

# Workshop on Environment and Health Air Quality Research Needs and Opportunities in FP7

## — Introductory Remarks


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concaawe

- CONServation of Clean Air and Water in Europe
- Established in 1963 by a small group of leading oil companies
- Initial focus on carrying out research on environmental issues
- Scope gradually expanded to include health and safety issues and we have been building up expertise in these areas
- Current membership covers 100% of EU-based crude oil refining capacity
- Work programmes encompass air quality, water quality, fuels quality and emissions, soil contamination, waste, occupational and public health, process safety, petroleum product stewardship and cross-country pipeline performance

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- To acquire pertinent scientific, economic, technical and legal information on environmental, health and safety issues relating to the refining of crude oil and the distribution and use of petroleum products
  - To communicate the findings in order to improve understanding of these issues by all stakeholders including industry, authorities and the public at large

## We want to provide opportunities for debating research needs and priorities:

- An impressive amount of research has been reported but there are still important knowledge gaps and apparent inconsistencies
  - In our view these knowledge gaps are most apparent in the link between health effects and specific pollutants and mechanisms of action
- Over recent years, new methods/approaches for researching complex multi-causal impacts have become available
  - Together with an increase in the number of skilled groups able to contribute to such research
- Setting the right research priorities will benefit from the widest possible participation/consultation of leading scientists and other stakeholders
  - Good air quality is an international ambition with regional dimensions

- The new EU framework programme for research (FP7), scheduled to run from 2007-2013, has identified research needs for air quality health effects on the basis of inputs from
  - the Clean Air For Europe programme
  - the European Environment and Health Action Plan
- CONCAWE has proposed to DG Research to convene this workshop and developed the programme in consultation, also supported by the ECNIS Network of Excellence
- We hope workshop outputs will contribute to research proposal submissions in response to the first FP7 call (published 22 Dec. 2006)
- Further, we want to help define focus areas for future calls under FP7 as well as other institutional and private research programmes
- CONCAWE and/or its Member Companies may also consider funding some of this research
- We will prepare a report of this workshop which will be made available to all participants