

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000364/26
to the Commission
Martin Günther (The Left)
(28 January 2026)**

Subject: Ecodesign regulations for residential solid fuel heating

Residential wood and coal burning causes 62% of EU emissions of fine particulate matter. According to the European Environmental Energy Association, reducing air pollution to World Health Organisation guideline levels could have prevented 182 000 deaths attributable to exposure to fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) in 2023 ⁽¹⁾. Children, older people and people with lung conditions are among the most vulnerable. Current ecodesign regulations allow stoves to emit over 100 times more particle pollution than diesel trucks.

1. Current ecodesign regulations have less strict emissions requirements than the requirements of the transport sector, despite residential burning being the EU's largest source of particulate matter. Precipitators and catalytic converters can reduce emissions by over 90% but are not mandatory. Will the Commission mandate the best available technologies, such as precipitators and catalytic converters, in revised ecodesign regulations to achieve emissions reductions comparable to vehicle standards?
2. Current regulations lack limits for black carbon or ultrafine particles, although up to 55% of stove particle emissions are black carbon with a warming potential that is 3 200 times higher than that of CO₂ over 20 years. Will the Commission establish mandatory limit values for black carbon and particle number in revised ecodesign regulations?
3. Testing conditions exclude critical phases like ignition, do not measure condensed particles and ignore indoor pollution from stove leakage, creating gaps between laboratory and actual emissions. Will revised regulations include comprehensive real-world testing, covering all burning cycles, condensed particles and stove tightness, and recurring on-site compliance controls?

Submitted: 28.1.2026

**Answer given by Mr Jørgensen on behalf of the European Commission
(7 April 2026)**

According to the Ecodesign Directive ⁽¹⁾, the Commission is obliged to find an appropriate balance between environmental and health benefits and users' costs, and protect consumers from any significant negative impacts, including regarding affordability aspects.

The Commission is reviewing the existing ecodesign measures on solid fuel heating and is preparing Evaluations and Impact Assessments for solid fuel local space heaters and solid fuel boilers, which have not been finalised yet.

The Evaluations and Impact Assessments consider several policy options, some of them based on the implementation of emission-abatement technologies like electrostatic precipitators or catalytic converters. Since the assessment is ongoing, it is currently too early to say which limits for pollutant emissions could be required in the future.

The main focus of the ongoing review is to improve real-life emissions of currently regulated pollutants, with particular attention to particulate matter and organic gaseous compounds, which are directly associated with premature deaths by cancer or cardiopathic diseases according to the European Environment Agency.

The Evaluations and Impact Assessments include a thorough analysis of the test standards that are most often used by manufacturers to show compliance with the ecodesign rules.

The implementation of a test cycle that is more representative of real-life operation is one of the main goals of the impact assessments that will feed into the preparation of the new regulations.

¹ <https://www.eea.europa.eu/en/analysis/publications/harm-to-human-health-from-air-pollution-burden-of-disease-status-2025?activeAccordion=b09c6072-6c15-437a-aff5-1346e185ba73>.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2009/125/oj/eng>.