

EN

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Answer given by Mr Tzitzikostas
on behalf of the European Commission
(11.3.2025)

In accordance with Directive 2008/50/EC¹, Member States shall take all necessary measures to ensure that concentrations of air pollutants do not exceed the binding limit values. To protect human health and the environment and to fulfil their obligations, Member States and their local authorities are therefore adopting vehicle access schemes, such as low-emission zones. However, the choice of which measures to take is the prerogative of the Member States in line with the principle of subsidiarity.

The Commission supports Member States in finding solutions that consider the needs of both cities and road users when it comes to accessing low-emission zones, while respecting the principles of subsidiarity. The Commission has focused its work on information provision. This was done in support of (i) Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/670² to provide EU-wide real-time traffic information which includes Low emission zones data to be made accessible when they exist, at the National Access Point in each Member State and (ii) the Regulation (EU) 2018/1724³ on the Single Digital Gateway (SDG) that includes amongst others the publication of traffic rules including urban vehicle access regulations and of online procedures for obtaining emission stickers for Low Emission Zones.

The Commission also carried out a study to identify and map EU interoperable technical solutions for demonstrating compliance with access rules, which is the goal of current (physical) eco-stickers when entering low emission zones. The results will now further be analysed by the Commission and available in the coming weeks on the website of the Publication Office of the European Union.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2008/50/oj/eng>

² https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2022/670/oj/eng

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32018R1724&qid=1739372541221>