

EN

E-002282/2026

Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
(27.8.2026)

The Commission takes note of the referenced study aimed to serve the Spanish authorities in their implementation of the revised Ambient Air Quality Directive¹. Given the division of responsibilities under the Directive, it is up to the Member States' authorities to decide on the relevance of different inputs, in their decision-making process. The Directive introduces stricter EU air quality standards, including for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), to be attained by 2030. Where from 2026 until 2029 the levels of air pollutants are higher than air quality standards, authorities need to adopt roadmaps establishing measures to reach these. The Directive also improves the rules on air quality monitoring, requiring authorities to consider, to the extent possible, sensitive population and vulnerable groups – such as children – when deciding where to measure at hotspot locations.

While the Directive establishes an indicative list of measures to be considered², including measures to encourage a modal shift towards active mobility and less polluting forms of transport, the final choice of measures is up to the Member States. Active mobility infrastructure plays an important role, in urban areas, in line also with the New EU Urban Mobility Framework³ and the European Declaration on Cycling⁴.

In addition, the Commission highlights relevant EU urban initiatives that provide targeted support to local authorities, notably the European Mobility Week⁵ and the Green City Accord⁶.

¹ Directive (EU) 2024/2881 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2024 on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe (recast), OJ L, 2024/2881, 20.11.2024.

² Annex VIII of Directive (EU) 2024/2881.

³ COM(2021) 811 final; <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52021DC0811>.

⁴ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:C_202402377.

⁵ <https://mobilityweek.eu>.

⁶ https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/urban-environment/green-city-accord_en.