

To: Members of the HOUS special committee at the European Parliament

Brussels, 5 February 2026

Subject: EU Healthy Air Coalition: No contradiction between clean air efforts and measures on the housing crisis

Dear MEP,

On 9 February, the HOUS special committee will be voting on its own initiative report on Housing crisis in the European Union with the aim of proposing solutions for decent, sustainable and affordable housing (procedure file 2025/2070(INI)).

The EU Healthy Air Coalition ([EUHAC](#)) – bringing together non-profit health expert voices including doctors and other health care professionals, scientists, public health experts and groups, respiratory or cancer patients and health insurance funds – would like to underline the importance of clean air for health in the European Union.

Efforts to improve air quality throughout Europe and measures tackling the housing crisis are not contradictory to each other. The EU Ambient Air Quality Directive (AAQD) is a milestone for public health, setting the EU on the path for much needed clean air improvements.

Against this background, AM 710 is misleading and not factually correct.

The EU Healthy Air Coalition urges you not to support this amendment.

The Ambient Air Quality Directive:

- does not regulate noise,
- does not impose obligations on stakeholders other than public authorities,
- needs to be urgently implemented to prevent hundreds of thousands of premature deaths and hundreds of billions of euros of costs annually in the EU.

We are available for any further information.

Sincerely,

Anne Stauffer, Deputy Director – Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL),
On behalf of the EU Healthy Air Coalition (EUHAC) other founding members:
Dr Ole Johan Bakke, President – Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME)
Dr. Wolfgang Fecke, Executive Director – Association of European Cancer Leagues (ECL)
Susanna Palkonen, Director – European Federation of Allergy and Airways Diseases Patients' Associations (EFA)
Dimitris Kontopidis, Chair – European Lung Foundation (ELF)
Dr. Milka Sokolović, Director General – European Public Health Alliance (EPHA)
Prof. Dr. Barbara Hoffmann MPH, Advocacy Council Chair – European Respiratory Society (ERS)
Xavier Brenez, Chief Executive Officer – Independent Health Insurance Funds (Mutualités Libres)

Background on urgently needed health benefits of clean air action

Air pollution remains the top environmental risk to health in Europe, resulting in hundreds of thousands of premature deaths and hundreds of billions of euros of costs annually. Everyone is vulnerable to harm caused by air pollution and our level of vulnerability is outside of individual control, as it evolves with age, health condition, socio-economic status, as well as where we live, study, or work.

There is a large body of evidence showing that air pollution is a cause for all major non-communicable diseases, including cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, stroke, diabetes, dementia, and lung cancer, as well as acute respiratory infections, with growing evidence on adverse impacts on mental and neurological health. Global, European, national and local decision-makers have the unique power to prevent these health impacts, and to protect those most vulnerable –pregnant women, children, the elderly, those with pre-existing health conditions or facing socio-economic health inequities.

Despite the huge disease burden caused by air pollution, most of the health and economic impacts of air pollution are preventable: through a comprehensive policy framework to urgently prevent air pollution at its sources and improve air quality for all. Air pollution and climate change are interlinked: the burning of fossil fuels leads to substantial emissions of air pollutants and greenhouse gases. Recent evidence highlights that air pollution worsens the health impacts of heatwaves on respiratory and cardiovascular diseases. At the same time, prolonged heatwaves lead to higher air pollution. Measures to improve air quality can be a win-win both for health and climate mitigation and adaptation.