Excelentísimo Señor D. José Luis Martínez-Almeida
Alcalde de Madrid

Excelentísimo Sr. Alcalde,

The World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA) supports the statement of the SESPAS (Spanish Society of Public Health and Health Administration) expressing its concern regarding your decision to reverse the policy on air pollution.

We are concerned about the potential public health impact of your decision to reverse the policy on air pollution in Madrid. As the World Health Organization states, air pollution is a huge problem for public health and a leading cause of non-communicable disease deaths. Air pollution increases hospital admissions and deaths due to cardiac and vascular problems, bronchitis, asthma and other respiratory diseases; in addition to increasing the risk of premature and underweight infants, and of altering neurological development in childhood. In urban areas, traffic generates the bulk of the emissions.

We support the request from SESPAS to keep the measures previously implemented and call on you to develop new policies to tackle the high burden of disease caused by air pollution. The future of Madrid and its population and the future of the world population is linked to our commitments to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The reduction of air pollution contributes to safe, resilient and sustainable cities and is a key strategy in the struggle against climate change. We urge you to consider the human, social and economic impact of your decision. We urge you to provide leadership to ensure that decisions taken protect and promote the health of the residents in Madrid, as well as guarantee the future of our planet, so that future generations can also benefit.

Yours sincerely

Professor Laetitia Rispel
President: World Federation of Public Health Associations

8 July 2019