



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

## MEMO

Brussels, 10 September 2015

# New EU support for air quality and environment in Belarus

The European Union has announced a new programme totalling EUR 14.5 million designed to improve the quality of air and environmental management in Belarus with.

The action "**Strengthening Air Quality and Environmental Management in Belarus**" will help Belarus monitor and manage air emissions and radiation. It will also help modernising the air quality monitoring infrastructure and promote better involvement of civil society organisations in implementing environmental policies and monitoring environmental risks.

Environmental monitoring clubs and "green schools" will be supported and new ones set up to provide modern environmental education to young Belarusians. Civil society organisations will be supported to develop and deliver environment trainings and various outreach activities promoting environmental issues. EU experts will share best practices in the management of air pollution and radiation and assist the Government of Belarus in ratifying and implementing relevant international agreements as well as adopting international and EU standards in this field.

By improving the quality of air and access to environmental information, the programme will benefit the Belarusian population as a whole. The neighbouring countries will also benefit from the project as air pollution and radiation do not stop at national borders. And finally, the project will support Belarus' efforts in terms of climate change mitigation.

## Background

Environment is high on the EU-Belarus political agenda and it is also a priority sector for the EU's support to Belarus in the period 2014-2017.

The EU-Belarus past and ongoing environmental cooperation focuses on various issues, such as air quality governance, strategic planning and management capacity in the field of environmental protection and information, involvement of local residents in resolving environmental problems, waste management, climate change mitigation, etc.

The current funding comes through the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI), the main financial and cooperation instrument through which the funding is given to the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) countries, including Belarus.

## For more information

Website of EU Delegation to Belarus:

[http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/belarus/index\\_en.htm](http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/belarus/index_en.htm)

Eastern Partnership:

[http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/neighbourhood/eastern-partnership/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/neighbourhood/eastern-partnership/index_en.htm)

EU Neighbourhood Info Centre:

<http://www.enpi-info.eu/>