

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE

WELTGESUNDHEITSORGANISATION
REGIONALBÜRO FÜR EUROPA



ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTÉ
BUREAU RÉGIONAL DE L'EUROPE

ВСЕМИРНАЯ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ ЗДРАВООХРАНЕНИЯ
ЕВРОПЕЙСКОЕ РЕГИОНАЛЬНОЕ БЮРО

EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

**27th meeting of the Joint Convention/WHO Task Force on
the Health Aspects of Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution**

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**Bonn, Germany
22–23 May 2024**

06 March 2024

Scope and purpose

The health effects of air pollution drive policies to improve air quality, as reflected in global policy documents, such as the World Health Assembly resolution on air pollution and health, consideration of air quality and health in the Sustainable Development Goals, recognition of air pollution as one of the main risk factors for noncommunicable diseases by the United Nations, and the WHO Global Strategy on Health, Environment and Climate Change. The WHO Manifesto for a Healthy Recovery from COVID-19 calls for a reduction in air pollution through sustainable urban development, a healthy energy transition and divesting from investments in air-polluting activities. In the WHO European Region, the Seventh Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health in Budapest, Hungary, in July 2023 reaffirmed air quality and health as a regional priority. In the Budapest Declaration, Member States committed themselves to taking wide-ranging actions to improve air quality and reduce its health impacts, including through existing platforms, such as the Task Force on Health.

The Task Force on the Health Aspects of Air Pollution supports the work of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe's Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution. It provides evidence-informed assessment of the risks to health posed by air pollution and attribution of such risks to long-range transport of air pollution.

The 27th meeting of the Task Force on Health will be attended by representatives of the Parties to the Convention as well as experts and stakeholders. The meeting will provide an opportunity to take stock of international policies and processes for air quality and health, to share relevant experiences in Member States and to report on updating of WHO tools to assess the health risks of air pollution (AirQ+ and CLIMAQ-H) and examples of their application. Progress in research on air quality and health and the links to climate change will be presented. Communication and health messaging will be discussed, as well as relevant inter-regional and global initiatives on air quality and health. Current activities within the 2024–2025 workplan of the Task Force will also be discussed.