

How to meet the requirements of the EU Directive on environmental noise relating to the first of strategic noise mapping and action planning including the potential role of noise measurement.

John Hinton, City of Birmingham, UK

Summary of paper for the Symposium on Urban Noise Monitoring Facilities – Lyon 4th October 2004.

The paper will include a summary of the main requirements of Directive 2002/49/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 June 2002 relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise.

Particular attention will be paid to those requirements concerning the first round of urban noise mapping that member states are required to complete by 30th June 2007 and the subsequent production of action plans for the management and, where necessary, the reduction of noise by 18th July 2008.

It will also review the progress of the two working groups set up by the Commission's DG-Environment, namely, Working Group – Assessment of Exposure to Noise (WG-AEN) and Working Group – Health and Socio-Economic Aspects (WG-HSEA). The overriding responsibility placed on these groups is to help member states implement the main requirements of this Directive.

Particular attention will be paid to the issues addressed in of the first version of WG-AEN's 'Good Practice Guide for Strategic Noise Mapping and the Production of Associated Data on Noise Exposure – 5th December 2003.

The paper will also examine the relationship between this Guide and the likely outputs from the Harmonoise and Imagine Projects. The purpose of these projects is to produce harmonised noise calculation methods for use in the second and subsequent rounds of strategic noise mapping.

Finally the paper will address the potential role of noise measurement in relation to the requirements of the Directive.