

EN
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Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
(9.12.2025)

Particulate matter (PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀) annual concentrations in Ioannina have not exceeded the limit value set out in the Ambient Air Quality Directive¹ in 2024², data for 2025 should be reported by 30 September 2026. However, PM₁₀ daily limit values have been exceeded in 2020, 2023 and 2024. The Commission will continue monitoring the situation and assist the Greek authorities in implementing the Directive.

Urban development projects are listed in Annex II of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive³. According to its Article 4(2), prior to granting a consent for such projects, Member States should determine whether an EIA is necessary, based on a case-by-case analysis or specific criteria related to the location, size or type of projects. Should it be concluded that an EIA is necessary, impacts on air quality must be considered.

Projects included in Recovery and Resilience Plans are selected by Member States. National authorities are responsible for planning choices and preparation of projects, and they are also primarily responsible for ensuring that all obligations under EU law are met. The Commission's role is to ensure that these plans align with the EU's overall objectives and meet the requirements set out in the Recovery and Resilience Facility Regulation, including the 'do no significant harm' principle⁴ to the environment.

Without prejudice to the Commission's role as guardian of the Treaties, it is primarily the responsibility of the Greek authorities to select the location of projects and ensure that they are developed in compliance with EU environmental law. Decisions taken in this context are subject to judicial review by national courts, who are the common courts of EU law and the best placed to adjudicate on such matters.

¹ Directive 2008/50/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 May 2008 on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe, OJ L 152 11.6.2008, p. 1, as amended by Commission Directive (EU) 2015/1480 of 28 August 2015 amending several annexes to Directives 2004/107/EC and 2008/50/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down the rules concerning reference methods, data validation and location of sampling points for the assessment of ambient air quality, OJ L 226, 29.8.2015, p. 4.

² according to the 2024 data submitted by Greece in September 2025.

³ Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment, OJ L 26, 28.1.2012, p. 1–21, as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014, OJ L 124, 25.4.2014, p. 1–18.

⁴ Commission Notice Technical guidance on the application of 'do no significant harm' under the Recovery and Resilience Facility Regulation 2021/C 58/01, C/2021/1054, OJ C 58, 18.2.2021, pp. 1–30.