

Read the article and do a quiz:

1. Which pollutants decreased by over 75% in the EU between 2010 and 2023?
A) NO_x and NMVOCs
B) Heavy metals (Cd, Hg, Pb), SO_x, PM₁₀
C) CO₂ and NMVOCs
D) All pollutants equally
2. Which policy measures contributed most to emission reductions?
A) EU Emissions Trading System and Industrial Emissions Directive
B) Abandonment of environmental regulations
C) Increased coal usage
D) Reduction of renewable energy
3. What does GVA (Gross Value Added) indicate in this context?
A) Total emissions from industry
B) Economic value generated by industrial production
C) Amount of coal consumed
D) Total pollution fines

Fill in the table

Use the text to fill in the approximate percentage decreases and explain the key drivers (policy, technology, fuel switching, and relocation).

Pollutant / Indicator	2010	2023	% Change	Notes / Reasons for Change
CO ₂				
SO _x				
NO _x				
PM ₁₀				
NMVOC				
Heavy metals (Cd, Hg, Pb)				
Gross Value Added (GVA)				

Discussion

1. Discuss why some pollutants decreased more than others (e.g., heavy metals vs. NO_x).
2. Explain how EU regulations and technological improvements interact to reduce emissions.
3. Compare the European trend with the situation in your country or region: are emissions decreasing while economic output grows? Provide examples.