

## **The Environmental Noise Directive 2002/49/EC**

Cost - £15.2m to map all noise in industrial urban areas, airports, railways, roads. ([Regulatory Impact Assessment](#))

### **Talking Points**

The Directive is based on false premises

The regulatory impact assessment of the Directive states different reasons for implementing the directive than those given by the EU. Previous national surveys of noise have stated that people object to it based on whether individuals personally object to noise, whether it irritates, disturbs, whether such noise personally concerns individuals, annoys or upsets at times and becomes a nuisance (Page 3). Yet the European Commission bases its Directive on the desire to reduce emissions from modes of transport that create noise (Page 12). This therefore shows that this directive is yet another means to reduce private transport as part of the EU's costly, authoritarian, green agenda.

A cost without benefit

The impact assessment, see below, states that the purpose of this Directive is investigatory, with no intrinsic benefit. Country-wide noise mapping is therefore an expensive process which should be limited to only major noise areas or enacted on request via petition.

What is it?

A directive to demonstrate noise from local environments from road, sea and air traffic.

[The UK Regulatory Impact Assessment](#) notes that environmental noise is defined in the directive as 'unwanted or harmful outdoor sound created by human activities, including noise emitted by means of transport, road traffic, rail traffic, air traffic, and in built-up areas noise from industry and ports'. It is noise that people are exposed to. It excludes noise made by the person hearing it, domestic activities, neighbour noise, workplace noise, noise inside modes of transport and military noise.

The directive compels member states to [detail](#):

- the determination of exposure to environmental noise, through noise mapping. This is to be carried out every 5 years, working from the busiest, noisiest areas out. The Directive sets minimum standards for noise mapping. Maps must include:
  - A description of the built-up area and the major source of noise considered
  - The authority making the noise
  - Any relevant legal issues relating to the noise
  - Summary results of the noise map
  - An estimate of the number of people exposed to the noise
  - A record of a public consultation
  - Current noise reduction measures in place
  - Actions the competent authority is making, over a 5 year period, to reduce noise in the area mapped
  - Evaluation of the action plan
- information on environmental noise and its effects on the public;
- action plans, based upon noise mapping results, which should be designed to manage noise issues and effects, including noise reduction if necessary;
- preservation plans by the member states where environmental noise quality is good.
- Provide information to the Commission for further community policy

Third Party Opinions

“Noise mapping will not in itself reduce or control human exposure to noise and therefore offers no direct noise or health benefits.” [The UK Government Impact Assessment](#) (page 16).