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Editorial

Eco-terrorism

by Andrzej Jagusiewicz, president of EFCA

face it now. According to the encyclopaedic term „Eco-terrorism is an act of violence which is committed in support of environmental causes.

What is exactly eco-terrorism and do we, In Europe, against people or property”. The beginning of eco-terrorist acts occurred in the United States in the sixties of the last century. That’s why most of the states in the US have introduced laws aimed at penalizing eco-terrorism and made its definition more complex. The United States Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) defines eco-terrorism as "...the use or threatened use of violence of a criminal nature against innocent victims or their property by an environmentally oriented, subnational group for environmental-political reasons, or aimed at an audience beyond the target, often of a symbolic nature”.

Animal Liberation Front (ALF) was identified as the most dangerous pro-environmental organization at that time, followed by many others but less important and finally ending by famous individuals like Ted Kaczynski nicknamed UNABOMBER* arrested in 1996 and jailed for life (he died in prison quite recently).

The environment is a value in itself and needless to argue that human society is responsible for its degradation. This belief can give rise to radical environmental actions, but they shouldn’t be identified as eco-terrorism, even if lead to property damage. Also we can’t forget about the freedom of economic activities, but they must follow at least the UN Sustainable Development Strategy and its goals (UNSDS), where appropriate.

There is no specific regulations and rules in Europe against eco-terrorism, but there are many, which target just terrorism. The first was the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism, concluded in Strasbourg in 1977 by the Council of Europe. In Article 1 to traditional offences involving a use of a bomb, grenade, rocket and automatic firearm were added a letter or parcel bomb, if their use endangers person. The latter were used by UNABOMBER.

Aware of the grave concern caused by the increase in terrorist offences and the growing terrorist threat, the Council of Europe adopted in 2005 another treaty, in case the Convention on the prevention of terrorism.

Laws against eco-terrorism in order to be effective can't be fragmented because eco-terrorism benefits from other types of terrorism like chemical or radiological (for example nuclear power plant in Ukraine subject to sabotage by the aggressor country, Russia) or in the cyberspace. For that reason, there is no mention about eco-terrorism in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, a short document produced at the 1992 United Nations "Conference on Environment and Development" (UNCED). The Rio Declaration consisted of 27 principles intended to guide countries in their activities and inspired the elaboration of the UN Sustainable Development Strategy and its 17 goals in 2015.

In order to avoid environmental radicalism or even to prevent any eco-terrorist act, the UNECE** Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, was signed in 1998 in Aarhus (Denmark) and entered into force three years later. Today it has 47 parties, including the European Union.

The treaty is a right-based approach, providing a wide and easy access to environmental information for any citizen and guaranteeing public participation in decision-making processes concerning the local, national or even transboundary environment. Of course, the Convention also gives the right to the public to judicial or administrative recourse procedure in

case a Party violates or fails to adhere to environmental law.

The Aarhus Convention has been transposed to the EU regulation and together with the legal package aimed at protecting the environment (Strategies, Directives etc.) ensures the dialogue and consensus-finding administrative procedure in environmental decision-making at any level.

In response to the World Trade Centre terrorist attack and growing insecurity in Europe afterwards, the EU elaborated Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which was adopted by the European Council in December 2005. Its aim was to develop European counterterrorism arrangements and form a network of the member states in the fight against terrorism. The accompanying action plan contains 160 separate measures, whose rely on the four pillars (prevent, protect, pursue and respond)***.

To exhaust, the international legal framework against terrorism, but also against eco-terrorism, the General Assembly of the UN adopted in 2006 the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which is so far a unique global instrument to enhance national, regional and international efforts to counter terrorism. Through its adoption by consensus all UN Member States agreed to a common strategic and operational approach to fighting terrorism.

It has to be also underlined that the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), although adopted by the Council of Europe many years ago is still a living instrument due to regular updating and adapting to the political and social circumstances. All countries of the EU are already Parties of it. The articles 9, 10 and 11 of ECHR, explicitly guarantee freedom of thought, conscience and religion, freedom of expression and freedom of assembly and association. It means that protests against infrastructure projects e.g. highway or airport or against logging and cutting trees are legal and constitute a common form of human expression. The latter can be quite strong provided it doesn't lead to violence and property damage.

To sum up, the EU countries are well equipped in a set of laws preventing act of eco-terrorism on one side and identifying and punishing them on another

one. The best prevention against eco-terrorism are public consultations regularly launched by the European Commission. In general, they concern the policy areas selected by the societal organizations when they were entering on the Transparency Register of the EU. In case of EFCA the consultation process may concern climate action, environment or public health. Needless to write that our organization is systematically involved in such a procedure****.

However, we shouldn't forget that non-respect of the UN regulatory framework and that of the EU concerning the protection of the environment and public rights by the governments, including non-respect of the rulings of the European Court of Justice can create a favourable condition to emotional manifestations and in extreme cases even lead to acts of eco-terrorism.

*UNABOMBER-was a University professor (UN)

**United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

*** [EconStor: EU strategy on counter terrorism: Steps towards a coherent network policy](#)

****https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives_en?frontEndStage=OPC_LAUNCHED

News from EFCA

9th Annual Meeting of TFTEI

by Andrzej Jagusiewicz, president of EFCA

From 12-13 June 2023 the 9th annual meeting of TFTEI took place in Warsaw. The meeting reviewed the latest developments under the Air Convention related to the Gothenburg Protocol as amended (AGP), particularly the policy options and discussed priority issues in the work-plan 2024-2025 in cooperation with other Task Forces set under this treaty.

Partly, the agenda was also devoted to technological pathway towards the ratification of the AGP by EECCA* and SEE** countries (in case Armenia and Montenegro), to improving the regional air pollution (Krakow) and to abatement of emissions, mainly PM, from small combustion installations, using low-carbon fuels.

The President of EFCA prepared the presentation titled „From EGTEI*** to TFTEI and from Warsaw 2011 to Warsaw 2023” reviewing in a historical context the achievements of the group and providing advice on its future activities in a short- and long-term.



9th annual meeting of TFTEI at Warsaw in June 2023

The meeting was co-chaired last time by M. Jean-Guy Bartaire (CITEPA) and Tiziano Pignatelli (ENEA). The latter will retire in Autumn 2023.

*Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia

**South-East and Eastern Balkans

***Expert Group on Techno-Economic Issues set in 1999 and upgraded to Task Force in 2014 by the decision of the Executive Body

“XVI Congress of protecting classified information related to business and persons”

by Andrzej Jagusiewicz, president of EFCA

EFCA President Andrzej Jagusiewicz attended the “XVI Congress of protecting classified information related to business and persons” in Rynia (Poland) on 15-16 May 2023, and was invited to participate in the panel discussion on the eco-terrorism (see Editorial). In conclusion, he underlined that despite the existing instruments for peaceful and partnership environmental decision-making, there is a risk for uncontrolled protests and even acts of eco-terrorism. The latter can happen when the Governments don't respect the UN regulatory framework and that of the EU, including the rulings of the European Court of Justice.

During the Gala Dinner, the President has received the „Ring of Patriot”, a well-known distinction in Poland for persons contributing to build the national security. In case, “PhD Andrzej Jagusiewicz has greatly contributed during his professional life to ecological safety of his country” as it was said.



XVI Congress of protecting classified information related to business and persons

In Memoriam Johannes (Joop) Van Ham (who passed away peacefully on 10th of June 2023 in Delft): an appreciation from his Colleagues and Friends in EFCA delivered at the funeral ceremony on 16th of June by Andrzej Jagusiewicz, president of EFCA



Joop van Ham; former EFCA Director General and Treasurer

We were greatly saddened to hear of the death of our colleague and friend Joop Van Ham, who contributed so much to the development of an evidence-based European policy for air protection and who played such a significant part in the founding and development of EFCA as a vehicle for championing it.

Joop will be remembered for the breadth and ambition of his vision for a clean air future. He believed strongly in the value of combining action to combat air pollution with action on climate change, and he was a keen advocate of a “one atmosphere” approach to air protection through a Single Law on the Atmosphere. He made a powerful

case for this in an important address to the 2010 World Clean Air Congress in Vancouver, explaining how such an approach grew out of the UN principles and the precedent created by the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change as a regime for governing the global atmosphere.

He was instrumental in developing EFCA’s series of Policy Initiatives, particularly on Ultrafine Particles, including Black Carbon using his deep knowledge of the practicalities of reducing air pollution to propose more effective remedies for the specific problems of its different components. Joop has also built the link to the General Directorates for Environment and Transport and was successful in networking with various European Partner Organizations. These initiatives have already had an impact on air protection legislation across Europe and will continue to influence policy in future.

Joop was a member of EFCA’s governing body, The EFCA Assembly, from its foundation and, until 2016 Secretary General and then Treasurer till 2020. His advice at Assembly meetings was always constructive and much valued. He was a great source of inspiration and support for innovation and ambitious initiatives.

He was a true gentleman and an exemplary husband travelling almost always with his beloved wife Christine. We also remember him as a kind, wise, friendly and amusing speaker at our gatherings and we will miss him very much.

“Death never takes the wise man by surprise; He is always ready to go” (Just La Fontaine). Our death is not an end if we can live on in our children, in case His two sons Hubert and Hans.

And let me finish by this short poem of unknown author: Life is but a stopping place.... A pause in what’s to be A resting place along the road....to sweet eternity. “Rust in vrede Dear Joop”

News from EFCA Members



Activities Commission on Air Pollution Prevention of VDI and DIN (KRdL) 2022/2023

by Rudolf Neuroth, VDI

In 2022, the VDI/DIN Commission on Air Pollution Prevention (KRdL) - Standards Committee published more than 60 new Technical Rules to keep "fit" the VDI/DIN Handbook "Air Pollution Prevention" for answering the current questions of air pollution prevention.

The six volumes of the VDI/DIN Handbook "Air Pollution Prevention" today comprise more than 470 VDI standards and over 160 DIN standards of the KRdL and provide answers to almost all questions on the subject of "Air Pollution Prevention". The spectrum of topics ranges from measurement technology, e.g. for particulate matter or mercury, to the acquisition and provision of plant data for support of the BAT (Best Available Techniques) process in Seville, as well as meteorological measurements and dispersion modelling, up to environmental medical assessment and measurement of bioaerosols, and the requirements for mobility management manager.

More than 1,200 honorary experts from business, science and administration are currently active in about 170 working groups in the preparation of VDI standards and DIN standards of the KRdL. Nearly 40 national and international standardisation projects were discussed and approved in 2022 in the four expert advisory boards of the KRdL. Among the new publications in 2022 were the draft of DIN EN 12341, which presents the validated standard measurement procedure for determining the PM10 and PM2.5 concentration of suspended particulate matter in ambient air, and the draft standard VDI 4250 Part 1, which describes the effect of microbial air pollutants on humans. A highlight of the year 2022 is the re-entry into the mandated work for the

European Commission in CEN/TC 264 "Air Quality". In WG 13, validation work started on the preparation of a series of standards for the determination of the concentration of ozone precursors in ambient air. The standardisation is directly related to the EU Air Quality Directive.

The reduction of climate gases and the new TA Luft were the focal points of the VDI symposium "Emissionsminderung 2022" on May 4/5, 2022 in Nürnberg, which was organized by KRdL Division I together with VDI-Wissensform GmbH face to face. At the KRdL workshop "Heat Action Plans" held in Düsseldorf on November 4, 2022, it was decided to start standardization work on this topic based on existing tool boxes for heat action plans. The first meeting took place in March 2023. With this standardization work, among other things, the KRdL is also very actively involved in this year's VDI focus topic "Climate Adaptation".

For more information on the KRdL and its standardisation activities see www.vdi.de/krdl.



VDI: New and reviewed European Standards

- **FprEN 12341:2023**, *Ambient air – Standard gravimetric measurement method for the determination of the PM10 or PM2,5 mass concentration of suspended particulate matter*
- **EN 14884:2022**, *Stationary source emissions – Determination of total mercury – Automated measuring systems*
- **FprEN 15267-1:2023**, *Air quality – Assessment of air quality monitoring equipment – Part 1: General principles of certification*
- **FprEN 15267-2:2023**, *Air quality – Assessment of air quality monitoring equipment – Part 2: Initial assessment of the manufacturer's quality management system and post certification surveillance for the manufacturing process*

- **prEN ISO 16000-9:2023**, *Indoor air – Part 9: Determination of the emission of volatile organic compounds from building products and furnishing – Emission test chamber method (ISO/DIS 16000-9:2023)*

- **prEN 17255-4:2022**, *Stationary source emissions – Data acquisition and handling systems – Part 4: Specification of requirements for the installation and on-going quality assurance and quality control of data acquisition and handling systems*

- **CEN/TR 17911:2023**, *Stationary source emissions – Guideline for the elaboration of standardized measurement methods – Recommendations for the structure and content*

- **ISO/DIS 7935:2023**, *Stationary source emissions – Determination of the mass concentration of sulfur dioxide in flue gases – Performance characteristics of automated measuring systems*

- **ISO/FDIS 15259:2022**, *Air quality – Measurement of stationary source emissions – Requirements for measurement sections and sites and for the measurement objective, plan and report*

- **ISO/DIS 16000-9:2023**, *Indoor air – Part 9: Determination of the emission of volatile organic compounds from building products and furnishing – Emission test chamber method*

- **ISO 20181:2023**, *Stationary source emissions – Quality assurance of automated measuring systems (Adoption of EN 14181:2014)*

- **ISO 23032:2022**, *Meteorology – Ground-based remote sensing of wind – Radar wind profiler*

Reviewed Standards

- **ISO 12219-2:2012**, *Interior air of road vehicles – Part 2: Screening method for the determination of the emissions of volatile organic compounds from vehicle interior parts and materials – Bag method (confirmed)*

- **ISO 12219-3:2012**, *Interior air of road vehicles – Part 3: Screening method for the determination of the emissions of volatile organic compounds from vehicle interior parts and materials – Micro-scale chamber method (confirmed)*

- **ISO 16000-26:2012**, *Indoor air – Part 26: Sampling strategy for carbon dioxide (CO2) (confirmed)*



Clean Air Day 2023 – Young Leaders’ Video Message

by EP-Scotland (EPS)

On 15th of June 2023 Clean Air Day, the largest air pollution campaign took place in the UK.

EPS has teamed up with the Scottish Wildlife Trust Young Leaders to outline the messaging and overall theme of the campaign this year and actions you can take to support cleaner and healthier air for everyone!

<https://www.ep-scotland.org.uk/news/clean-air-day-2023/>



Air Pollution in Heatwaves: New measurement insights from UNECE Air Convention will improve modelling to sharpen policy response

[*Air pollution in heatwaves: new measurement insights from UNECE Air Convention will improve modelling to sharpen policy response | UNECE*](#)

The interlinkages between air pollution and climate change are manifold, even though discussions at the international level tend to often take place separately: air pollutants and greenhouse gases are often emitted by the same sources, leading to complex chemical interactions in the atmosphere. A warmer atmosphere, for example, will have implications for air quality, as it is expected that more ground-level ozone (O3) is formed under those conditions, affecting our health and climate.

As we witness more frequent extreme weather events as a result of a changing climate, such as the heatwaves that affected many parts of Europe and the US last summer, we need to be able to model how extreme weather events impact air pollution to inform decision-making to reduce emissions and mitigate their impact. In this context, experts from the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling under the UNECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (Air Convention) discussed findings and lessons learnt from a field measurement campaign carried out in the summer of 2022 at their annual meeting (Warsaw, 10-12th May 2023).

The campaign led to the collection of an unprecedented set of measurements of 146 individual types of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and secondary organic aerosol markers at 27 monitoring sites in 13 State Parties to the Convention. VOCs react with nitrogen oxides (NO_x) in the presence of sunlight to form ground-level ozone, which has severe impacts on human health (e.g. reduced lung function, asthma, fatigue and headaches), and on the climate as it also is a greenhouse gas.

Location of the 27 air pollution monitoring stations having collected VOC samples during the campaign in the summer 2022.

This new knowledge base is expected to shed light on the main sources of ground-level ozone and aerosol air pollution and the specific VOCs that are most abundant and prone to contribute to its formation during intense heat waves and to thereby enable the development of models to reproduce such events, to guide targeted policy responses.

The Air Convention's 1999 Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (Gothenburg Protocol), as amended in 2012, includes legally binding emissions reduction commitments for 2020 and beyond for major air pollutants: sulphur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), ammonia (NH₃), volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}). It is the only legally binding instrument in the world to

reduce levels of key atmospheric pollutants on a broad regional basis.

The UNECE Air Convention, adopted in 1979, provides a unique and binding regional instrument through which 51 parties in the pan-European and North American regions cooperate to deliver emission reductions for the major pollutant substances.

News about Air Quality



Cutting pollution would significantly reduce heart attacks and strokes in Europe

The EEA assessment '[Beating cardiovascular disease— the role of Europe's environment](#)' gives an overview of the evidence on the environmental determinants of cardiovascular disease in Europe and the corresponding EU policy responses. The analysis shows that reducing exposure to pollution and mitigating and adapting to climate change, as well as fighting energy poverty, can significantly reduce the burden of cardiovascular disease and resulting deaths in Europe.

Recent studies indicate that at least 18% of all cardiovascular disease deaths in Europe are estimated to be due to key environmental factors, including exposure to air pollution, extreme temperatures, second-hand smoke and lead. The EEA analysis notes, however, that this figure is likely an underestimate as it does not take into account workplace exposure, noise pollution or toxic chemicals other than lead. Moreover, some factors, such as night-time light pollution or the combined effect of exposure to different chemicals, are still poorly understood.

The EEA analysis highlights that environmental risks are preventable but individual citizens have limited possibilities for protecting themselves. This means

that laws and regulations, including those set by the EU, and their effective implementation are needed to reduce the environmental burden of disease for all citizens. Despite some uncertainties and gaps in data, scientific evidence solidly supports reducing environmental exposure as a cost-effective strategy to reduce cardiovascular disease, the EEA analysis concludes.

The EEA assessment on environment and cardiovascular disease is part of the Agency's work supporting the implementation and monitoring of the EU [zero pollution action plan](#), which is one of the key initiatives under the **European Green Deal**. [Cutting pollution would significantly reduce heart attacks and strokes in Europe \(europa.eu\)](#)

Calendar



www.vdi.de/krdl and www.vdi.de/veranstaltungen



National Congress on Air Pollution Prevention and Climate Issues

22-23th August, 2023, Lappeenranta, Finland

Info in Finnish: <https://isy.fi/toiminta/finnish-air-pollution-prevention-society/>



International Conference and 13th Croatian Scientific and Professional Meeting “Air Protection 2023”;
20-23th September 2023, Mlini, Dubrovnik, Croatia

More information at: <https://zastitazraka.imi.hr/en/>



61st session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review

04-06th September 2023; Geneva, Switzerland

<https://unece.org/info/events/event/371555>



Air Quality Management in Asia & IUAPPA Regional Conference 2023 (8th-12th October 2023)

[IUAPPA](#)



Conference „**Transforming towards a sustainable society - challenges and solutions**”

11-13th October, 2023, at KIT Karlsruhe, Germany

<https://indico.scc.kit.edu/event/3601/>



Announcement:

2nd World Conference on Climate Change & Sustainability

October 16th, 2023; Rome, Italy

<https://climateweek.thepeopleevents.com/>



43rd Session of the Executive Body

11-14th December 2023; Geneva, Switzerland

<https://unece.org/info/events/event/371557>

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