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### **The new Israeli Clean Air Law**

On 22 July 2008 the Knesset (Israeli parliament) eventually passed the Clean Air Law after 3 years of discussions in the Committee of the Interior and the Environment and the submission of numerous documents by stakeholders and the public. Its main part will become effective in January 2011.

The law comes to replace the provisions of the 1961 Abatement of Nuisance Law that forbid nuisances from air pollution and parts of the 1968 Business Licence Law providing for administrative measures and penalties.

The Clean Air Law, however, has a much wider scope of protected objects than the Abatement of Nuisance Law. It aims to "improve air quality and prevent and reduce air pollution, *inter alia*, by establishing prohibitions and obligations according to the precautionary principle, in order to protect human life, health and quality of life and to protect the environment including natural resources, ecosystems and biodiversity, for the public and for future generations, while considering their needs." The existence of a nuisance to humans is not anymore a condition for the law to show its teeth.

The 97-clause law provides a comprehensive framework for the control and prevention of air pollution by setting responsibilities and imposing obligations on the government, local authorities and industry, including among others new stationary and ambient emission standards, preparation of a national plan for the reduction of air pollution, monitoring procedures and stricter penalty frameworks under one statutory body. It requires that future regulations will be promulgated according to standards established in developed countries, the EU, by the OECD, the WHO, and in international conventions.