



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Brussels, XXX
[...] (2026) XXX draft

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION (EU) .../...

of XXX

laying down rules for the application of Directive (EU) 2016/2284 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the common format for national air pollution control programmes and repealing Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/1522

This draft has not been adopted or endorsed by the European Commission. Any views expressed are the preliminary views of the Commission services and may not in any circumstances be regarded as stating an official position of the Commission.

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laying down rules for the application of Directive (EU) 2016/2284 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the common format for national air pollution control programmes and repealing Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/1522

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Directive (EU) 2016/2284 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2016 on the reduction of national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants, amending Directive 2003/35/EC and repealing Directive 2001/81/EC ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 6(10) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The national air pollution control programme is the principal governance tool under Directive (EU) 2016/2284 supporting Member States in planning their national policies and measures to comply with the national emission reduction commitments laid down in that Directive from 2020 to 2029, and from 2030 onwards. It thus increases predictability for stakeholders while also supporting a shift of investments to clean and efficient technologies. It contributes to achieving the air quality objectives pursuant to Article 1(2) of Directive (EU) 2016/2284, as well as to ensuring coherence with plans and programmes in other relevant policy areas, including climate, energy, agriculture, industry and transport.
- (2) The national air pollution control programmes contribute to successfully implementing Directive (EU) 2024/2881 ⁽²⁾ of the European Parliament and of the Council by reducing air pollutant emissions. Article 6(1) and (2) of Directive (EU) 2016/2284 in conjunction with Part 1 of Annex III to that Directive set out the mandatory and optional content of the national air pollution control programmes, while it is for the Commission to specify the format for the programmes. In order to ensure that the information required is provided in a comparable, consistent and efficient manner, it is appropriate to provide a common structure of the national air pollution programme and further specify the categories and details of information to be included in the NAPCP, while leaving Member States sufficient flexibility to present that information in the manner they consider most appropriate.
- (3) Based on the evaluation of Directive (EU) 2016/2284⁽³⁾, it is necessary to simplify and clarify the common format of the national air pollution control programmes, as established by Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/1522 ⁽⁴⁾, in particular

¹ OJ L 344, 17.12.2016, p. 1, ELI:<http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2016/2284/oj>.

² 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 (OJ L, 20.11.2024, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/2881/oj>).

³ SWD(2025) 395 final.

⁴ Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/1522 laying down a common format for national air pollution control programmes under Directive (EU) 2016/2284 of the European Parliament and of the

with respect to the update of the programmes in accordance with Article 6(3) of Directive (EU) 2016/2284. In view of the results of the evaluation, it is appropriate to improve the common format established in Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/1522 in order to simplify its structure, provide clearer instructions and better indicate the information expected on the changes in relation to previously submitted programmes, while ensuring that updated programmes remain self-standing documents.

- (4) Member States should use the Policies and Measures tool (PaM tool) developed by the European Environment Agency to set out additional policies and measures selected for adoption to allow for better analysis of these policies and measures and with a view to importing information into the national air pollution control programmes when that functionality becomes available. Member States should have the possibility to use the PaM tool to set out in their national air pollution control programmes additional policies and measures considered but not selected for adoption.
- (5) To give Member States sufficient time to adapt their reporting of national air pollution control programmes to the revised common format, a transitional period of 12 months should be granted, during which both the common format under Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/1522 and the format under this Decision may be used.
- (6) In view of the extent of the necessary changes to the common format for the national air pollution control programmes, as currently established in Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/1522, that Implementing Decision should be repealed in order to provide sufficient clarity and legal certainty.
- (7) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Ambient Air Quality Committee,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The format for the national air pollution control programmes referred to in Article 6 of Directive (EU) 2016/2284 shall be as set out in the Annex to this Decision.

Article 2

Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/1522 is repealed.

However, until [same day as date of entry into force plus 12 months], Member States may use either the common format as established by Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/1522 or the common format as established by this Decision when submitting their national air pollution control programmes to the Commission.

Article 3

This Decision shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

Done at Brussels,

For the Commission

The President

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