

RCDs in focus – new report

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New research from the EUIPO shows that Registered Community Design (RCD) filings increased by 36.2% between 2010 and 2019, with an average annual growth rate of 3.5%.

51% of all filings in that period came from Germany, the United Kingdom, France, Italy and Spain. The world's three largest economies – the United States of America, the People's Republic of China and Japan occupy the third, sixth and ninth positions respectively in the top 10 ranking of the countries with the most direct RCD design filings.

Strong RCD filing growth is also observed in Poland and The Netherlands, which round out the top 10.

Taken together, the top 10 countries accounted for 77% of all filings directly submitted to the EUIPO or to the central industrial property offices of the EU Member States in the past decade.

China experienced an RCD filing growth rate of 890.4% between 2010 and 2019, while the USA also grew strongly, with a growth rate of 103.7% during the same period.

Within the EU, direct RCD filings from Poland grew by 92.3% between 2010 and 2019, equating to the highest annual growth rate among the EU-27, of 8%. Direct filings from The Netherlands grew by 46.6% during the period 2010-2019, with an annual growth rate of 5%.

[Read more in the report](#)

[EU Climate Law: Cities and regions demand 5-year action plan](#)



□The President of the European Committee of the Regions has called on the EU to set out a 5-year action plan to ensure all regions and cities are supported in achieving climate neutrality. President Apostolos Tzitzikostas said that monitoring, investment and support in the short-term at regional level were necessary to ensure Europe is on track to deliver its Climate Law, just unveiled by the [European Commission](#), which would legally commit the EU to being climate-neutral by 2050.

□The President of the European Committee of the Regions, **Apostolos Tzitzikostas**, said, “Regions and cities support the goal of a carbon-neutral Europe by 2050, having long recognised the urgency to tackle climate change. They are accelerating efforts locally but need short-term support, not only long-term ambition. Monitoring efforts not only at national level, but at regional level, is fundamental to ensure every region and city is on track. This must be coupled with significant investment that supports every region, city, town and village, especially those heavily reliant on coal. The Committee calls for additional direct funding for those cities and regions whose climate plans are in line with the EU’s ambition. Member states must now urgently agree the EU’s long-term budget so it delivers on its climate ambitions tackles regional disparities and ensures every corner of Europe benefits from digitalisation. We must act now and together, by launching a 5-year action plan that supports every region and city if we are to make neutrality a reality and deliver growth for all.” **Juan Espadas (ES/PES)**, Mayor of Seville and newly appointed Chair of the Commission for the Environment, Climate change and Energy (ENVE) and of the Green Deal Working Group, said: “If the European Commission is serious about making the European Climate Law the heart of the European Green Deal, then we need to make sure that cities and regions are involved because such a transformation cannot happen without their commitment. But to deliver immediate change and win the climate battle, we need more than just targets. We need more financial resources from the European Union and public spending flexibility so local investment in the insulation of houses and schools or in clean public transport can really take off. At the European Committee of the Regions, we will work relentlessly for a Climate Law that is ambitious and socially fair, while continuing to act every day on the ground with our citizens to build a just transition that leaves no people and no regions behind.”The European Committee of the Regions shares the goal of climate neutrality by 2050 and wants an integrated approach, with adaptation strategies linked to National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs). Effective tracking of progress is key to

the visibility, transparency and ownership of efforts to reach climate-neutrality. Data should be collected and mapped at the regional level and be publically available in an open observatory platform [1]. The Committee also highlights the importance of Multilevel Climate and Energy Dialogues and is ready to cooperate with all relevant institutional partners, with a view to maximising the impact and quality of multilevel governance mechanisms in all Members States.

□

On 27 February, the European Committee of the Regions appointed **Rafał Trzaskowski** (PL/EPP), Mayor of Warsaw, as rapporteur on the 'Climate Pact' and **Juan Manuel Moreno Bonilla** (ES/EPP), President of the region of Andalusia, as rapporteur on the 'European Climate Law'. The first will be adopted during the plenary session on 1-2 July 2020 while the second is to be adopted at the plenary session on 12-14 October.

[1] Point 3 – **A Clean Planet for all**, opinion by rapporteur **Michele Emiliano (IT/PES)**, President of the Puglia Region and **Implementing the Clean Energy Package: the NECPs as a tool for local and territorial governance approach to climate, active and passive energy**, opinion by rapporteur **József Ribányi (HU/EPP)**, Member of the County Council of Tolna Megye.

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Press release – Next week's EP plenary session to be held in Brussels not Strasbourg due to force majeure



Por causa de fuerza mayor la sesión plenaria de la próxima semana se celebrará en Bruselas y no en Estrasburgo

Declaración del presidente del Parlamento Europeo, David Sassoli

“Hoy, a las 18 horas, he recibido un informe actualizado del servicio médico del Parlamento Europeo sobre la evolución de COVID-19 que señala que los riesgos para la salud se consideran significativamente más altos si la sesión plenaria del Parlamento de la próxima semana tiene lugar en Estrasburgo”.

Sobre la base de esta evaluación, por causa de fuerza mayor, he decidido que no se cumplen las condiciones de seguridad necesarias para el traslado habitual del Parlamento Europeo a Estrasburgo para la celebración sesión plenaria de la próxima semana.

“He informado a las autoridades francesas y les he agradecido su colaboración en los últimos días”.

“La sesión plenaria se celebrará excepcionalmente en Bruselas. El Parlamento se compromete a reprogramar una sesión plenaria en Estrasburgo de conformidad con los Tratados”.

Vea a continuación la nota de información enviada por el Presidente a todos los eurodiputados y al personal

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/resources/library/media/20200305RES74211/20200305RES74211.pdf>

Air quality: Council adopts conclusions



Environment ministers want air quality objectives to be part of the European Green Deal

The Council today adopted conclusions on air quality which give political guidance for further work on **combatting air pollution**. The EU's existing clean air policy, according to findings of the fitness check of ambient air quality directives, has significantly contributed to improving air quality, but more needs to be done to reduce the negative impact of air pollution on health and the environment.

Although the number of people exposed to air pollution has decreased markedly since 2008, air pollution remains the most significant environmental cause of health problems in the EU. It is estimated to cause more than **400.000 premature deaths each year**, with people in urban areas particularly exposed, and to have harmful effects on ecosystems.

The Council considers that established air quality standards, in particular limit values, have been effective and remain essential to **protect the health of citizens**. However, there is room for improvements to the legislative framework to ensure good air quality across the EU. It welcomes the aim of the Commission, as set out in its Communication on the **European Green Deal**, to further tackle pollution through **preventive and remedial actions**, including by revising air quality standards.

It stresses the need for coherence between clean air policy and other relevant policy areas. This means that air quality objectives should be fully reflected in EU emission source legislation and in the design of new initiatives under the European Green Deal, including smart mobility, smart sector integration, renewable energy, renovation of buildings, residential heating, agriculture and industry.

The Council also welcomes the Commission's intention to take further action towards **zero-emission mobility** and to propose **more stringent emissions standards for petrol and diesel vehicles**, taking into account also pollutants that are not yet regulated, as well as to reduce emission from **maritime transport** and to improve air quality in **ports** and near **airports**.

The Council underlines the importance of prioritisation and take-up of available **funding** for air quality improvements, suggesting to use joint benefits of climate goals and air quality as leverage for **private investments**.

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