



# EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF CLEAN AIR AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ASSOCIATIONS

The European Symposium on Environmental Protection

## **Annual Report 2008**

*In 2008 EFCA successfully raised the awareness of policymakers and politicians across Europe when asking attention for the need of an integrated approach in policies addressing climate change and air pollution at a symposium in Strasbourg, France. By renewing its website and circulation of three Newsletters EFCA increased its visibility in Europe.*

The year 2008 may distinguish itself most by the coordinated efforts of EFCA and, through its Global Forum on Air Pollution, IUAPPA, to place the co-benefits of integrated clean air and climate changes policies at the international political agenda's. While the GAP Forum addressed the international bodies at the United Nations level EFCA could focus on the European Union and the Executive Body of the Convention on Long Range Transboundary Transport, which are established allies in the fight for clean air in Europe for a long time. At an international EFCA symposium in Strasbourg in November key factors - which include basic scientific knowledge, assessment tools, energy policies and institutional requirements - were systematically presented and discussed with participation from the European Commission and European Parliament. The results were summarised in a Conference report and Main conclusions by the hosting association, APPA, and have subsequently been sent to the European presidency, Council, Parliament and the Commission; in addition, EFCA Members informed their national governments. In 2009 a Special Issue of APPA's journal *Pollution Atmosphérique* will be devoted to the co-benefits theme.

Stavros Dimas, Commissioner for Environment of the European Union, expressed his appreciation at the clear and targeted conclusions and informed the EFCA presidency to agree with them and to work at their implementation. He would also welcome proposals for further cooperation.

A particular feature of the Strasbourg symposium was the way how it was prepared. While most EFCA events are at the initiative of one of its Members which subsequently takes care for the complete contents and management, the present one resulted from a discussion in the EFCA Assembly in 2007 and had an international Organising Committee of EFCA delegates.

### *Website*

This year EFCA renewed its website substantially. A new design of the Home page provided an opportunity to restructure the information and add new categories. Under Policy information the visitor may find a summary of present EU regulations, presently covering Air quality while being extended to other domains, including climate change. The procedure for updating the information is simpler and primarily the responsibility of the secretariat.

### *Newsletter*

The EFCA Newsletter completed a full subscription year with three issues, respectively in February, May and December. A more even spread over the year, though preferable, was at odds with the role of the Newsletter to report on or promote EFCA's events. The issues provide an up-to-date summary of policy developments in Brussels and Geneva over the period since the preceding issue of the Newsletter. It is circulated across Europe to members of EFCA associations and among a selection of stakeholders and experts in Europe; it can also be downloaded from the EFCA website.

### *Assembly meeting*

The Assembly had its annual meeting in November in Strasbourg. It was decided that a small committee would prepare a draft workplan which could fill in the remaining period of the present EFCA strategy till 2012 and beyond. Apart from identifying targeted activities with a relation to the European policy developments it will address the means to get them implemented.

### *Membership Initiative*

The number of associations which participate in EFCA remained constant at 14 during 2008. An IUAPPA initiative provided an opportunity to invite a number of experts from non-EFCA countries to come to Strasbourg, in order to discuss ways to have the clean air and climate change communities in their countries informed on the activities of both organisations and to participate in them. The useful discussions have resulted in agreements on regular information exchange.

*Adopted in the Assembly meeting on 20 May 2009*