

OSTRAVA!!! DECLARATION ON INDUSTRIAL AIR POLLUTION

Adopted at the '[Fighting Air Pollution in Industrial Cities of Europe](#)' international conference held on November 19-21, 2018 in Ostrava (Czech Republic)

We, the participants in the above-mentioned international conference from Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Italy, Kazakhstan, Poland, and Ukraine, recognize the importance of air pollution in our region for the environment and human health of both current and future generations. Pollution does not respect borders. It is one of the great existential challenges of the Anthropocene Era and threatens the survival of human societies. Toxic air, water, soils, and workplaces cost 6% of global GDP. The deaths attributed to pollution are triple those from AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis combined. Air pollution alone kills 4.5 million people every year.

Therefore, we call on our governments, state authorities and public bodies, inter-governmental organizations, international financial institutions, and industry to:

- provide citizens with the **right to information** and make operatively (as soon as possible) publicly accessible all available data on air pollution and the environmental and health impacts of air pollution, such as data from all kinds of emission and imission monitoring, data on public health, morbidity and mortality – free of charge, using up-to-date technologies (online databases, mobile applications, etc.);
- secure independent, reliable, and appropriate **air quality monitoring systems** (both emission and imission monitoring), and **smog warning and regulation systems**;
- start or accelerate the process of the **implementation and use of the standards** valid in the European Union, as the best available set of legislative and technical requirements having a visibly positive impact on the level of pollution – especially EU Directive 2008/50/EC on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe and Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions;
- **avoid the use of double standards**, especially by multinational corporations, irrespective of the specific details of the national legislation. We believe that human lives have the same value all around the globe and corporations should pay the same attention to the protection of the environment and human health in any country;
- **improve enforcement of the law**, including existing current systems of the state and public monitoring and control of pollutant emissions, and appropriate fines for violations of the law;
- **not provide any public funding for environmentally harmful investments** and support only those investments that undoubtedly lead to improvements in the environmental situation and use the best available techniques;
- **widen the space for public participation in decision making** related to air pollution, such as environmental or integrated permitting, including informal methods of involvement of the wider public, and take public opinion into account.

We are deeply concerned by the increasing number of cases of the **harassment of environmental activists** and call on the public authorities and private entities to immediately stop any acts of violence against activists, prevent possible future cases, and thoroughly investigate existing cases.

We urge civil society organizations to pay attention to the topic of air pollution and unite the efforts to **enforce access to information and public participation in decision making** on the topic.

Ostrava, November 21, 2018