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ENVIRONMENT  
Directorate C - Environment and Health  
ENV.C1 - Air and Noise

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## **STANDARDISATION MANDATE TO CEN FOR STANDARD MEASURING METHODS OF BENZO(A)PYRENE IN AMBIENT AIR**

### **I. MOTIVATION**

Council Directive 96/62/EC on ambient air quality assessment and management establishes a framework for, among others :

- defining and establishing objectives for ambient air quality in the Community for 13 substances
- assessing the ambient air quality in Member States on the basis of common methods and criteria.

This “Framework Directive” defines the basic principles, which should allow to achieve these requirements. The quality objectives and the assessment methods will be established by “daughter Directives”, which will be drafted according to a time schedule which is fixed in the Framework Directive. A proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council relating to arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air is to be adopted this year. Benzo(a)pyrene will be proposed as an indicator of the carcinogenic potential of the generic group of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons.

Member States have to measure ambient concentrations and to check whether the quality objectives fixed are exceeded. In order to ensure the comparability of data measured by all Member States, standard measurement methods need to be established.

Reference method(s) to be used for the implementation of the Directives will be specified in the Directives, based on the available standardised methods. Member States may use other methods provided that they can demonstrate that they give results equivalent to the reference method. Depending on pollution levels and the detailed requirements in daughter Directives measurements may be supplemented by simpler methods.

The availability of standardised reference methods is fundamental to an efficient implementation of EC legislation on ambient air quality.

## **II. DESCRIPTION OF THE MANDATED WORK**

1. The Commission entrusts CEN with the following work:

Establishing of standard measuring methods of concentrations of Benzo(a)pyrene in ambient air. A particulate based method would be preferred as B(a)P is predominantly present in the particulate phase. The method should be capable of a high and uniform collection efficiency throughout the European Union.

2. The standard will cover the following subjects:

- range of application (concentration levels for which the method(s) apply) ;
- method(s) description (sampling, calibration, analysis aspects) ;
- overview of the performance characteristics relevant for the measurement of ambient air concentrations ;
- test procedure to establish the performance characteristics and the overall uncertainty of the method(s) (laboratory and/or field tests) ;
- performance characteristics of the current method(s) ;
- recommendation for use .

3. The Commission recommends CEN to take account, as much as possible, of standards or rules currently available in this area at a national or international level.

## **III. EXECUTION OF THE MANDATE**

1. CEN will present the draft standard (EN) to the Commission before 1 January 2005.

2. The European standard (EN) will be adopted before 1 March 2006. At this date, the three linguistic versions (DE, EN, FR) will be available as well as the correct titles in other Community languages.

3. Before 1 September 2006, the standard (EN) will be transposed into a national standard and all the different national standards of the Member States will be withdrawn.

4. CEN will present a report, at least once a year, on the progress of the work.

5. The standstill period referred to in Article 7 of Directive 98/34/EC of 22 June 1998 shall commence when the CEN accepts this standardisation mandate<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 204 of 21.07.98, p. 37, as amended by Directive 98/48/EC (OJ L 217 of 5/8/98, p. 18)