AIR QUALITY POLICIES IN FRANCE

FRENCH BOARD OF AUDIT
AN IMPROVING TREND FOR EMISSIONS…

Main regulated air pollutants emissions (2000 - 2019)

Source: CGDD
Average yearly air concentrations for main air pollutants (2000 - 2019)

Source: CGDD
CONCENTRATION LEVELS STILL EXCEED LIMIT VALUES IN SEVERAL AREAS

Nitrogen dioxyde and PM$_{10}$ concentrations (2019)

Source : PREV’AIR

Zones exceeding limit values (2019)
CONCENTRATION LEVELS STILL EXCEED LIMIT VALUES IN SEVERAL AREAS

Zones exceeding legal concentration limits for main regulated air pollutants (2019)

Source: Géod’air / SDES, 2020
The political framework improved since our 2015 report:

- A new national plan has been adopted (« PREPA 2 »), though its implementation remains partial.

- Local plans quality improved. Local authorities involvement (mostly in transportation and urbanism) is growing and requires efficient cooperation between national and local plans.

- There is still work to do in order to establish a policy framework coherent with other environmental and economic policies.

- Several urgent measures should be implemented in the main emissions sectors.
TRANSPORTATION

- low emission zones implementation should be accelerated
- Convergence of tax regimes of diesel and gasoline should be continued
- Consumers information on real conditions emissions of vehicules should be improved
- Air quality should be more efficiently addressed in subsidies for converting vehicles to clean engines
Some sources of air pollutants are insufficiently regulated

- Diffuse and fugitive emissions
- Degraded mode operation

Risk assessments sometimes omit critical substances

A better cooperation between labor health services and epidemiologic services is needed
RESIDENTIAL / TERTIARY SECTOR

- France national strategy for low carbon carbon transition relies heavily on the development of biomass

- Subsidies for old heating units replacement are helpful, but not sufficient

- Education of biomass heater users is paramount
Until recently, Nitrogen regulation policies in agriculture focused only on water quality issues.

Current mitigation efforts are insufficient, and rely mainly on voluntary measures.

Regulation tools will be mandatory in order to achieve national objectives.

Permanent monitoring of pesticides in air should be implemented.
CONCLUSION

Public debate is necessary in order to achieve social acceptance of the most difficult measures

- impact studies for plans and infrastructure projects should examine all scenarios, including the most ambitious

- Environmental impact of all public expenses should be systematically and properly assessed
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

Source: Cour des comptes – Eve Darragon