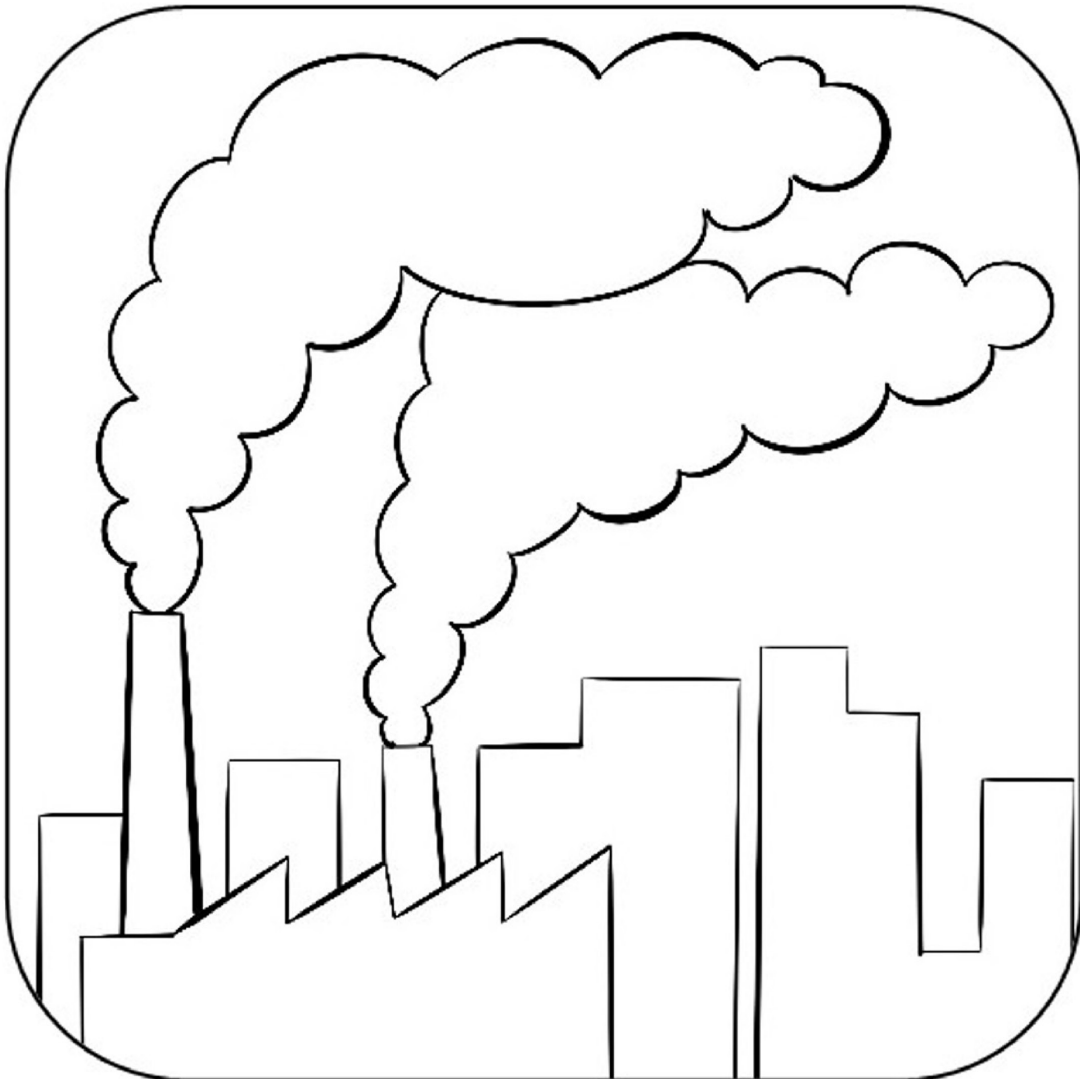




City pollution in the European Union

Easy-to-read version



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City pollution in the European Union

This is our report on city pollution.

A report is an official paper.

City pollution means **noise or dirty air in cities**.

Noise and dirty air are bad for people's health.

So our report is important.

The European Union

The European Union is an organisation of 27 countries in Europe.

The short word is: EU.

The countries in the EU work closely together.

But not all the countries in Europe are in the EU.

The European Court of Auditors

We are the European Court of Auditors.



The European Court of Auditors checks where the European Union's money goes. Our checks are called audits.



We check that the European Union spends the money in the right way.
We also check if the money spent makes things better.

For this report we checked dirty air and noise in cities.

We checked if money from the European Union
really makes the air cleaner.

We also checked if the money from the European Union
makes cities less noisy.

When we finish our checks, we write a report.
Our reports tell people what we found out in our checks.

Our reports help the European Union spend the money in the right way.

Our reports also give ideas to make things better.
The ideas are called recommendations.

Our check on city pollution

City pollution means **noise or dirty air in cities**.

Noise and dirty air are bad for people's health.



Cities have a lot of noise
and dirty air.

And most people in the European Union live in cities.

Our checks

The European Union has rules to protect people from noise and dirty air.

We checked if the countries of the European Union follow the rules.

We did checks in Greece.



We did checks in Spain.



And we did checks in Poland.



Dirty air

Dirty air makes people sick.



Dirty air is also bad for plants and animals.



These countries didn't check if dirty air in their cities is bad for plants and animals.

Making city air cleaner

Dirty air mostly comes from cars.



Old cars make the air even more dirty.
Petrol and diesel cars are really bad.

The European Union wants to make the air cleaner.
The European Union has rules
to help make the air cleaner by the year 2030.



Countries have to check how dirty the air is in their cities.
They have to tell the European Union
how dirty the air is.

Each country has to decide how to make their own air clean.

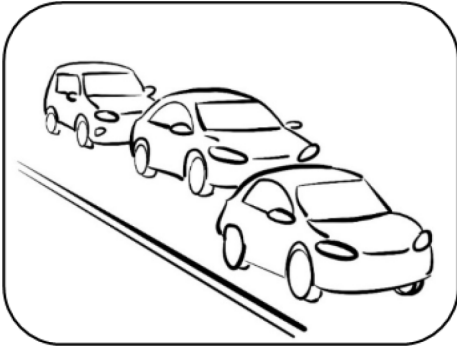
The rules are helping make the air cleaner
in the countries of the European Union.
But the air is still not clean enough.

We checked 3 of the 27 member states.
We checked Greece, Spain and Poland.

Spain and Poland have already
made their air a bit cleaner.
Greece has only made the air a little bit cleaner.

Noise

Most noise comes from traffic on the roads.



But trains and planes make noise too.



Too much noise can make us sick

Noise stops us from sleeping



Noise makes us angry



Noise is bad for our hearts



Noise is bad for our heads



Making cities less noisy

The European Union has rules about noise.
But the rules about noise are old.

And there are no rules about how much noise is OK.
Countries have to check how much noise there is in their cities.
They have to tell the European Union how much noise there is.

Lots of countries are late telling the European Union about noise.

Plans

Cities need plans to make the air cleaner.
Cities also need plans to make less noise.
Some cities do not have plans.

Some people die early because of dirty air.

The European Union has a plan to make the air cleaner.
The plan wants less people to die early because of dirty air.

The plan is also to protect plants and animals.
Plants are for example trees or flowers.

The first noise plans should have been ready by 2008.
The plans should have been changed every 5 years.

The countries did **not** always follow the rules on air and noise.
The countries got into trouble 106 times already
for not following the rules.

The European Union has a special law court.



A law court is a place where a judge works.

The law court of the EU decides if a country has broken the rules.

The law court of the EU has decided 22 times
that some countries did not follow the rules.

Dirty air and noise – some ideas and problems

It is hard for cities to make the air cleaner.

It is hard for cities to make less noise.

Traffic is a big problem.

Electric cars do not use petrol or diesel.

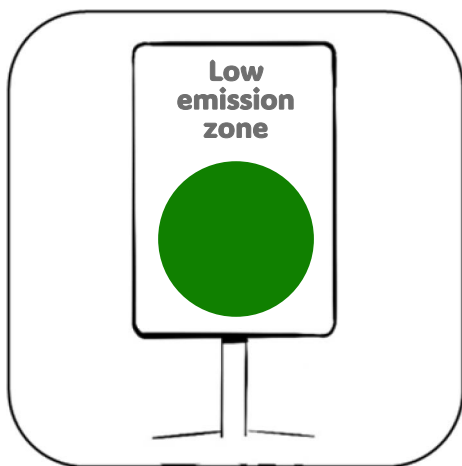
So electric cars are better for the planet.

Some cities have zones where only electric cars can go.

Or other cars that are better for the planet.

These zones are called low emission zones.

Low emission zones help make the air cleaner.



Barcelona in Spain has zones
for bikes and people walking.
But electric cars can go in those zones too.
Or cars that are better for the planet.



What we found



The air in our cities is getting better.



But it is dirty anyway.



Our cities are too noisy.

The European Union needs better rules.
And the European Union needs to make sure
that everyone follows the rules.

Our ideas

Now we have finished our checks.
We are making a recommendation.

A recommendation is an idea
to make things better.

Our recommendation to the European Union

The European Union should make new rules about noise.

New rules can protect people from too much noise.

The European Union can use our recommendation
to help more people.

Disclaimer

A disclaimer is a text with rules.

The rules say how to use the report.

This is an easy-to-read version of our report.

We have tried to make it easy to understand.

We hope it will help people with intellectual disabilities and other people who have difficulty reading.

This easy-to-read report explains what we check in this audit.

It also tells people the results of our checks.

At the end, it gives our recommendation on how the European Union can do better.

The easy-to-read report is only for easy understanding.

The full report is on our website.

The full report is more difficult to read.

It has more details and examples.

The full report is the official report.

The full report is the version approved officially
by the European Court of Auditors.

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Publications Office
of the European Union

EUROPEAN COURT OF AUDITORS
12, rue Alcide De Gasperi 1615
Luxembourg LUXEMBOURG

Tel. +352 4398-1

Enquiries: eca.europa.eu/en/contact
Website: eca.europa.eu
Social media: @EUauditors