation

Selection

1. Participation is only open to judges, prosecutors, and court staff from all EU Member States.
2. The number of places available is limited. Participation will be subject to a selection procedure. Selection will be dependent on:
 - i. the relevance of the seminars to the professional life of the applicant;
 - ii. geographical and linguistic balance among the participants will be sought;
3. Online applications can be made until **08 September 2025**
4. A response will be given to every applicant of this workshop shortly after this deadline. We advise you not to book any travel or hotel before you receive our confirmation.

Registration Fee

5. There is no registration fee.

Travel expenses

6. **The travel expenses will be reimbursed to a maximum of 400 euros** subject to the submission of the originals of travel receipts (like flight ticket, boarding pass, train ticket, taxi costs can only be reimbursed in exceptional cases and has to be justified in written, etc.). Participants are advised of the obligation to use the most cost-efficient mode of transport available.

Accommodation

7. **Maximum 3 hotel nights** will be covered directly by ERA, only for the hotel booked by ERA.

Other services

8. Lunches, beverages consumed during the event and the workshop documents are offered by ERA.

Participation

9. Participation to the whole workshop is required and your presence will be monitored.
10. A list of participants including each participant's address will be made available to all participants unless the ERA receives written objection from the participant no later than one week prior to the beginning of the event.
11. The participant's address and other relevant information will be stored in ERA's database in order to provide information about future ERA events, publications and/or other developments in the participant's area of interest unless the participant indicates that he or she does not wish ERA to do so.
12. A certificate of attendance will be issued at the end of the workshop.

Online application:

www.era.int/?133811&en

Language

English

Contact Person

Sabine Framing

Assistant

E-mail: sframing@era.int

Tel. : +49 (0)651 937 37 421