

**Batumi Action for Cleaner Air (BACA)
Actions by Switzerland**

Country: Switzerland

Title:

Implementation of the Swiss Strategy on Air Quality Management

(BACA Actions 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15 and 16)

Description: A Strategy on Air Quality Management was adopted by the Federal Council (Government) in 1985 and acknowledged by the Parliament. This national action plan which included effect oriented targets based on health and ecosystem protection, has been updated in 1999 and in 2009. Besides the effect-oriented emission reduction targets it includes a set of control measures for the following pollutants: sulfur, nitrogen oxides, ammonia, volatile organic compounds and particulate matter. In the future stronger commitments in the framework of different sectoral policies, especially transport, small wood combustion installations and agriculture will be necessary to achieve the air quality standards as set in the Swiss Ordinance on Air Pollution Control.

Expected outcome: Switzerland is committed to further reduce the emissions of pollutants for improving air quality in accordance with standards in line with the WHO air quality guidelines and the critical loads and levels of the Gothenburg Protocol under the Geneva Air Convention.

Partners: Other Parties under the Convention and national partners, cantons and economy

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**Batumi Action for Cleaner Air (BACA)
Actions by Switzerland**

Country: Switzerland

Title:

Ratification and implementation of the three recently revised Protocols to the Geneva Convention on Air Pollution

(BACA Actions 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38 and 39)

Description: The UNECE Geneva Convention on Air Pollution and its 8 additional Protocols were ratified by Switzerland and are currently under implementation. The basic obligations and the emission reduction commitments are all fulfilled (Actions 36, 37 and 42).

In 2015 revision of the Swiss legislations on air pollution control and on chemicals were made in order to bring it in line with the amended Protocol on Heavy Metals. This will then allow submitting ratification's message to the Parliament, probably in 2016 (Actions 38 and 39).

The preparatory work for updates of the Swiss legislation to bring it in line with requirements of the amended Gothenburg Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone to the Air Convention are in progress. This will then allow submitting in 2017 ratification's message to the Parliament. (Action 41).

The Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers was ratified in 2007 and is currently under implementation according to the requirements of the Protocol (Action 40).

Expected outcome: Switzerland is committed to further reduce the emissions of air pollutants and to implement the related Protocols in accordance with the specified requirements of the basic obligations and guidelines for implementation. Updates of legislation in order to bring it in line with the recently amended Protocols will bring new challenges for improving air quality in Switzerland.

Partners: Other Parties under the Convention and national partners, cantons and economy.

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**Batumi Action for Cleaner Air (BACA)
Actions by Switzerland**

Country: Switzerland

Title:

Improvement of public awareness in a way to facilitate the adoption and the implementation of air pollutants abatement measures
(BACA Actions 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 and 26)

Description: All data related to national emissions of pollutants and concentrations monitoring in Switzerland are publicly available on

<http://www.bafu.admin.ch/luft/luftbelastung/index.html?lang=en>

Detailed information are published and freely accessible to the public on

<http://www.bafu.admin.ch/luft/index.html?lang=en>

It concerns mainly the following themes and information on:

- less polluting fuels, renewable energy and energy efficiency, including their use in transport;
- good agricultural practices to reduce emissions of ammonia and to improve the efficiency of nitrogen fertilization;
- human health, environmental and climate effects associated with the reduction of the pollutants;
- steps that individuals and the private sector can take to reduce emissions of the pollutants

Expected outcome: An increased awareness of public and policy makers in a way to facilitate the adoption and the implementation of the required abatement measures in favor of a cleaner air.

Partners: Public in general, policy makers, health sector, private sectors of the economy, NGOs

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**Batumi Action for Cleaner Air (BACA)
Actions by Switzerland**

Country: Switzerland

Title:

Public awareness related to nitrogen compounds in the environment

(BACA Actions 19, 20, 23, 25, 26 and 27)

Description: Nitrogen compounds are vital for the vegetation growth but excessive inputs have negative effects on natural ecosystem due to over-fertilization. Switzerland informs in an extensive way on ammonia emissions from agriculture and about emissions of nitrogen oxides from combustion processes with the objective of protecting human health and the environment. Key points are set on the implementation of good agriculture practice to abate ammonia excessive emissions.

Expected outcome: An animated film produced to explain the nitrogen cascade and its impacts is available:

<http://www.bafu.admin.ch/luft/00575/11210/index.html?lang=en>

As well as documentation on best available techniques in the agriculture to support the implementation by local authorities is available:

<http://www.bafu.admin.ch/luft/13793/14818/15041/index.html?lang=fr>

Partners: Swiss Federal Office for the Environment

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**Batumi Action for Cleaner Air (BACA)
Actions by Switzerland**

Country: Switzerland

Title:

Support of capacity building to improve air quality with a focus on the countries of Central Asia and Azerbaijan
(BACA Actions 28, 29 and 30)

Description: Switzerland undertakes capacity-building activities to support the implementation of measures to improve air quality with a focus put on the countries of Central Asia and Azerbaijan through the initiative taken by the UNECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution by implementation of its action plan to facilitate the accession and implementation of the Convention and its 8 Protocols and amendments hitherto by the countries of the EECCA region.

Expected outcome: Active participation of the representatives of the region at the UNECE Geneva Convention on Air Pollution body meetings and further extension of the cooperation between Switzerland and the countries of Central Asia and Azerbaijan.

Partners: Countries of Central Asia and Azerbaijan; Swiss Federal Office for the Environment; Swiss State Secretary for the Economy; Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs

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