



Updates from the European Commission

TFEIP Meeting 11-13 May 2026 Copenhagen

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The evaluation of the NEC Directive

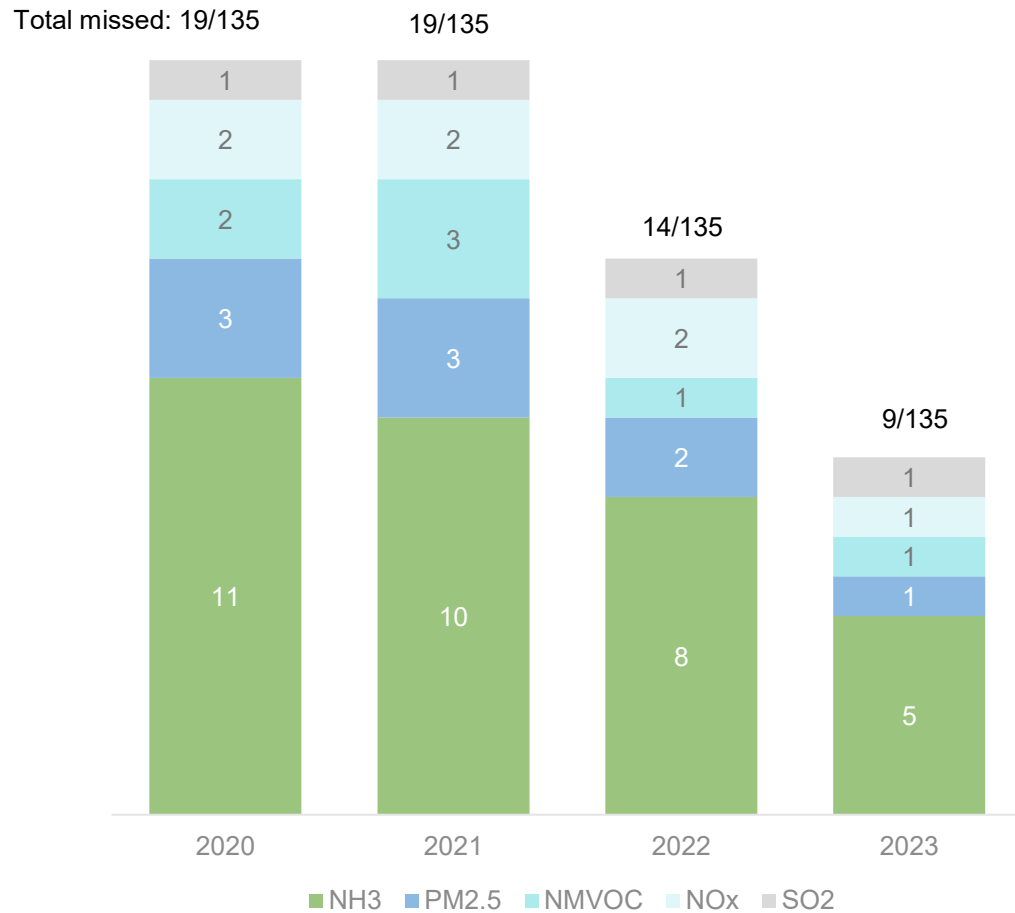


Article 13.1: “[...] the Commission shall review this Directive no later than 31 December 2025 with a view to safeguarding progress towards achieving the objectives referred to in Article 1(2), in particular by taking into account scientific and technical progress and the implementation of Union climate and energy policies.”

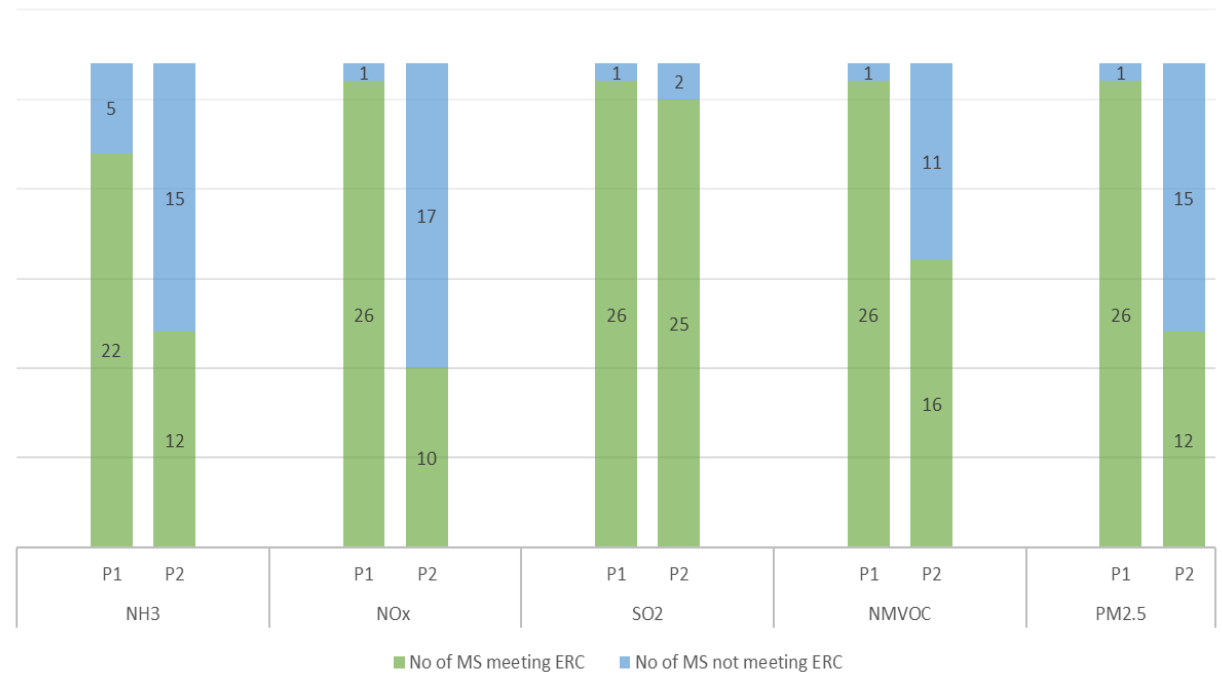


Effectiveness - compliance

Number of ERCs missed (2020-23)



Number of MS meeting or not meeting ERCs for the 2020-29 (P1) and 2030 and beyond (P2) period, based on 2025 inventories providing 2023 emission data.

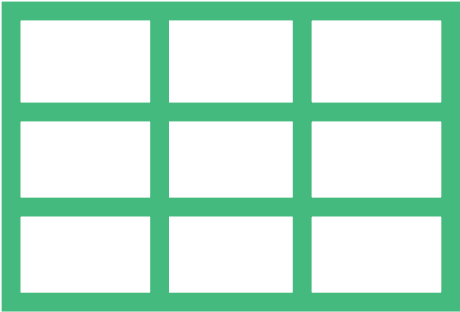


Source: EEA 2025 briefing & 2025 inventory reviews



Effectiveness of reporting - inventories

- **Improvement of quality over time**, across EU, also facilitated by a rigorous review process, but quality of a few EU MS inventories remains significantly poorer
- Important areas of improvement exist across all sectors and pollutants
- Inventories for main pollutants and PM₁₀ of higher quality than those for heavy metals and POPs
- Lack of **transparency** remains a critical issue: limited or complete lack of information in the IIR
- **Accuracy**: use of Tier 1 methods for key sources has decreased, reflecting improvements made to the EMEP/EEA Guidebook as well as the effectiveness of the inventory review process
- Some lack of **completeness**, e.g. due to inadequate resources for identifying relevant existing emission sources in the country, lack of data, or insufficient or unclear guidance presented in the EMEP/EEA Guidebook
- **Consistency** and **Comparability** are less of an issue



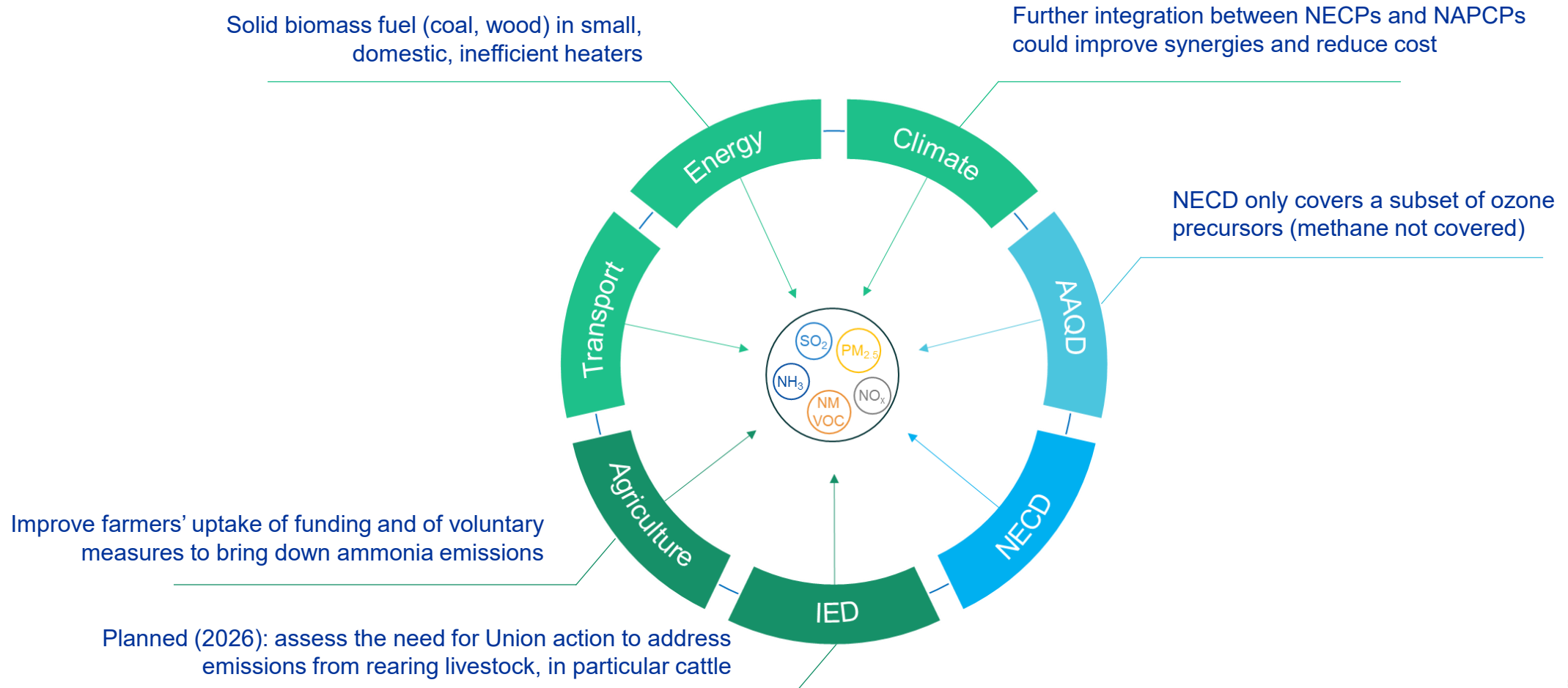
Effectiveness of reporting - projections



- **Some improvement of quality over time**, but slower than for inventories (but with a more marked improvement in the latest, 2025 submission)
- Lack of **transparency** has been identified as the main shortcoming, with a majority to all Member States failing to provide sufficient detail on the methodologies, input datasets and assumptions used for preparing their projections in their IIRs
- **Accuracy** varies significantly across the Member States, suggesting that there are no particular cross-cutting barriers (such as lack of guidance)
- **Consistency**: includes issues of inconsistencies between projections and historical emission inventory
- **Comparability** and **completeness** - good overall

Coherence

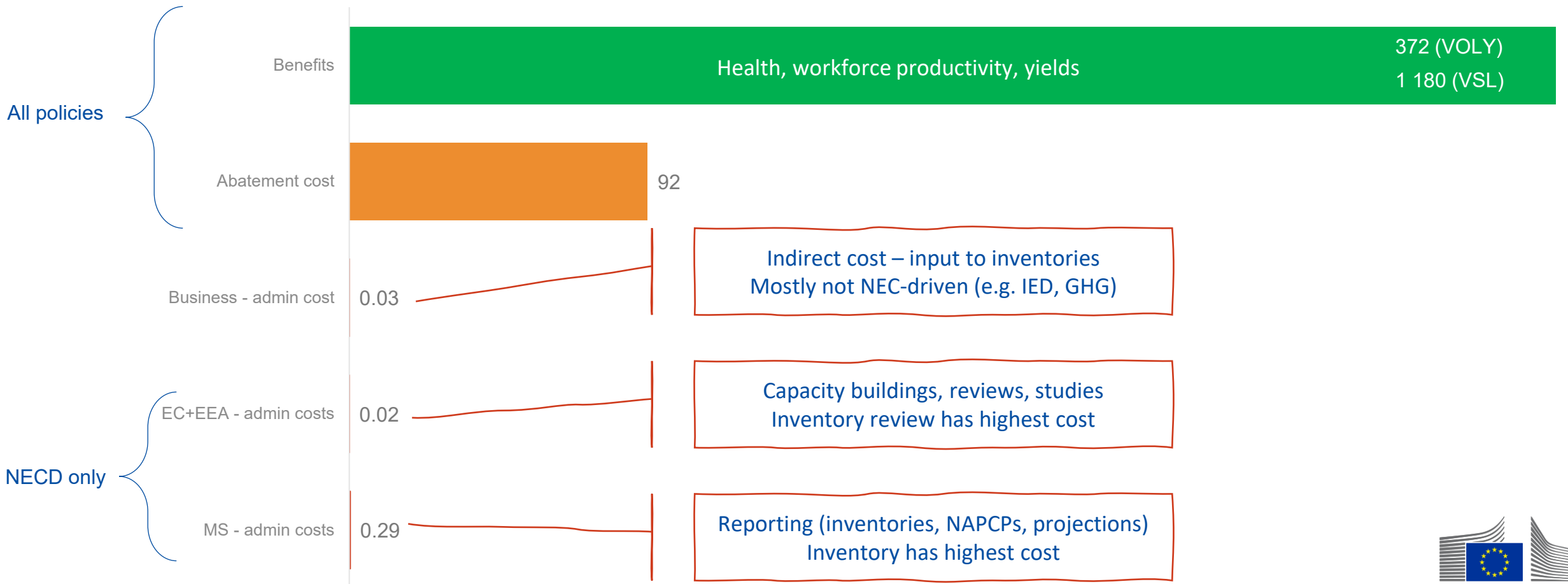
Overall, robust coherence between NECD and other policies affecting air pollution – with some room for improvement



Costs and benefits

Efficiency

2016-2025, in billion Euro



Efficiency

Opportunities for cost reduction & simplification

€7,000/
MS/yr

NAPCPs

- **Simplify/clarify format for updates**
- Align timing closer to NECP
- Improve user-friendliness of PaM tool



€3,400/
MS/yr

Projections

- Align frequency with Gothenburg Protocol (GP) (every 4yrs instead of every 2 yrs)



€187,000/
MS/yr

Inventories

- Leave LPS data to IED
- Reporting non-ERC pollutants: heavy metals and PoPs
- Share review effort with the Gothenburg Protocol



Ecosystems reporting

- Less and better-quality monitoring
- Align with UNECE Air Convention ICPs

€115,000/
MS/yr



Relevance of scope

- **Scope of the NECD** remains broadly relevant
- **Pollutants covered:**
 - Additional reporting of some air pollutants could fill information gaps on air pollution and its links to air quality (e.g. black/organic carbon, methane, UFP, PFAS)
 - Condensable particulate matter: systematic inclusion in inventories would help pursuit of health objectives – EMEP/EEA Guidebook developments have helped
 - Some pollutants and data points are used less, incl. large point source data – but they are also reported under the Gothenburg Protocol
- **Non-inclusion of methane:**
 - Urgent need to reduce emissions given methane's role as a potent GHG and as a precursor for ozone
 - Gothenburg Protocol revision: discusses potential inclusion of methane



Relevance - sources

Emissions that are excluded from compliance checks (Article 4(3) of NECD):



Aviation cruise:

- Impact of aviation cruise emissions on ground-level concentrations of air pollutants and of ozone is limited, but few studies only



International maritime shipping:

- Current approach fails to reflect the extent to which the respective shipping activities affect concentrations of air pollutants
- Shipping has a growing relative contribution to ambient concentrations in port cities and near coasts



NMVOC and NO_x from manure management and agricultural soils:

- Relatively large sources, including them would substantially change the relative contributions from source sectors to the national compliance totals of NO_x and NMVOC
- Approach inconsistent with Gothenburg Protocol, where they are included for compliance checks
- Improved understanding of these sources and mitigation measures



Key messages

4:1

BENEFITS ARE HIGH

Benefits at least four times higher than costs

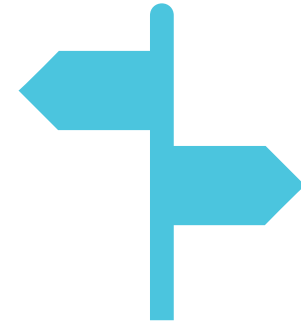


IT WORKS...

In synergy with other EU policy and on its own

... BUT NOT THERE YET

2030 reduction commitments
AAQD support



FOLLOW-UP

Implementation

Revision of the Gothenburg Protocol

NAPCP common format revision



Further considerations

EMEP/EEA Guidebook improvements:

- Keen to see TFEIP discuss draft proposals to revise chapters based on work funded by European Commission – generic & agriculture (29/4) and transport (tomorrow)
- Combustion, industry and waste chapters – needs have been mapped

Projections post-2030: The 2023 Reporting Guidelines state:

27. Projections of emissions should be estimated and reported in the format set out in annex IV to these Guidelines.

45. Parties to the 1999 Gothenburg Protocol and 2012 amended Gothenburg Protocol within the geographical scope of EMEP shall regularly update their projections and report every four years from 2015 onward their updated projections, for the years 2025 and 2030 and, where available, also for 2040 and 2050.

2030 is getting closer – how to ensure Member States report projections for future years (a number of MS already report projections for 2040 and 2050, some also for 2035)

Annex IV template refers to 2035 though not explicitly mentioned in the guidelines



Thank you



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