

Annual report 2011

In 2011 three Members organised international conferences in cooperation with EFCA: A third symposium on Ultrafine particles (UFP-3, May, Brussels) was followed by an event which took stock of the wider interactions of air pollution with climate and biodiversity and which explored dimensions of international developments (One atmosphere, September, Paris). The third event was the sixth symposium on Non-CO₂ Greenhouse Gases (NCGG-6, November, Amsterdam). EFCA also started this year an internet discussion at its Forum at www.efca.net. The satisfaction on a productive year was overshadowed by the decease of EFCA's president, Jean-Marie Rambaud, at the end of the year.

Activities

The series on Ultrafine particles, hosted by GUS in cooperation with the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology since 2007, proved to have matured towards a meeting place for connecting science with policy. In a dedicated session on the Metrics of particulate matter a group of scientists proposed an innovative approach for a more effective protection of public health against exposure to PM by suggesting to consider regulation of black carbon particles (BCP). The proposal could solve the present approach of PM based on mass which ignores specific toxicity as well as specific sources and which may, therefore, not be cost-effective.

In September EFCA responded to a Public Hearing of the European Commission with respect to the revision of the Air Quality Directive. Apart from repeating recommendations from its earlier Policy Initiatives, it asked the Commission to consider the proposal for regulation of BCP and so have it included in the policy agenda in Brussels.

The BCP-proposal at UFP-3 was also the topic of a discussion at EFCA's Forum pages at www.efca.net "Possible regulation of Black Carbon Particles" which started in December. The response in the first Round was reason for a continuation in 2012.

The conference "One atmosphere – making the connections", hosted by APPA and co-sponsored by IUAPPA and the Global Forum on Air Pollution, aimed to take stock of possible answers at the challenges of IUAPPA's Vancouver Declaration (2010). It addressed connections of air pollution with climate change, ecosystem services and biodiversity losses and the options for an integrated and coordinated approach of these at international levels.

The sixth symposium on Non-CO₂ Greenhouse Gases, hosted by VVM-CLAN, and co-sponsored by US-EPA and IGBP-IGAC, continued its role as global event on the science of all greenhouse gases except CO₂ and the implementation of new insights into policy.

Conference reports and further documentation on these activities are available at <http://efca.net/index.php?page=efca-events>.

Presidency

On 11 December 2011 Jean-Marie Rambaud died at the age of 64. Three weeks before he had informed EFCA that his health forced him to step back as EFCA's president.. Less than three months before he had still chaired the Opening session of the "One atmosphere" symposium of which he had coordinated the organisation and on which he delivered a summary afterwards for EFCA's Newsletter. The Assembly had left no time to award its past-president with Honorary Membership upon his retreat. His death is a great loss for his dears and many friends; EFCA lost an active president who contributed much to its development and position in Europe.

EFCA's past-president, Giuseppe Fumarola was ready to stand in as president ad interim, until the election of a new president.

Miscellaneous

At its annual meeting EFCA's Assembly decided to renew the EFCA-strategy for the period 2012-2016. A draft has been prepared and is being considered in a small Task Force. Also with an eye on the renewal of its external relations the president invited the European Network of Environmental Professionals to explore the interest for a liaison. It was not possible to arrange a meeting that year.

As usual the EFCA secretariat produced and circulated three Newsletters, respectively in March, July and November. The website was held up-to-date. In 2011 membership remained constant at 15 organisations.