

State of the Art and a General Overview of Environmental Noise in the European Union

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Abstract

With the publication of the European Union's Assessment & Management of Environmental Noise Directive 2002/49/EC in 2002, all member states have to ratify and implement the directive in the coming years. This involves the adaptation of existing and introduction of new legislation at state, region and local levels and in several different authorities (environment, transport, industry, health, etc.).

In addition, the directive requires information from the member states according to an implementation timeplan documented in the directive itself. At the time of writing, the directive should be implemented and the first round of noise maps produced and reported to the European Commission.

The paper will give an overview of the current state of development in the existing member states, some of the important issues raised and the tools and projects to assist the development, implementation and management of environmental noise being investigated.

Keywords: legislation, environmental noise management, mapping, action plans.

1 Introduction

With the publication of the European Union's Assessment & Management of Environmental Noise Directive 2002/49/EC in 2002, all member states had to ratify and implement the directive in the coming years. This involved the adaptation of existing and introduction of new legislation at state, region and local levels and in several different authorities (environment, transport, industry, health, etc.).

In addition, the directive requires information from the member states according to an implementation timeplan documented in the directive itself. At the time of writing, the directive should be implemented in legislation and the first round of noise maps produced and reported to the European Commission. The next phase of the directive is the development and ratification of action plans through the dissemination of strategic noise map results to the public and their subsequent involvement. Noise maps and action plans are more extensive than previous legislation & practice.



Figure 1 – Example of a Strategic Noise Map (Bucharest city council)



Figure 2 – Result of a Local Action Plan (Copenhagen City Council)

2 Content of the Presentation

The paper will give an overview of the current state of development in the member states, some of the important issues raised and the tools and projects to assist the development, implementation and management of environmental noise being investigated. This will be highlighted by real-life examples. Particular issues covered include:

- Background of the EU Noise Policy and END 2002/49/EC
- Overview of current state of development and important issues in Member States regarding:
 - Implementation into national legislation
 - Mapping activities
 - Public information and involvement
 - Action plan (noise policy) activities
- Tools and projects to assist development, implementation and management of noise policy including major Main European projects:
 - Harmonoise & Imagine calculation method
 - "Assessment of Exposure to Noise" Working Group (WG-AEN)
 - Good Practice Guide for Strategic Noise Mapping
 - Presenting Data to the Public
 - "Health and Socio-Economic Aspects" Working Group (WG-HSEA)

- INSPIRE (GIS)
- CALM
- Eurocities recommendations