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Scenarios for a Regulatory Future of Urban Organic Pollutants

Air pollution is one of the major environmental problems of cities of heavy traffic and industry, consisting of both inorganic and organic pollutants. Inorganic pollutants, like CO, CO2, NOx, SOx, are usually present in high concentrations and their short and long term effects are well described and we can state relatively well working regulation system has been developed. However, organic pollutants are usually present in much smaller concentrations, their effects are not so precisely described and their regulation is not as efficient as desired and our experience suggests choosing a flexible boundary between risk assessment and risk management for the environmental regulation of PAHs, as opposed to the use of chemicals. For the latter, health/safety issues are well known, but for PAHs, we do not exactly know the environmental effects, hence we apply precaution; while the highly different local methods suggest the use of local expertise. Therefore our scenario of choice would be 'Europe as a translator' for the environmental regulation of PAHs.