



ZERO POLLUTION STAKEHOLDER MEETING



7th Zero Pollution Stakeholder Platform meeting Monday, 3 March 2025

Agenda item 4: Role and functioning of the Zero Pollution Stakeholder Platform

The Zero Pollution Stakeholder Platform was [set up in October 2021](#) to support the European Commission in realising the objectives of the [Zero Pollution Action Plan](#) bringing together stakeholders and experts of different policy areas (e.g. health, agriculture, research and innovation, transport, digitalisation and the environment). It was set up in cooperation with the European Committee of the Regions. The Platform currently has 37 members (including business, civil society, local and regional as well as research organisations) and several observers as well as an associated Zero Pollution Steering Group of the Member States.

The group's specific tasks are:

- to identify and address social, economic and cultural barriers to the transition towards zero pollution;
- to exchange views, experiences and good practices and
- to promote integration of zero pollution in national sectoral policies.

Since 2021, the Commission has made significant progress by completing nearly 90% of its actions in the Zero Pollution Action Plan, including all legislative actions being proposed and all but one adopted by the co-legislator. The Platform held [six Zero Pollution Stakeholder Platform meetings](#), several online activities (webinars, workshops, steering committees with Member States) and supported the efforts on a number of cross-cutting topics and enablers, namely digitalisation or zero pollution efforts in cities and regions.

Now, with the new mandate for the Commission, the work on zero pollution moves into the next phase. Commissioner Roswall will “*focus on enforcement and implementation of existing legislation related to environment, biodiversity and zero-pollution, taking into account the importance of simplification and dialogue with stakeholders*”. The further implementation of the Zero Pollution Action Plan can contribute to work on sustainable prosperity and competitiveness, resilience as well as sustaining our quality of life.



The Commission has also re-affirmed its commitment to stakeholder consultations and dialogues, e.g. by organising regular Implementation Dialogues. The Zero Pollution Stakeholder Platform can play a role in this context. In doing so, there is a need to further develop and re-direct the focus and functioning of the Platform to operate more effectively in the new context. This provides also an opportunity to address some of the findings and stakeholder feedback from the evaluation of the Platform carried out in 2024¹.

The Committee of the Regions has re-affirmed its commitment to the work of the Zero Pollution Stakeholder Platform. The involvement of local and regional authorities in policies to fight pollution is essential to make EU objectives a reality on the ground. The Committee of the Regions has adopted several opinions linked to the Zero Pollution Ambition and included pollution issues in activities of the Green Deal Going Local Initiative.

Therefore, the Commission, in cooperation with the European Committee of the Regions, proposes the following changes:

- Update the [terms of reference](#) and align them with the new political priorities until 2029.
- In light of solicitations received, make a call for new applicants thereby offering the possibility of increasing the number of organisations able to participate in the meetings while maintaining the right balance between the different types of organisations.
- Ensure synergies with other stakeholder platforms such as the [Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform](#), the [European Business & Biodiversity Platform](#) and the [High-Level Roundtable on the Chemicals Strategy](#), also for the purpose of contributing to the Implementation Dialogues.
- Focus on implementation and simplification, while showcasing practical cases, success stories, best practices across companies, regions, cities, next to examples enabling to achieve a streamlined implementation of relevant legislation.

When introducing these changes, the Commission and the Committee of the Regions will also ensure that more time is allocated for discussing and networking, next to creating other opportunities for interactions, e.g. online events like the 'Zero Pollution Talks'.

These changes will be implemented in the coming months and become effective as of the next meeting of the Platform, scheduled for the second half of 2025.

¹ https://environment.ec.europa.eu/document/download/83e7a582-188e-4c73-b909-261860043459_en?filename=5.DEUGENIO-ENV-ZPSP_evaluation.pdf