



UFIPOLNETnews No. 5 (June-2006)

Dear reader,

here are NEWS for measuring ultrafine particles in ambient air and related subjects.

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1 Air Pollution Levels at Traffic Hotspot Areas in European Cities: DG ENV; Science for Environment Policy 04 May, 2006 Issue 20 (EN)

“Traffic-related air pollution is still one of the most worrisome problems in urban areas in Europe. In relation to human health, particulate matter (PM) is one of the pollutants of most concern. There is clear evidence of the adverse health effects from fine particulate matter (PM), and so it is alarming that most traffic-related emissions are in the fine particulates range (< PM2.5).

A recent report by the European Environmental Agency (EEA) studied the air pollution levels at traffic hotspot areas in 20 European cities compared to the urban background concentrations for NO₂, NO_x, PM₁₀, and PM_{2.5}. The goal of this study was to determine which local emission reductions are needed in streets in order to not exceed air quality limit values¹, which are aimed at protecting public health. To analyse and project the air quality, the authors considered the current situation (reference year 2000) and two scenarios aimed at 2030: Current Legislation (CLE) and Maximum Feasible Reductions (MFR). The methodology applied in the report was developed in the EU-funded 'Street Emission Ceiling (SEC)' project. It allows an analysis of the air quality scenario projections at street level and considers particular policies and measures at regional, urban, and street scales.

The main findings of the current study were:

Air pollution is found to be above recommended levels in all the 20 European cities that were considered in the study, especially in streets and other urban hotspots.

For the 2030 air quality projection, the indicative limit value (based on 2010 targets) for PM₁₀ is not expected to be met even in the most optimistic scenario (MFR).

For the 2030 air quality projection, the results suggest that at street level, the annual limit value for NO₂ will be met in only very few cities under the CLE scenario and in most cities under the MRF scenario.

The PM_{2.5} reduction is in line with the significant reductions in the urban and in the street scale PM emissions attributed to the introduction of Euro-5 and Euro-6 compliant vehicles.

The current study illustrates how imperative it is to improve air quality in densely populated urban areas, where human exposure is high due to increased pollutant concentrations. Action is currently being considered at the EU level to combat the particulate matter. At the moment, there is debate on a proposal for a Regulation on type-approval of motor vehicles with respect to emissions and on access to vehicle repair information (for example a new 'Euro 5' standard for diesel cars to limit emissions of particulate matter to 5 mg per kilometre). This proposal received the broad support of EU Environment ministers earlier in March 2006. “

Source: http://reports.eea.eu.int/technical_report_2006_1/en (2006- p.52).

http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/integration/newsalert/themes_en.html#air

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2 Margot Wallström and Stavros Dimas, Vice-President and Member of the EC, measuring the quality of air (EN)

“Participation of Margot Wallström, Vice-President of the EC in charge of Institutional Relations and Communication Strategy and Stavros Dimas, Member of the EC in charge of Environment, in an experiment to measure the level of air pollution by particle matter.”



http://ec.europa.eu/avservices/download/photo_download_en.cfm?id=205811&type=4
CE | Brussels | P-011509/00-08 | 15/09/2005

Commission proposes clean air strategy to protect human health and the environment

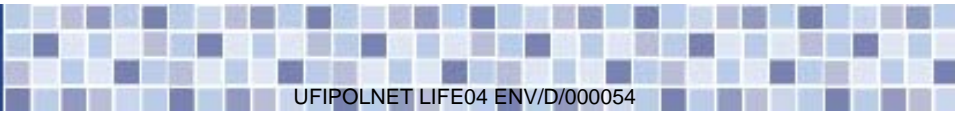
Reference: IP/05/1170 Date: 21/09/2005

IP/05/1170

Brussels, 21 September 2005

“The European Commission today proposed an ambitious strategy for achieving further significant improvements in air quality across Europe. The Thematic Strategy on air pollution aims by 2020 to cut the annual number of premature deaths from air pollution-related diseases by almost 40% from the 2000 level. It also aims to substantially reduce the area of forests and other ecosystems suffering damage from airborne pollutants. While covering all major air pollutants, the Strategy pays special attention to fine dust, also known as particulates, and ground-level ozone pollution because these pose the greatest danger to human health. Under the Strategy the Commission is proposing to start regulating fine airborne particulates, known as PM2.5, which penetrate deep into human lungs. The Commission also proposes to streamline air quality legislation by merging existing legal instruments into a single Ambient Air Quality Directive, a move that will contribute to Better Regulation.”

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UFIPOLNET LIFE04 ENV/D/000054



CONTACT

Dr. Holger Gerwig
Chemist / Desk officer
Project manager of UFIPOLNET

Saxon State Agency for Environment and Geology (LfUG)
22 Regional Air Quality
Department 2 - Integrative Environmental Protection, Air/Climate, Radiation
Postal address: Postfach 80 01 32, 01101 Dresden
Visitor address: Zur Wetterwarte 11, 01109 Dresden

Tel: +49 351-8928 134
Fax: +49 351-8928 402
Email: Holger.Gerwig@lfug.smul.sachsen.de
Internet: <http://www.umwelt.sachsen.de/lfug>
UFIPOLNET: http://www.umwelt.sachsen.de/lfug/luft-laerm-klima_ufipolnet.html

UFIPOLNET = Ultrafine particle size distributions in air pollution monitoring networks
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