



Possible regulation of Black Carbon Particles

Invitation for an Internet discussion at www.efca.net between 5 and 16 December 2011

Dear colleague,

As expert in this field you are kindly invited to participate in a discussion at the Forum page of www.efca.net on “Possible regulation of Black Carbon Particles”.

The important message from the recent UFP-3 symposium (see [Conference report](#)) was that a more effective protection of the population against health risks from atmospheric particulate matter than provided by present EU legislation has been identified and proposed as possible additional regulation: Black Carbon Particles (BCP; considered as equivalent to Elemental Carbon (EC)). It is then likely that policymakers, before taking action, have questions and may want additional information. By making its Forum available for an Internet discussion EFCA intends to facilitate that such questions will be known and more views on the proposal will be heard.

Topics for discussion

EFCA intends to have two discussions: in a first round (5-16 December 2011) questions around the scientific database will be considered. In a second round (January 2012) the focus will be at implementation aspects. The topics for discussion in round I are:

I. Scientific database

1. Does the epidemiological database provide convincing evidence which supports a specific approach for UFP?
2. The UFP fraction is composed of black carbon, organic carbon (OC) and an inorganic fraction (sulphate/nitrate). Is the causal relation with BCP sufficiently strong to support a proposal for regulation? Do we have information which suggests that similar regulation for OC and inorganics is required to reduce health risks?
3. The specific risk of UFP is primarily their size which allows them to penetrate into the blood circulation. The exact mechanism of the *in vivo* effects of UFP is still incomplete. Do we need more insight in these mechanisms for a reliable estimate of the effect of BCP regulation?
4. Could, in spite of an incomplete scientific database, regulation of BCP be considered as a no-regret option?

Questions for discussion will be made accessible at the Forum from 5 December.

Technical details

For participation in the discussion you need a login which is coupled to your e-mail address. The Registration Guide at the Forum page provides the necessary information how to receive it. Participants in a recent EFCA/KIT UFP-symposium EFCA have been registered already and received a login by separate mail.

Click the Forum button at www.efca.net and proceed to the next page by clicking on [here](#) (you may have to press the Control key when clicking); then login and proceed to the preferred discussion page. Then select the question at which you want to react, draft your comment and press Submit (Warning: please do not press the Save or Preview buttons because these are enabled and you would lose your text; when you view your text after submitting, however, you will find an Edit button which allows you to make any corrections you want).