



Training event “Climate change and air quality: challenges and objectives for the atmospheric research.”

**IR0000032 – ITINERIS, Italian Integrated Environmental Research Infrastructures System**

(D.D. n. 130/2022 - CUP B53C22002150006) Funded by EU - Next Generation EU PNRR-  
Mission 4 “Education and Research” - Component 2: “From research to business” - Investment  
3.1: “Fund for the realisation of an integrated system of research and innovation infrastructures”



# URBAN AND REGIONAL AIR QUALITY



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# Institute of Environmental Assessment and Water Research

## Environmental Geochemistry & Atmospheric Research

### Department of Geosciences



**EGAR** ENVIRONMENTAL  
GEOCHEMISTRY  
AND ATMOSPHERIC  
RESEARCH

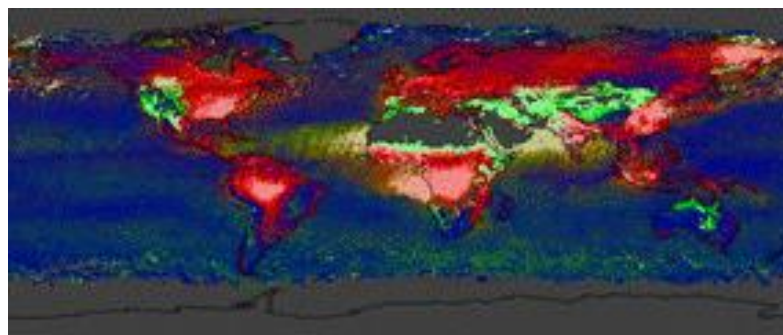
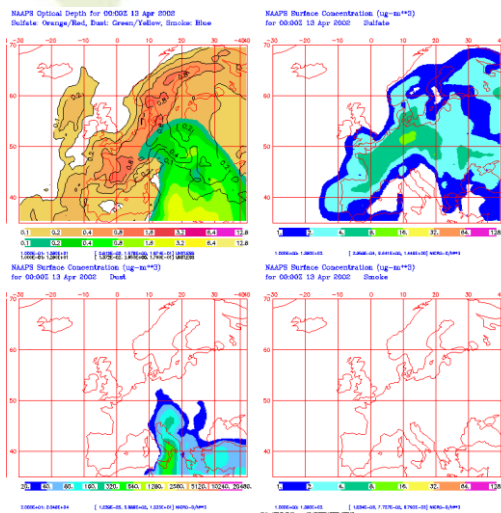


- **ATMOSPHERE & POLLUTION**
- **CRITICAL AIR QUALITY PARAMTERS IN EUROPE**
  - **NO<sub>2</sub>**
  - **PM**
  - **BaP**
  - **O<sub>3</sub>**

# Atmospheric pollution

## THE SCALES OF ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION Planetary-Global:

Global warming & Climate change  
Stratospheric ozone depletion



**Meso-scale:** Acidification, tropospheric ozone, desert dust

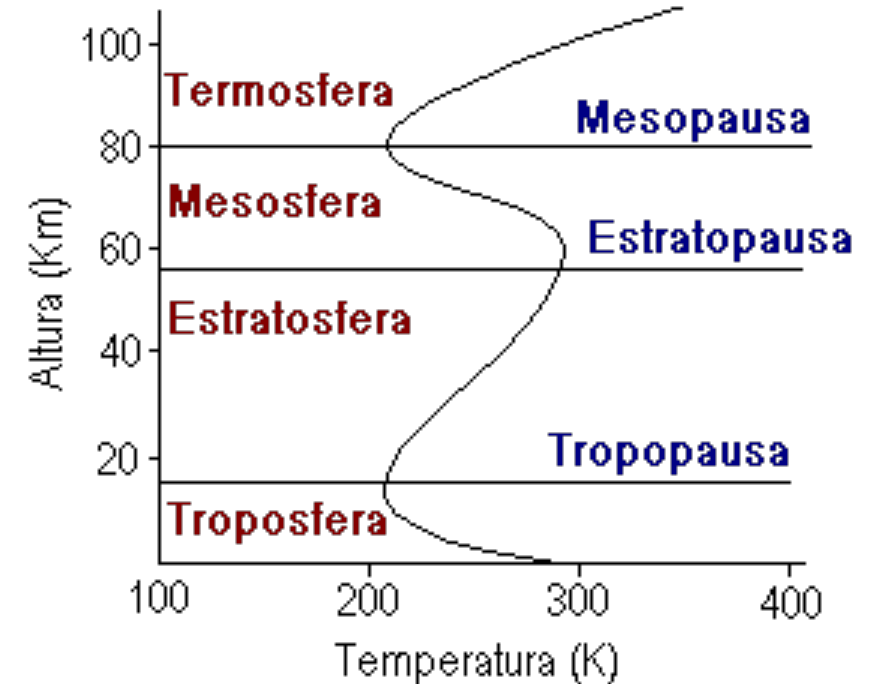
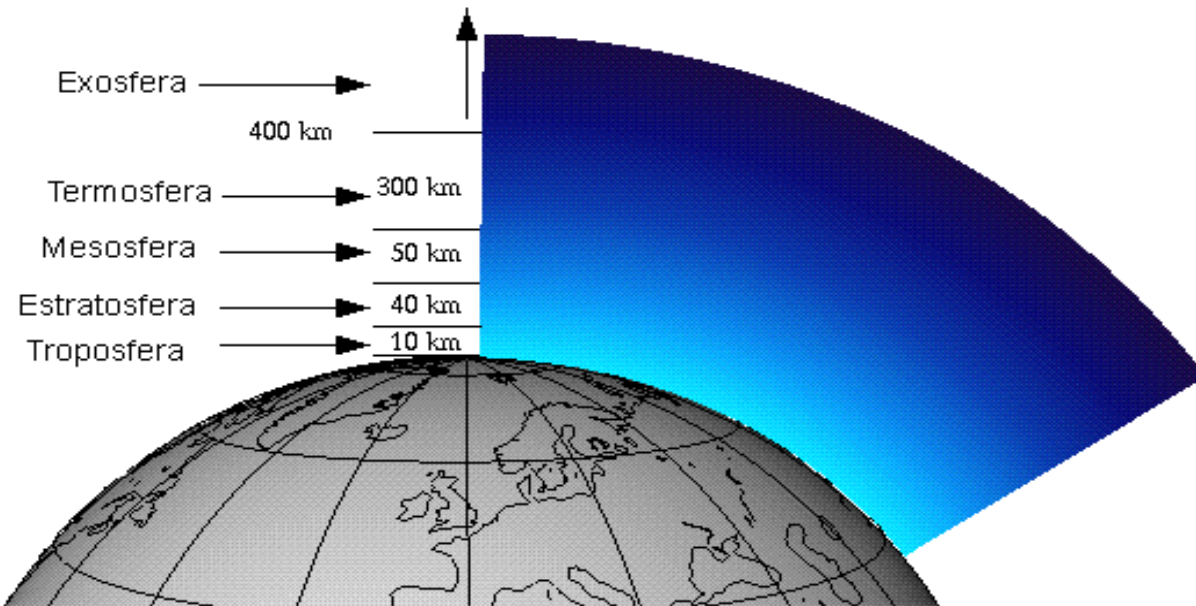


**Micro-scale:** Air quality, road traffic impact, industry, domestic-residential, agriculture....



**Indoor air quality:** Air quality in homes, schools, offices, commuting,....

# Atmospheric pollution



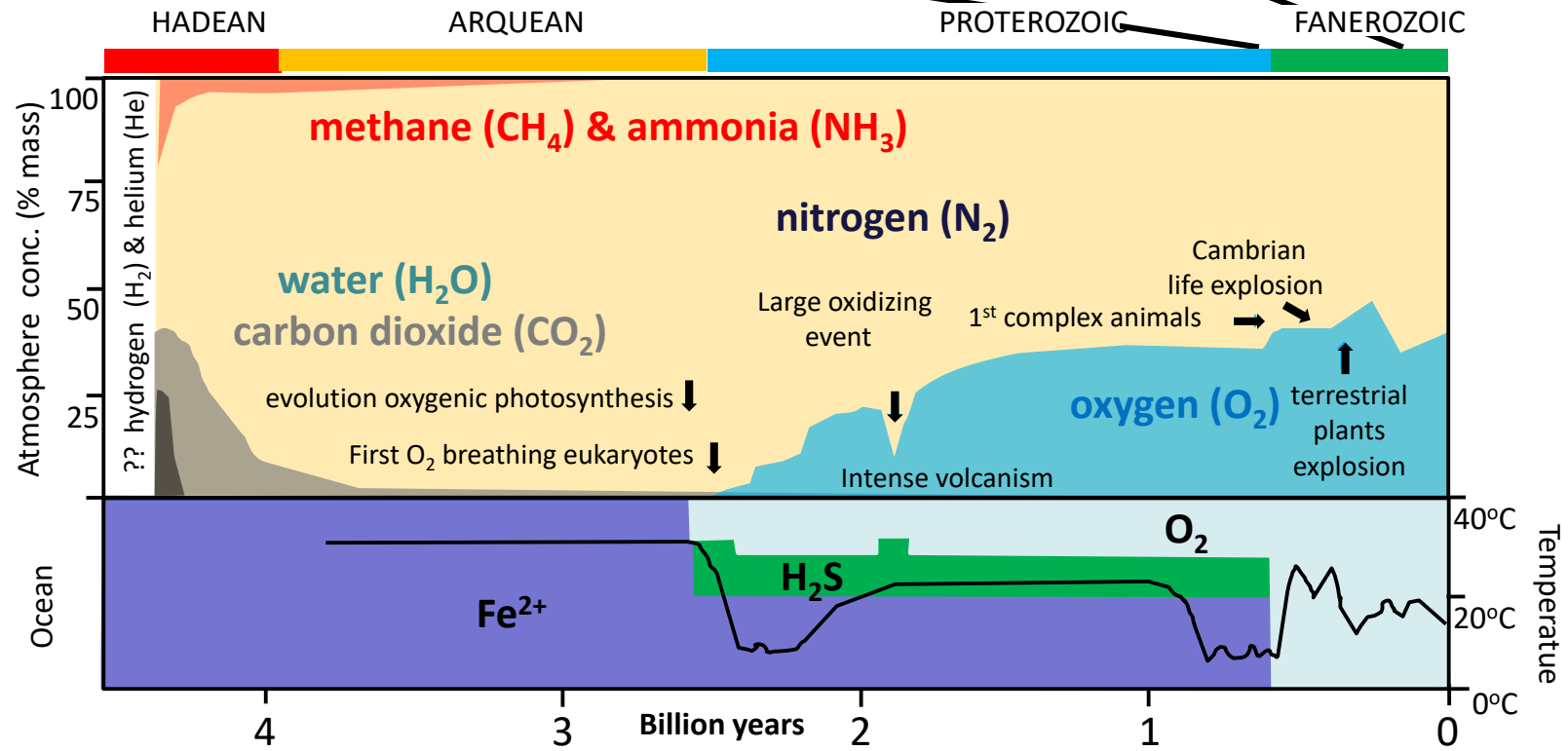
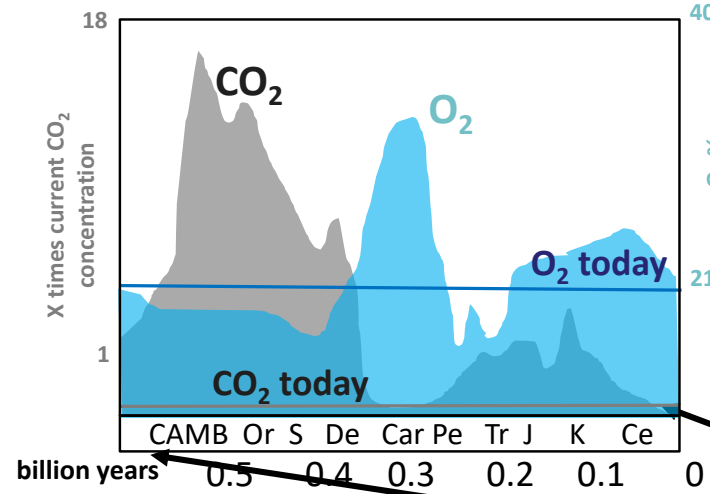
Blue colour due to light dispersion by air molecules

Troposphere: meteorological processes take place, 8km (poles) and 18km (equator)  
70% atmosphere weight, T gradient of 6,5°C/km

## Residence time (t)

- Permanent gases, con  $t > 1000$  years:  **$N_2$  (78%v),  $O_2$  (21%v) and** noble gases
- Variable gaseous species,  $100 < t < 1$  years:  **$CO_2$  (425 ppmv),  $CH_4$ ,  $H_2$ ,  $N_2O$ ,  $O_3$**
- Highly Variable gaseous species,  $t < 1$  year  $H_2O_{(v)}$ :  **$CO$  (<1ppmv),  $NO_2$ ,  $NH_3$ ,  **$SO_2$  (ppbv)**,  $H_2S$ ,.....**

# Atmospheric pollution





# Atmospheric pollution

## THEMATIC STRATEGY

2013-2014 (2024)

**Emissions levels**

**new standards**

emission sources (natural, anthropogenic..)

Control measures

standards

primary pollutants ( $\text{SO}_2$ ,  $\text{NO}_x$ , HC, PM,...)

2005-2010

meteorology, dispersion, transport,...

chemical transformation (secondary pollutants:  $\text{O}_3$ , PAN,  $\text{HNO}_3$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$ )

minimization strategies

measuring (concentration and meteorology)

**Levels in ambient air**

**target levels**

**new standards**

Local and global effects  
Impact on receptors, epidemiology

Modelling and integrated assessment

# Emission

## ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS FOR AIR QUALITY

### DIRECTIVES

1996/61/EC. 2008/1/EC. 2010/75/EC  
2002/51/EC, 2006/120/EC  
1998/69/EC, 2002/80/EC, 2007/715/EC  
2001/80/CE  
2016/2284/EU  
EU 2015/2193

- IPPC Integrated Prevention and Pollution Control, substituted by the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED)
- EURO standards for vehicles
- Large Combustion Plants
- National Emission Ceilings
- Medium scale combustion plants

**NEW EU AIR QUALITY DIRECTIVE 2024/2881 WITH LIMIT VALUES FOR 2030, EVEN WHEN WHO (REVIHAAP+HRAPIE PROJECTS) IN 2013 RECOMMENDED CHANGING LIMIT & TARGET VALUES**

1996/62/CE

- Directive 1999/30/EC • SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, PM<sub>10</sub>, Pb (PM<sub>2.5</sub>??)
- Directive 2000/69/EC • benzene, CO
- Directive 2002/03/EC • O<sub>3</sub>
- Directive 2004/107/EC • PAH, Cd, As, Ni, Hg

(PM2.5) → Directive Clean Air for Europe and Air Quality. 2008/50/EC & 2004/107/EC  
Deadlines: 2005-2010, 2015, 2024, 2030

**NEW DIRECTIVE 2024/2881**

**2024/2881**

# Atmospheric pollution

## GUIDELINES WHO (2005 & 2021)

2008/50/EC & 2004/107/EC  
RD 102/2011\*

OMS (2005)  
Guidelines\*\*

OMS (2021)  
Guidelines

New Directive  
2024/2881

|           | 2008/50/EC & 2004/107/EC<br>RD 102/2011*                   | OMS (2005)<br>Guidelines**                     |                    | OMS (2021)<br>Guidelines                                | New Directive<br>2024/2881                                       |
|-----------|--|--|--------------------|---|--|
| Hourly    | 350* $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ SO <sub>2</sub>              | 500 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ SO <sub>2</sub>   | *24 h/yr           |   | 350 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (1 d/yr)                            |
| Daily     | 125* $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ SO <sub>2</sub>              | 20 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ SO <sub>2</sub>    | *3 d/yr            | 40 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$                             | 50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (18 d/yr)                            |
| Hourly    | 200 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ NO <sub>2</sub>               | CE-OMS coincide                                | 18 h/yr            |   | 200 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (0 h/yr)                            |
| Daily     |  |  |                    |   | 50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ NO <sub>2</sub>                      |
| Annual    | → 40 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ NO <sub>2</sub>              | CE-OMS coincide                                | not exceed.        | 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$                             | 20 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ALV, 50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ DLV |
| Annual    | → 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>6</sub> | CE-OMS coincide                                | not exceed.        |   | 3.4 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$                                     |
| MD8h      | → 10 mg/m <sup>3</sup> CO                                  | CE-OMS coincide                                | not exceed.        |   | 10 mg/m <sup>3</sup> (MD8h) 4 mg/m <sup>3</sup> DLV              |
| Annual    | → 500 ng/m <sup>3</sup> Pb                                 | CE-OMS coincide                                | not exceed.        |   | No changes   |
| Annual    | → 40 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ PM <sub>10</sub>             | 20 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ PM <sub>10</sub>   | not exceed.        | 15 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$                             | 20 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$                                      |
| Annual    | → 25 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ PM <sub>2.5</sub>            | 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ PM <sub>2.5</sub>  | not exceed.        | 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$                              | 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$                                      |
| Daily     | → 50* $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ PM <sub>10</sub>            | 50** $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ PM <sub>10</sub> | ** 3 o *35<br>d/yr | 45 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$                             | 45 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (18 d/yr)                            |
| Daily     | →  |  |                    | 15 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ PM <sub>2.5</sub><br>3 d/yr | 25 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (18 d/yr)                            |
| MD8h      | → 120 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ O <sub>3</sub>              | 100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ O <sub>3</sub>    | 25 d/yr            | 100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$                            | 120 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (3 d/yr)                            |
| Mean 3 yr |  |  |                    |   |  |
| Annual    | → 1 ng/m <sup>3</sup> BaP                                  | 0.12 ng/m <sup>3</sup> BaP                     | not exceed.        | 0.12 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$                           | No changes   |

Art 10, Annex VII, measuring UFP, BC, PNSD PM composition, OP, NH<sub>3</sub>,.....

# Atmospheric pollution

29. 6. 1999

EN

Official Journal of the European Communities

L 163/49

## 1999/30/CE PM10 standards

### ANNEX III

#### LIMIT VALUES FOR PARTICULATE MATTER (PM<sub>10</sub>)

|   | Averaging period | Limit value   | Margin of tolerance  | Date by which limit value is to be met |
|---|------------------|---|--|--|
| <b>STAGE 1</b>  |                  |   |  |  |
| 1. 24-hour limit value for the protection of human health   | 24 hours         | 50 µg/m <sup>3</sup> PM <sub>10</sub> , not to be exceeded more than 35 times a calendar year | 50 % on the entry into force of this Directive, reducing on 1 January 2001 and every 12 months thereafter by equal annual percentages to reach 0 % by 1 January 2005 | 1 January 2005                         |
| 2. Annual limit value for the protection of human health  | Calendar year    | 40 µg/m <sup>3</sup> PM <sub>10</sub>   | 20 % on the entry into force of this Directive, reducing on 1 January 2001 and every 12 months thereafter by equal annual percentages to reach 0 % by 1 January 2005 | 1 January 2005                         |
| <b>STAGE 2<sup>(1)</sup></b>  |                  |   |  |  |
| <b>By 2010 adopting WHO guidelines</b>  |                  |   |  |  |
| 1. 24-hour limit value for the protection of human health   | 24 hours         | 50 µg/m <sup>3</sup> PM <sub>10</sub> , not to be exceeded more than 7 times a calendar year  | To be derived from data and to be equivalent to the Stage 1 limit value  | 1 January 2010                         |
| 2. Annual limit value for the protection of human health  | Calendar year    | 20 µg/m <sup>3</sup> PM <sub>10</sub>   | 50 % on 1 January 2005 reducing every 12 months thereafter by equal annual percentages to reach 0 % by 1 January 2010  | 1 January 2010                         |
| <small>(<sup>1</sup>) Indicate limit values to be reviewed in the light of further information on health and environmental effects, technical feasibility and experience in the application of Stage 1 limit values in the Member States.</small> |                  |   |  |  |

**Discarded by 2008/50/CE & postponed to 2013  
when the 2008/50/CE would have been reviewed**

**Discarded by the Clean Air Quality package in  
2014 & postponed to 2024 (2030) by 2024/2881**



# Atmospheric pollution

Kutlar Joss et al., 2017. 20 years of E.U. resistance against science-based «limit values» for PM10 & PM2.5  
Int J Pub Health 2017

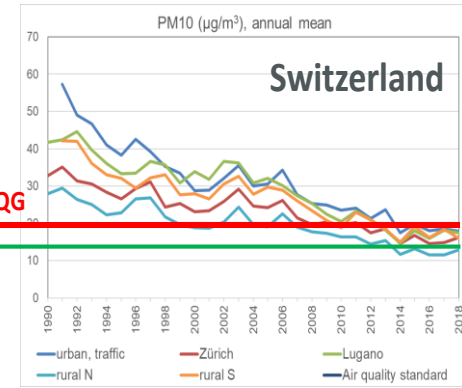
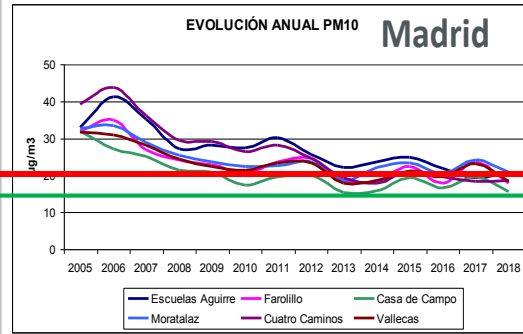
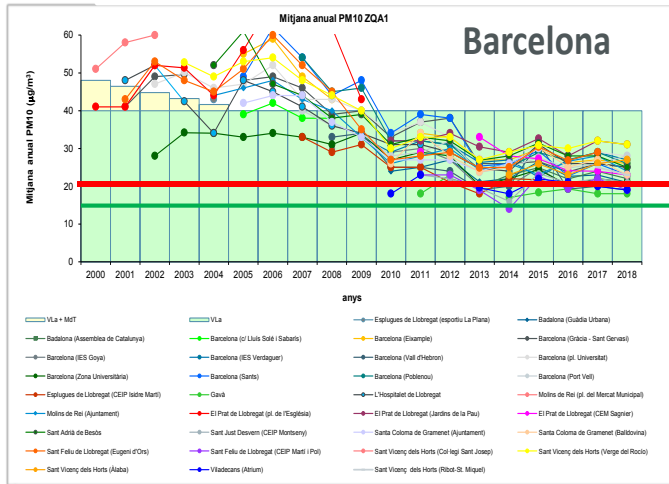
Science-based limit values  
to protect human health

Politically set «limit values»

| $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$<br>Annual mean | WHO 2005<br>AQ Guidelines | WHO 2021<br>AQ Guidelines | Canada, Iceland,<br>Iran, Australia<br>Switzerland | State of<br>California | USA<br>Federal,<br>Mexico<br>Cuba | EU<br>2030 | EU<br>2005-2029 |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|--|------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------|-----------------|
| PM <sub>10</sub>                        | 20                        | 15                        | 20   | 20                     | --                                | 20         | 40              |
| PM <sub>2.5</sub>                       | 10                        | 5                         | 10<br>(AUST: 8)                                    | 12                     | 12                                | 10         | 25              |

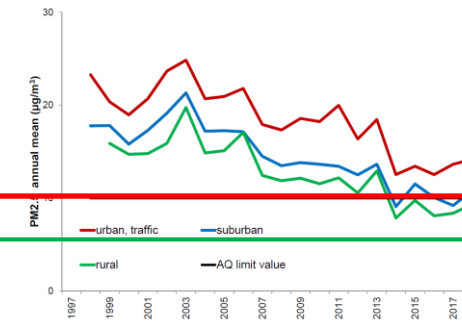
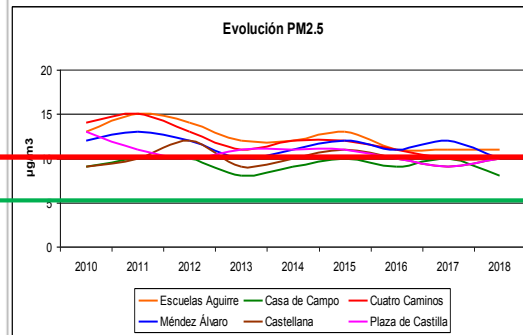
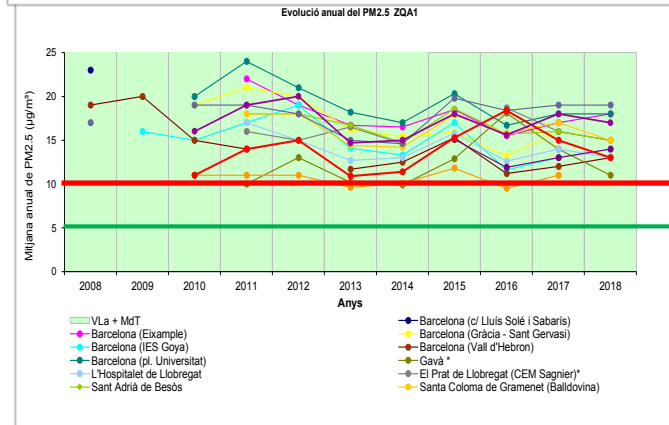
# Atmospheric pollution

## PM10



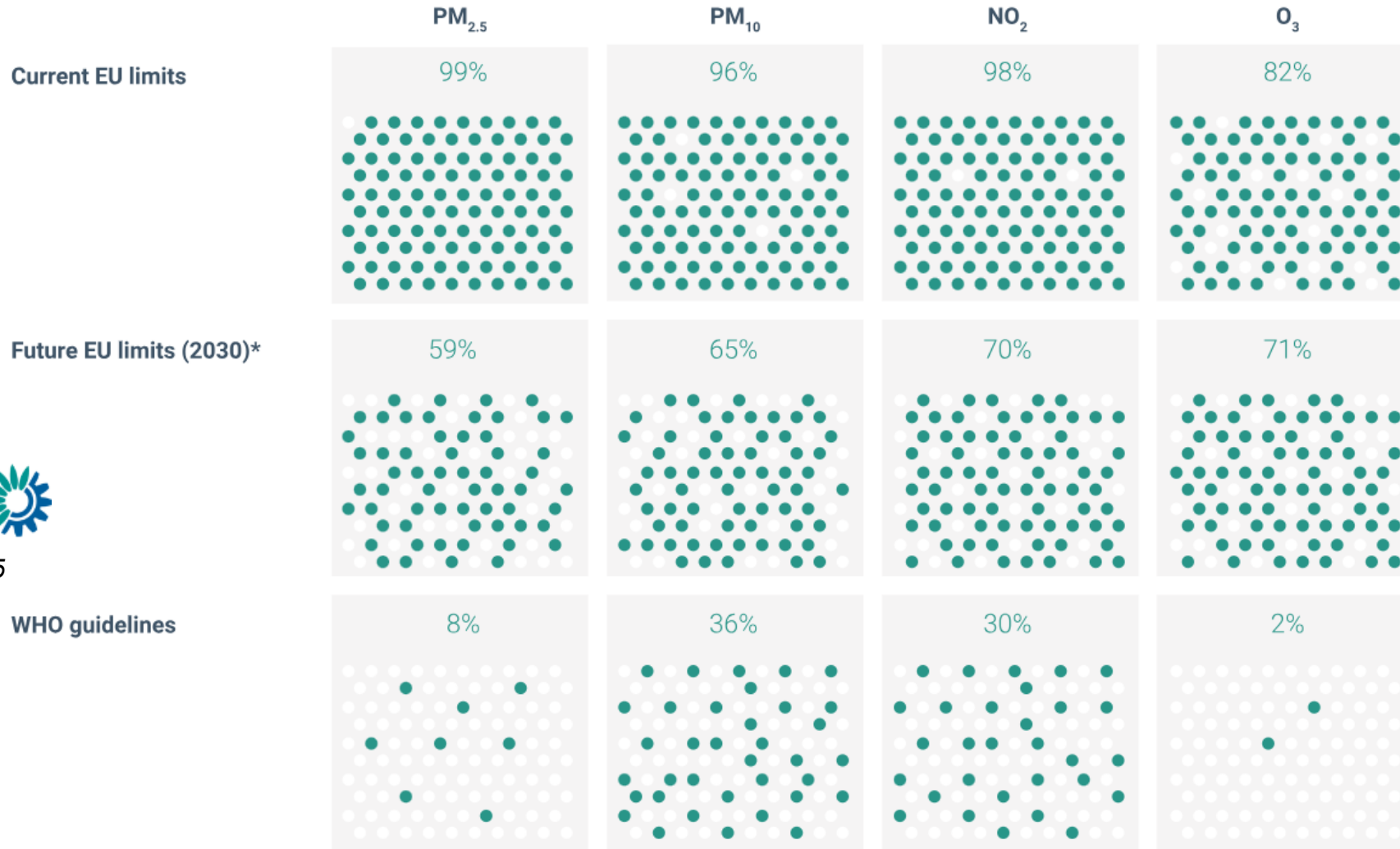
WHO AQG 2021

## PM2.5



WHO AQG 2021

# Atmospheric pollution



2023

European Environment Agency



Air quality in Europe 2025  
April 2025

WHO guidelines

\*The 2030 limit values are presented for comparative purposes only to show the distance to target to achieve these limits by 2030.

<https://www.eea.europa.eu/en/analysis/publications/air-quality-status-report-2025>



| Country                    | Total population | Population above 30 years old (1,000) | PM <sub>2.5</sub>                |                     |                    | NO <sub>2</sub>                  |                     |                    | O <sub>3</sub>                        |                                  |                     |                    |
|----------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
|                            |                  |                                       | Annual mean (µg/m <sup>3</sup> ) | Attributable deaths |                    | Annual mean (µg/m <sup>3</sup> ) | Attributable deaths |                    | Population above 25 years old (1,000) | Peak season (µg/m <sup>3</sup> ) | Attributable deaths |                    |
|                            |                  |                                       |                                  | Nr                  | Nr/10 <sup>5</sup> |                                  | Nr                  | Nr/10 <sup>5</sup> |                                       |                                  | Nr                  | Nr/10 <sup>5</sup> |
| Austria                    | 8,979            | 6,159                                 | 10.1                             | 3,300               | 53                 | 13.8                             | 780                 | 12                 | 6,750                                 | 96.6                             | 1,400               | 21                 |
| Belgium                    | 11,617           | 7,625                                 | 10.1                             | 4,100               | 54                 | 15.6                             | 1,200               | 16                 | 8,356                                 | 88.4                             | 1,400               | 16                 |
| Bulgaria                   | 6,839            | 4,975                                 | 15.0                             | 9,000               | 180                | 15.6                             | 1,500               | 29                 | 5,287                                 | 77.1                             | 930                 | 17                 |
| Croatia                    | 3,862            | 2,699                                 | 14.6                             | 3,800               | 141                | 13.2                             | 450                 | 16                 | 2,914                                 | 101.0                            | 980                 | 33                 |
| Cyprus                     | 1,253            | 799                                   | 14.8                             | 690                 | 86                 | 23.9                             | 260                 | 33                 | 903                                   | 91.4                             | 140                 | 15                 |
| Czechia                    | 10,517           | 7,270                                 | 13.1                             | 6,900               | 94                 | 12.7                             | 730                 | 10                 | 7,843                                 | 95.4                             | 1,800               | 22                 |
| Denmark                    | 5,873            | 3,802                                 | 7.8                              | 1,200               | 31                 | 7.4                              | 50                  | 1                  | 4,208                                 | 80.0                             | 540                 | 12                 |
| Estonia                    | 1,332            | 913                                   | 5.6                              | 90                  | 9                  | 7.2                              | 20                  | 1                  | 985                                   | 77.1                             | 130                 | 12                 |
| Finland                    | 5,548            | 3,739                                 | 4.4                              | 70                  | 1                  | 7.3                              | 50                  | 1                  | 4,088                                 | 75.6                             | 440                 | 10                 |
| France                     | 65,795           | 42,817                                | 9.5                              | 20,700              | 48                 | 12.7                             | 5,000               | 11                 | 46,453                                | 92.8                             | 9,000               | 19                 |
| Germany                    | 83,235           | 58,386                                | 9.2                              | 32,600              | 55                 | 14.3                             | 9,400               | 16                 | 63,279                                | 93.5                             | 15,200              | 24                 |
| Greece                     | 10,460           | 7,450                                 | 15.8                             | 10,700              | 144                | 17.6                             | 2,200               | 29                 | 7,980                                 | 95.0                             | 2,300               | 28                 |
| Hungary                    | 9,689            | 6,668                                 | 13.8                             | 8,600               | 128                | 14.5                             | 1,300               | 19                 | 7,274                                 | 96.5                             | 2,000               | 27                 |
| Ireland                    | 5,060            | 3,121                                 | 7.1                              | 530                 | 16                 | 9.1                              | 100                 | 3                  | 3,417                                 | 76.7                             | 240                 | 7                  |
| Italy                      | 59,030           | 42,749                                | 14.6                             | 48,600              | 113                | 16.5                             | 9,600               | 22                 | 45,750                                | 103.7                            | 13,600              | 29                 |
| Latvia                     | 1,876            | 1,303                                 | 8.7                              | 820                 | 63                 | 9.9                              | 120                 | 9                  | 1,400                                 | 77.3                             | 220                 | 15                 |
| Lithuania                  | 2,806            | 1,958                                 | 9.8                              | 1,500               | 75                 | 10.9                             | 180                 | 9                  | 2,120                                 | 77.8                             | 320                 | 14                 |
| Luxembourg                 | 645              | 422                                   | 7.4                              | 80                  | 17                 | 13.6                             | 30                  | 7                  | 471                                   | 90.8                             | 50                  | 11                 |
| Malta                      | 521              | 357                                   | 10.7                             | 170                 | 48                 | 11.4                             | 20                  | 4                  | 401                                   | 96.0                             | 60                  | 15                 |
| Netherlands                | 17,590           | 11,585                                | 9.3                              | 5,300               | 45                 | 16.0                             | 1,900               | 16                 | 12,720                                | 85.7                             | 1,800               | 14                 |
| Poland                     | 36,889           | 25,362                                | 16.1                             | 34,700              | 136                | 13.0                             | 3,100               | 12                 | 27,573                                | 88.2                             | 5,400               | 19                 |
| Portugal                   | 9,848            | 7,041                                 | 9.3                              | 3,600               | 51                 | 11.7                             | 710                 | 10                 | 7,556                                 | 88.4                             | 1,400               | 18                 |
| Romania                    | 19,042           | 13,001                                | 14.3                             | 17,900              | 138                | 16.7                             | 3,600               | 27                 | 13,960                                | 85.3                             | 2,800               | 19                 |
| Slovakia                   | 5,435            | 3,695                                 | 13.9                             | 3,700               | 100                | 11.8                             | 260                 | 7                  | 4,026                                 | 93.9                             | 700                 | 17                 |
| Slovenia                   | 2,107            | 1,481                                 | 13.5                             | 1,300               | 86                 | 12.5                             | 140                 | 9                  | 1,592                                 | 99.9                             | 340                 | 21                 |
| Spain                      | 45,261           | 31,845                                | 10.9                             | 18,500              | 58                 | 15.9                             | 5,500               | 17                 | 34,245                                | 92.5                             | 6,100               | 17                 |
| Sweden                     | 10,452           | 6,752                                 | 5.2                              | 480                 | 7                  | 6.8                              | 60                  | -                  | 7,444                                 | 78.4                             | 740                 | 9                  |
| Albania                    | 2,794            | 1,722                                 | 15.8                             | 3,500               | 200                | 12.4                             | 310                 | 17                 | 1,951                                 | 95.1                             | 680                 | 34                 |
| Andorra                    | 80               | 52                                    | 7.8                              | 20                  | 28                 | 14.3                             | 10                  | 11                 | 56                                    | 82.7                             | 10                  | 10                 |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina     | 3,464            | 2,404                                 | 21.1                             | 6,200               | 258                | 12.9                             | 460                 | 18                 | 2,609                                 | 98.4                             | 920                 | 35                 |
| Iceland                    | 376              | 227                                   | 3.6                              | <5                  | <1                 | 8.4                              | <5                  | <1                 | 258                                   | 78.3                             | 20                  | 7                  |
| Kosovo under UNSCR 1244/99 | 1,805            | 933                                   | 16.5                             | 2,400               | 254                | 13.6                             | 240                 | 25                 | 1,073                                 | 85.7                             | 320                 | 29                 |
| Liechtenstein              | 39               | 27                                    | 8.4                              | 10                  | 25                 | 13.6                             | <5                  | 7                  | 30                                    | 98.5                             | <5                  | 13                 |
| Monaco                     | 38               | 25                                    | 10.2                             | 10                  | 52                 | 17.3                             | <5                  | 16                 | 27                                    | 106.5                            | 10                  | 22                 |
| Montenegro                 | 618              | 391                                   | 15.1                             | 710                 | 182                | 11.3                             | 50                  | 13                 | 430                                   | 92.7                             | 140                 | 32                 |
| North Macedonia            | 1,837            | 1,197                                 | 22.8                             | 3,600               | 303                | 15.7                             | 330                 | 27                 | 1,313                                 | 76.7                             | 210                 | 16                 |
| Norway                     | 5,425            | 3,489                                 | 5.4                              | 350                 | 9                  | 7.7                              | 80                  | 2                  | 3,856                                 | 79.2                             | 380                 | 9                  |
| San Marino                 | 34               | 24                                    | 13.8                             | 30                  | 102                | 12.8                             | <5                  | 8                  | 26                                    | 97.3                             | 10                  | 19                 |
| Serbia                     | 6,797            | 4,717                                 | 19.1                             | 10,800              | 228                | 16.2                             | 1,400               | 30                 | 5,119                                 | 94.2                             | 1,500               | 30                 |
| Switzerland                | 8,739            | 5,968                                 | 8.6                              | 1,900               | 31                 | 14.1                             | 610                 | 10                 | 6,524                                 | 100.2                            | 1,200               | 19                 |
| Türkiye (TR)               | 84,668           | 46,247                                | -                                | -                   | -                  | 25.1                             | 13,900              | 30                 | 52,723                                | 84.8                             | 5,800               | 10                 |
| EU27                       | 441,561          | 303,974                               | 11.4                             | 239,000             | 78                 | 14.1                             | 48,000              | 15                 | 328,995                               | 92.2                             | 70,000              | 21                 |
| EEA32 (no TR)              | 456,140          | 313,686                               | 11.2                             | 241,000             | 76                 | -                                | -                   | -                  | -                                     | -                                | -                   | -                  |
| EEA32                      | 540,809          | 359,933                               | -                                | -                   | -                  | 15.8                             | 63,000              | 17                 | 392,386                               | 91.0                             | 78,000              | 19                 |
| All countries (no TR)      | 473,606          | 325,150                               | 11.5                             | 269,000             | 82                 | -                                | -                   | -                  | -                                     | -                                | -                   | -                  |
| All countries              | 558,275          | 371,398                               | -                                | -                   | -                  | 15.7                             | 66,000              | 17                 | 404,992                               | 91.1                             | 81,000              | 20                 |



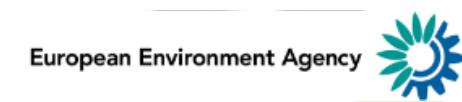
## All-cause mortality 2022, EU-27

Premature mortality from all natural causes (i.e. excluding accidental and other non-natural causes), which are attributable to long-term exposure to key air pollutants.

In 2022 in the EU-27:

- 239,000 deaths were attributable to exposure to PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations above the WHO guideline level of 5µg/m<sup>3</sup>.
- 70,000 deaths (95% CI: 0-137,000) were attributable to exposure to O<sub>3</sub> concentrations above the WHO guideline level of 60µg/m<sup>3</sup>.
- 48,000 deaths (95% CI: 24,000-95,000) were attributable to exposure to NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations above the WHO guideline level of 10µg/m<sup>3</sup>.

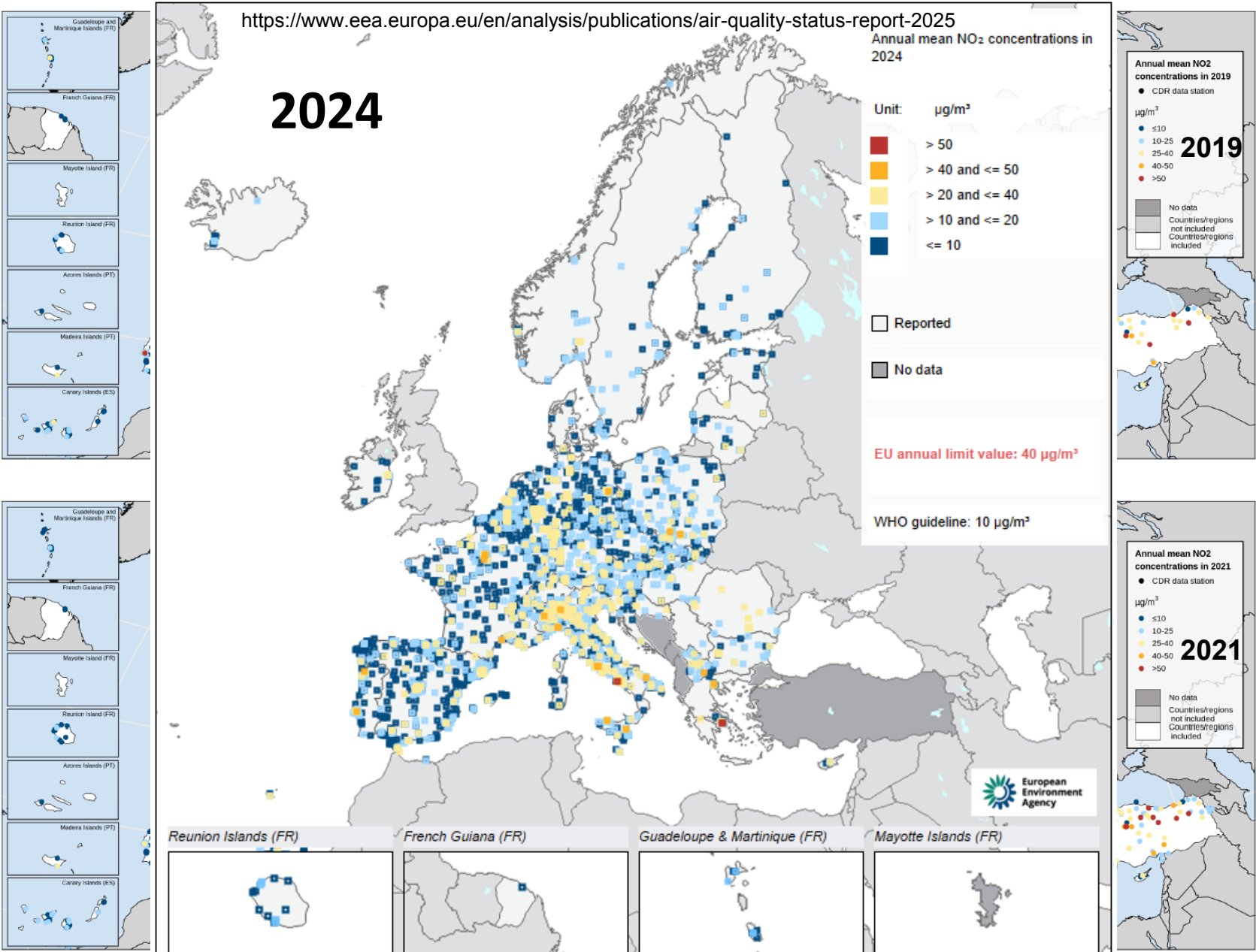
*Harm to human health from air pollution in Europe: burden of disease status, 2024  
December 2024*



<https://www.eea.europa.eu/en/analysis/publications/harm-to-human-health-from-air-pollution-2024>



# The problem of NO<sub>2</sub>



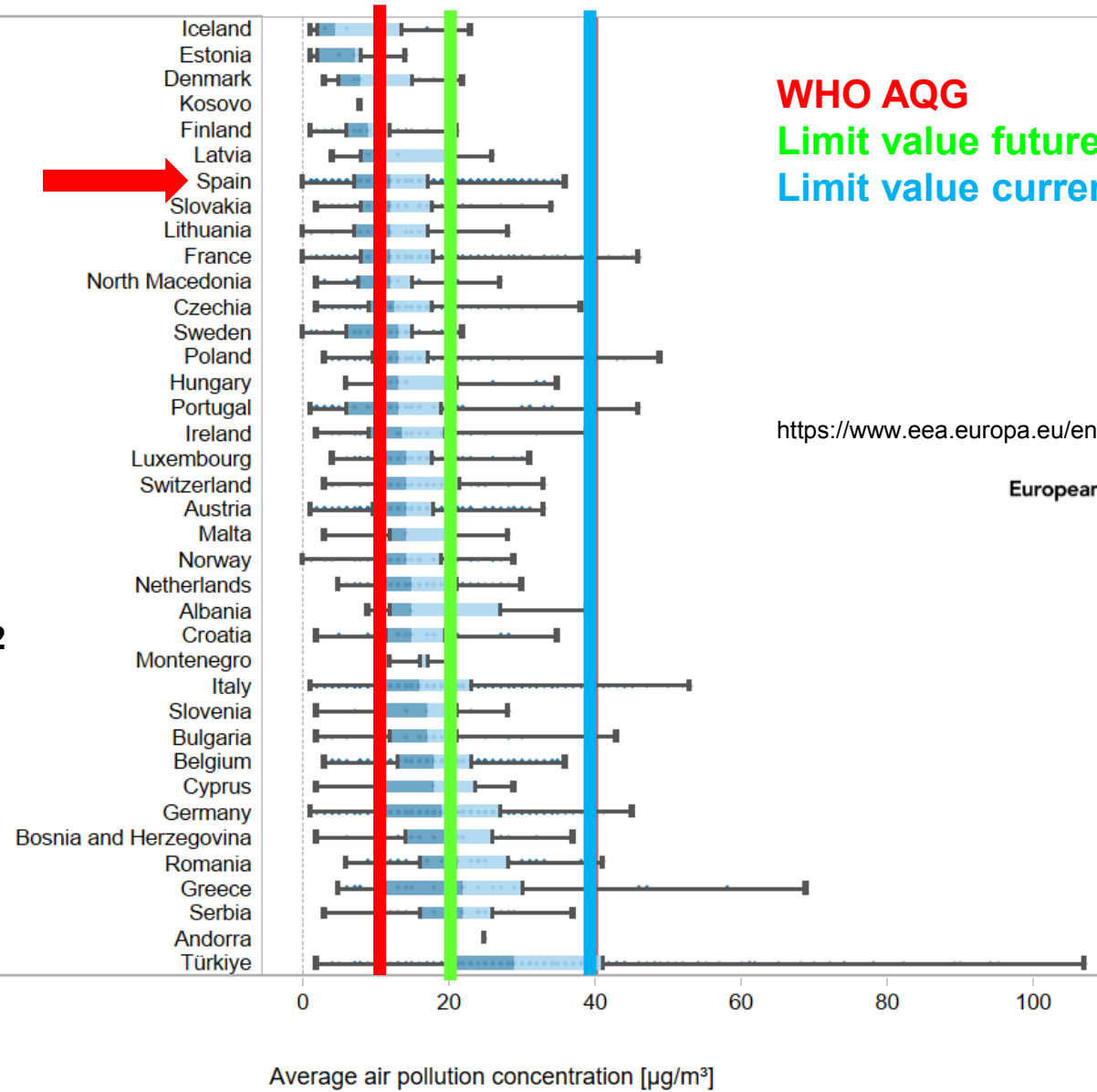
## NO<sub>2</sub>, annual



April 2025

# The problem of NO<sub>2</sub>

## 2023 Annual Limit Value for NO<sub>2</sub>



WHO AQG

Limit value future EU AQ Directive

Limit value current EU AQ Directive

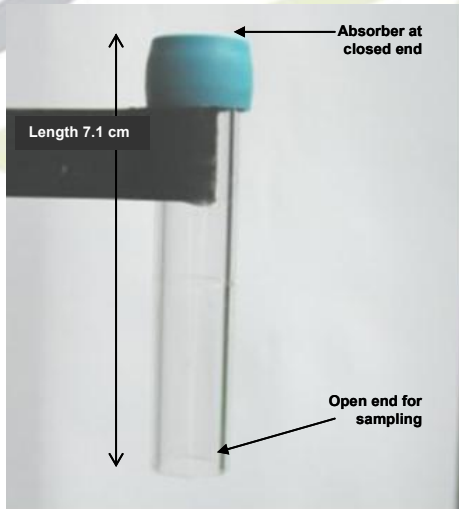
<https://www.eea.europa.eu/en/analysis/publications/air-quality-status-report-2025>

European Environment Agency



9th April 2025

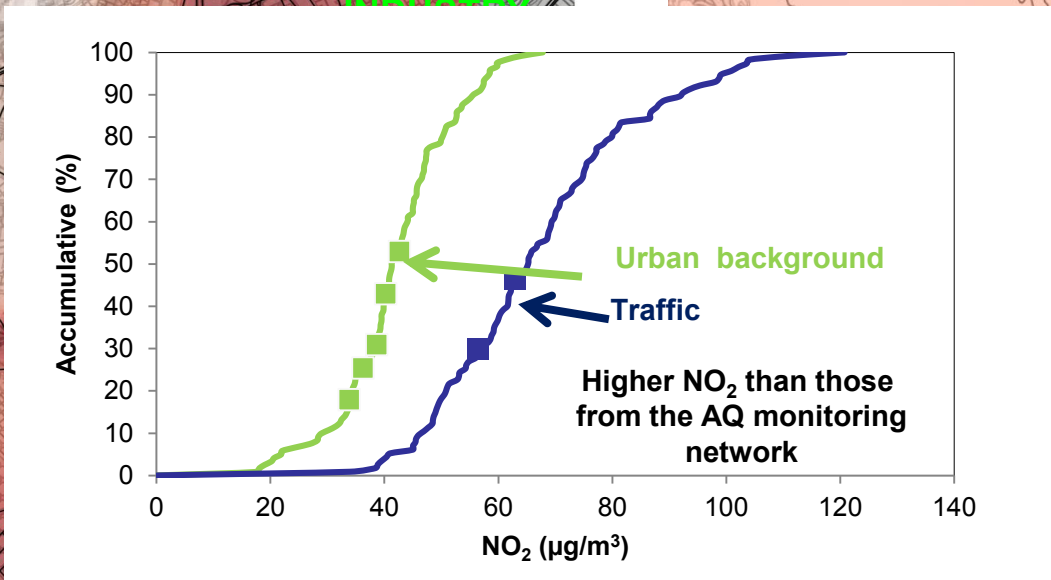
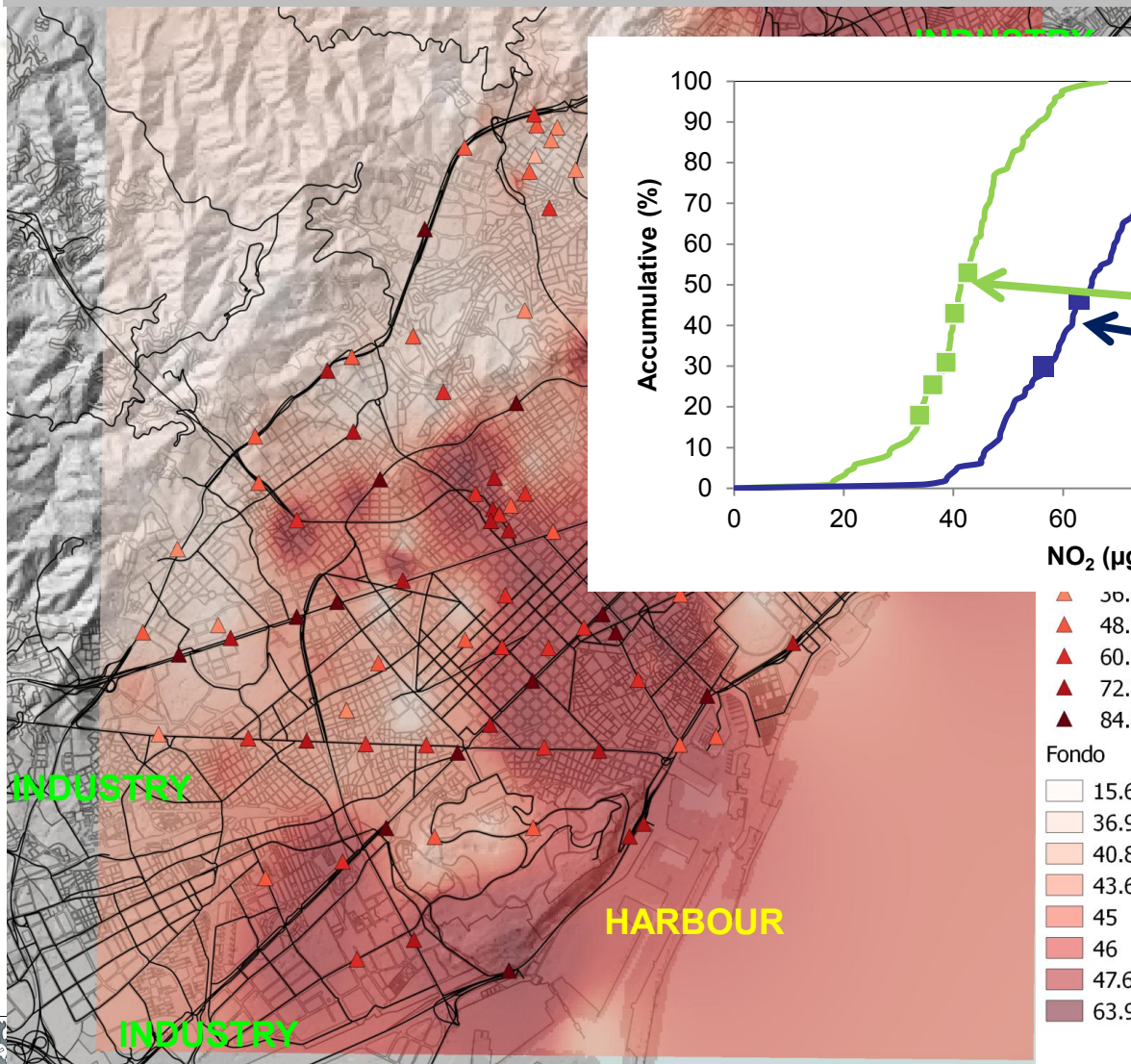
- Dosimeter NO<sub>2</sub> Palmes
- Molecular diffusion
- Absorbent = 20% TEA in H<sub>2</sub>O
- Analysis: colorimetry



# The problem of NO<sub>2</sub>

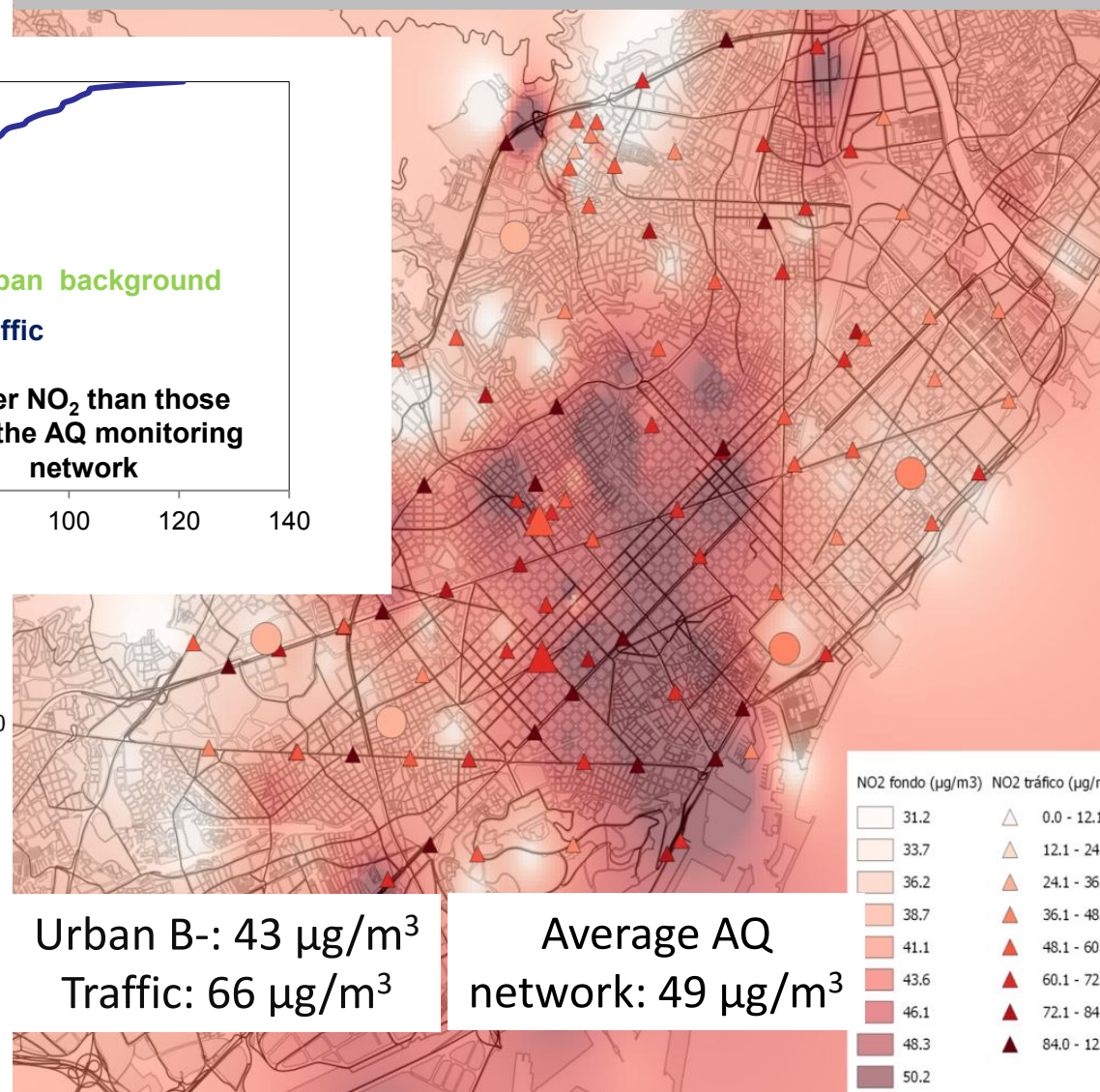
NO<sub>2</sub> FEBRUARY-MARCH 2017, 225 PASSIVE DOSIMETERS

NO<sub>2</sub> JUNE 2018, 233 PASSIVE DOSIMETERS



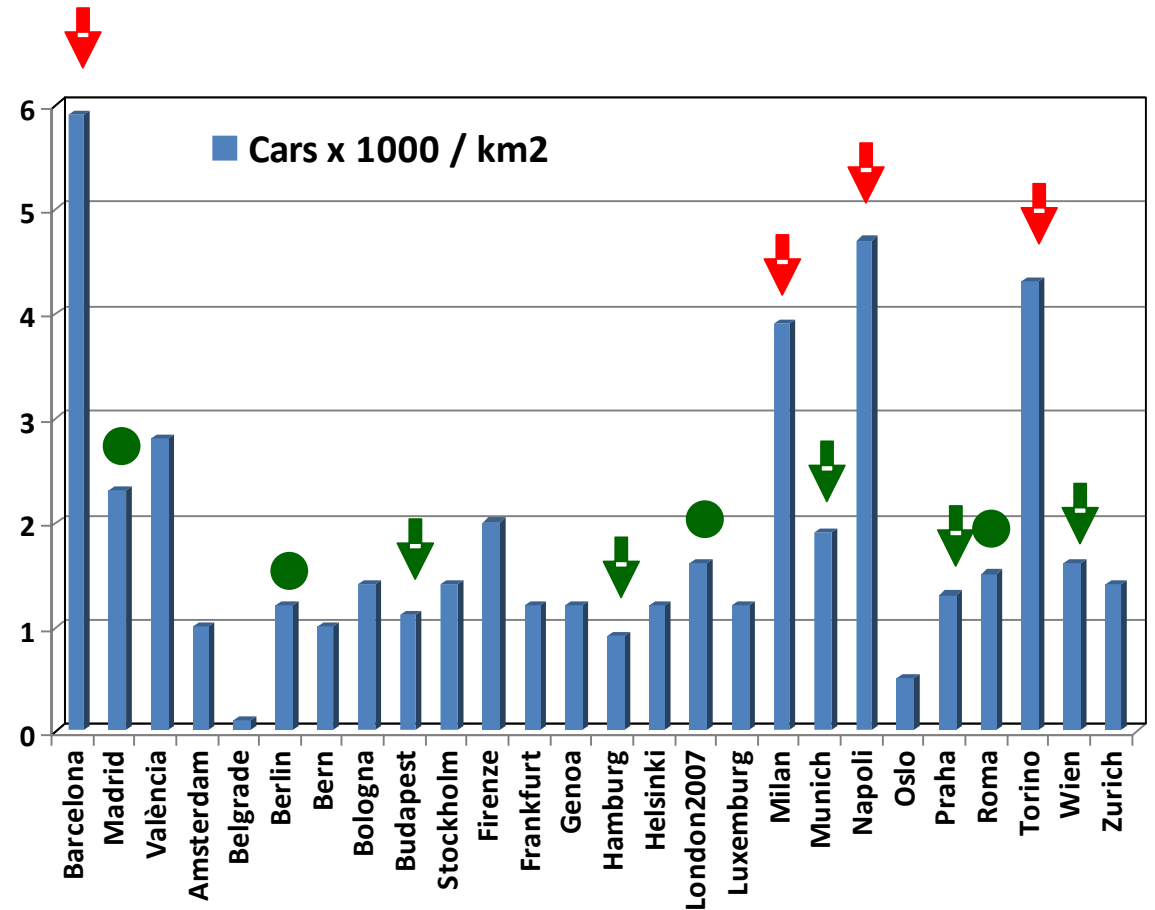
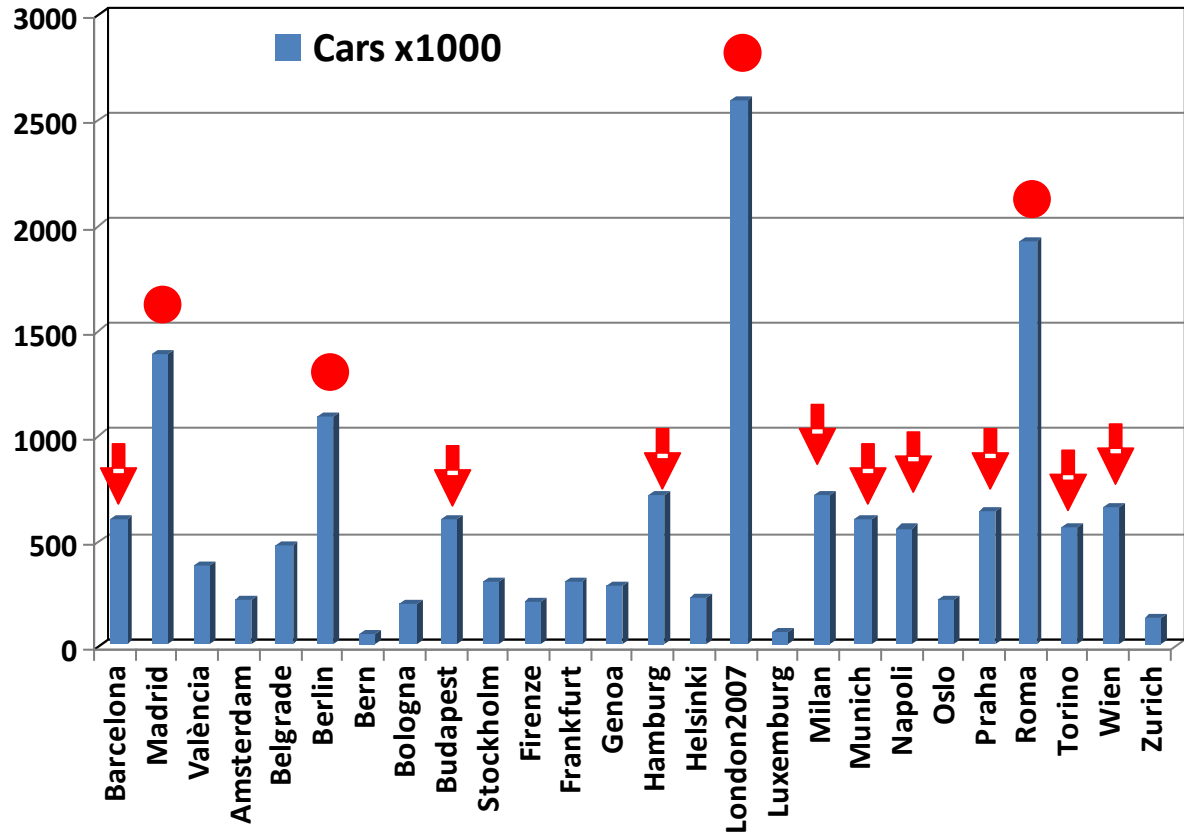
- ▲ 50.1 - 70.1
- ▲ 48.1 - 60.1
- ▲ 60.1 - 72.1
- ▲ 72.1 - 84.0
- ▲ 84.0 - 122.0

- Fondo
- 15.6
  - 36.9
  - 40.8
  - 43.6
  - 45
  - 46
  - 47.6
  - 63.9



- | NO <sub>2</sub> fondo (µg/m <sup>3</sup> ) | NO <sub>2</sub> tráfico (µg/m <sup>3</sup> ) |
|--|--|
| □ 31.2                                     | △ 0.0 - 12.1                                 |
| □ 33.7                                     | △ 12.1 - 24.1                                |
| □ 36.2                                     | △ 24.1 - 36.1                                |
| □ 38.7                                     | △ 36.1 - 48.1                                |
| □ 41.1                                     | △ 48.1 - 60.1                                |
| □ 43.6                                     | △ 60.1 - 72.1                                |
| □ 46.1                                     | △ 72.1 - 84.0                                |
| □ 48.3                                     | △ 84.0 - 122.0                               |
| □ 50.2                                     |  |

## Why so high NO<sub>2</sub>?



**Very high density of vehicles (#/km<sup>2</sup>),  
But also >50% of vehicles circulating in the city come from outside**

# The problem of NO<sub>2</sub>

Why so high NO<sub>2</sub>?



Ámsterdam



Madrid



Barcelona



Napoli

Why so high NO<sub>2</sub>?

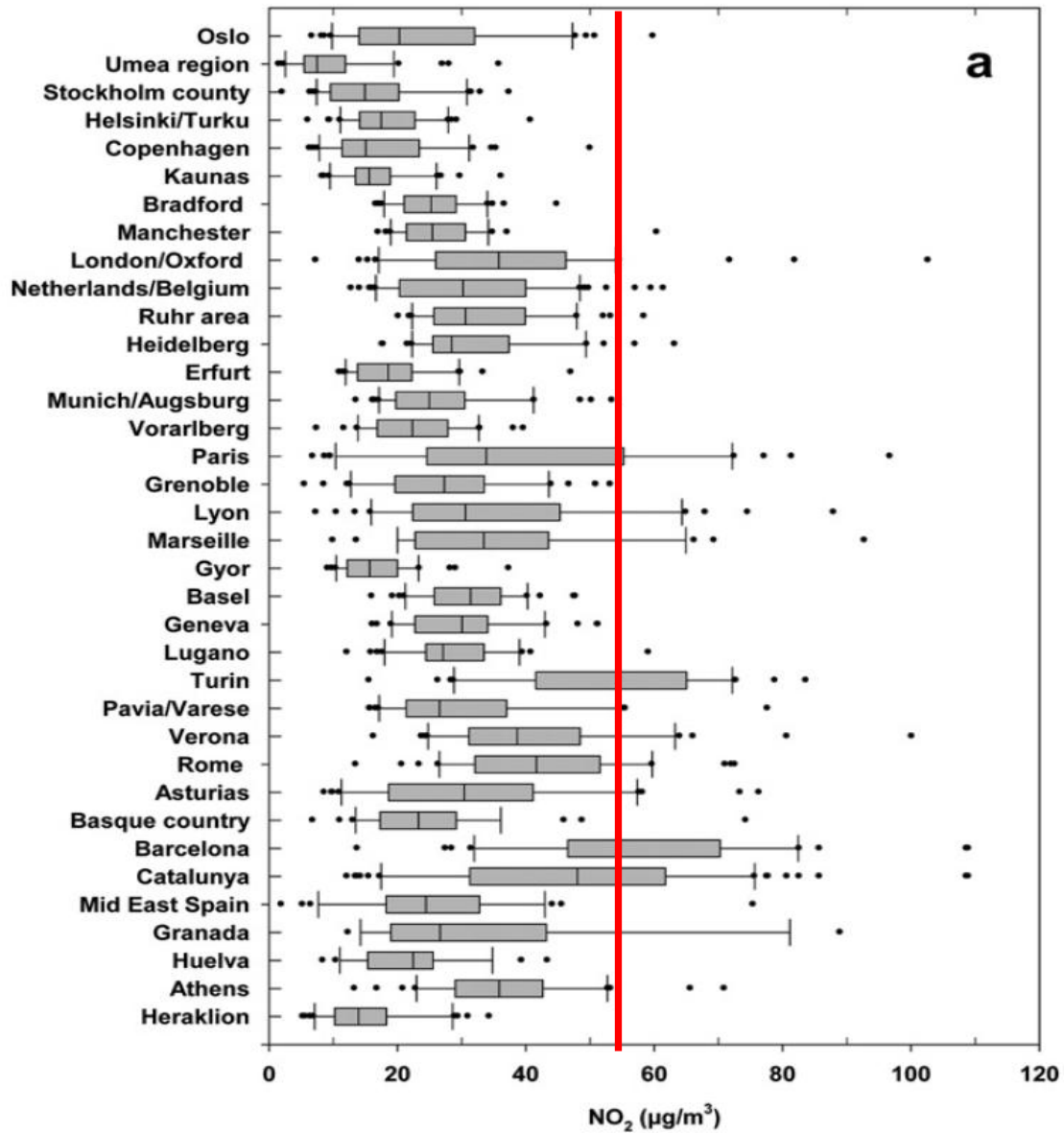
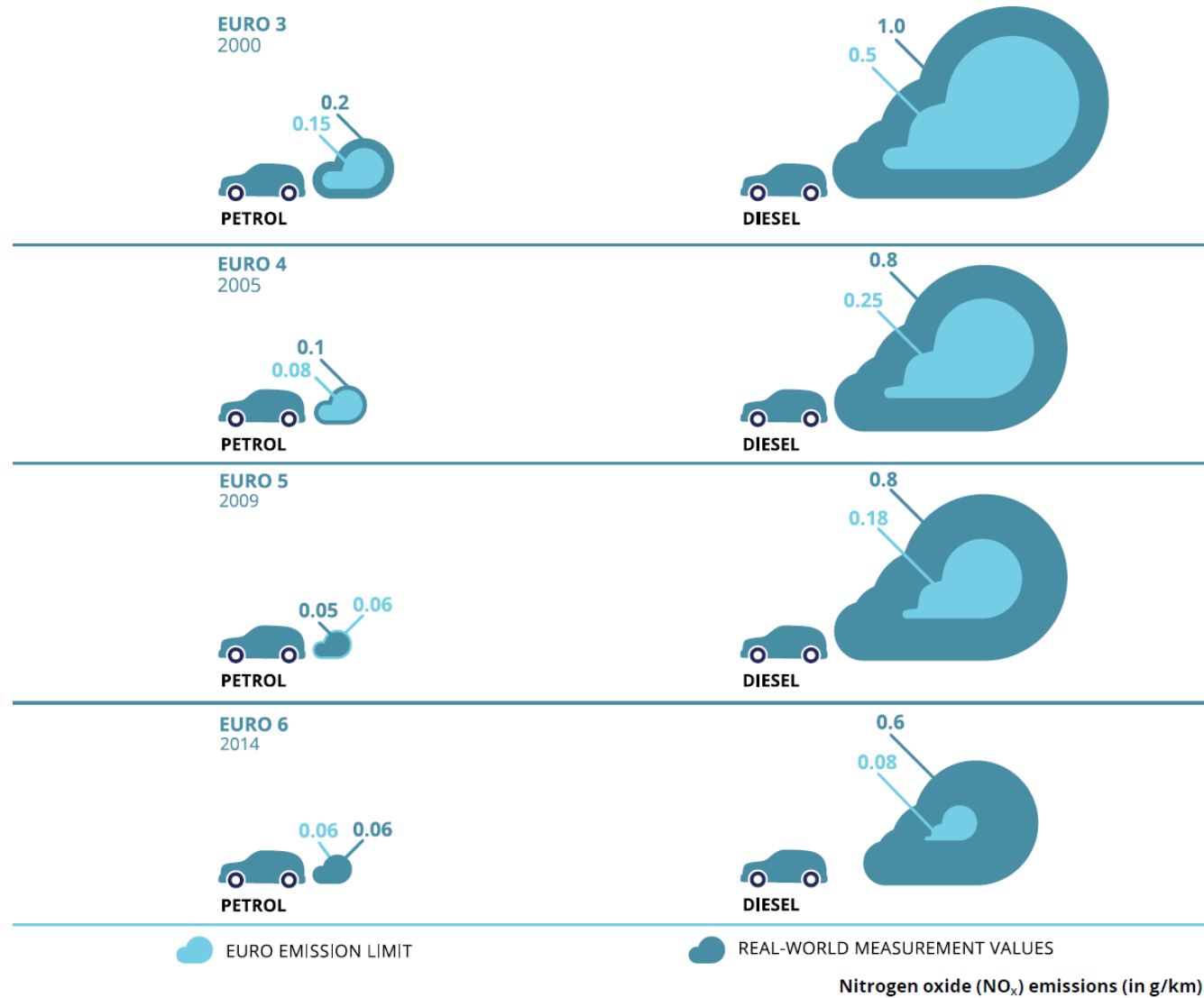


Figure 6.3 Comparison of NO<sub>x</sub> standards and emissions for different Euro classes



EEA Report | No 28/2016

23/11/2016

European Environment Agency 

<http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/air-quality-in-europe-2016>

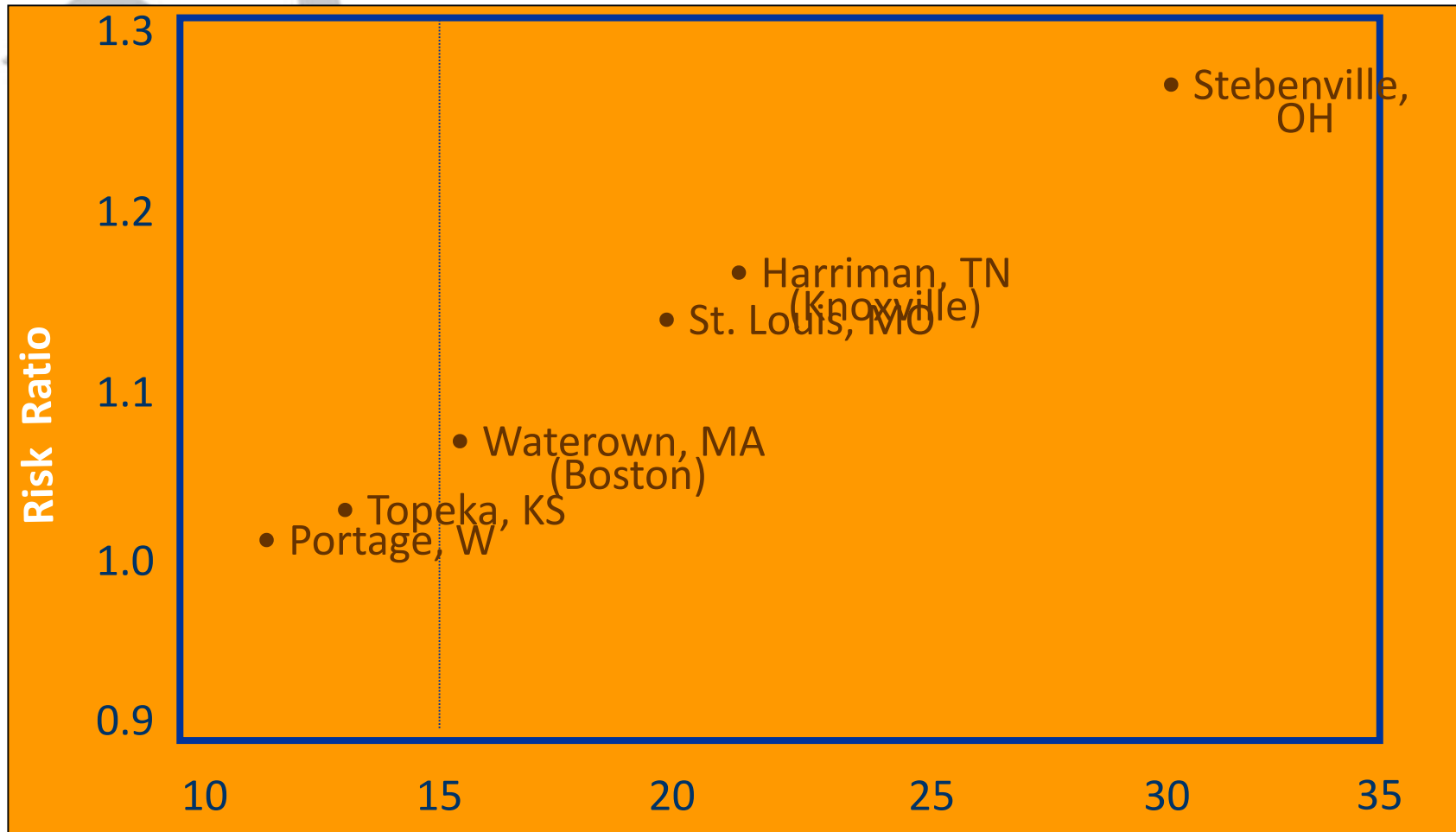
# The problem of PM

Atmospheric particulate matter (PM): heterogeneous solid and/or liquid material present in suspension into the atmosphere

- Health impact
- Ecosystems
- Climate change
- Building materials
- Visibility

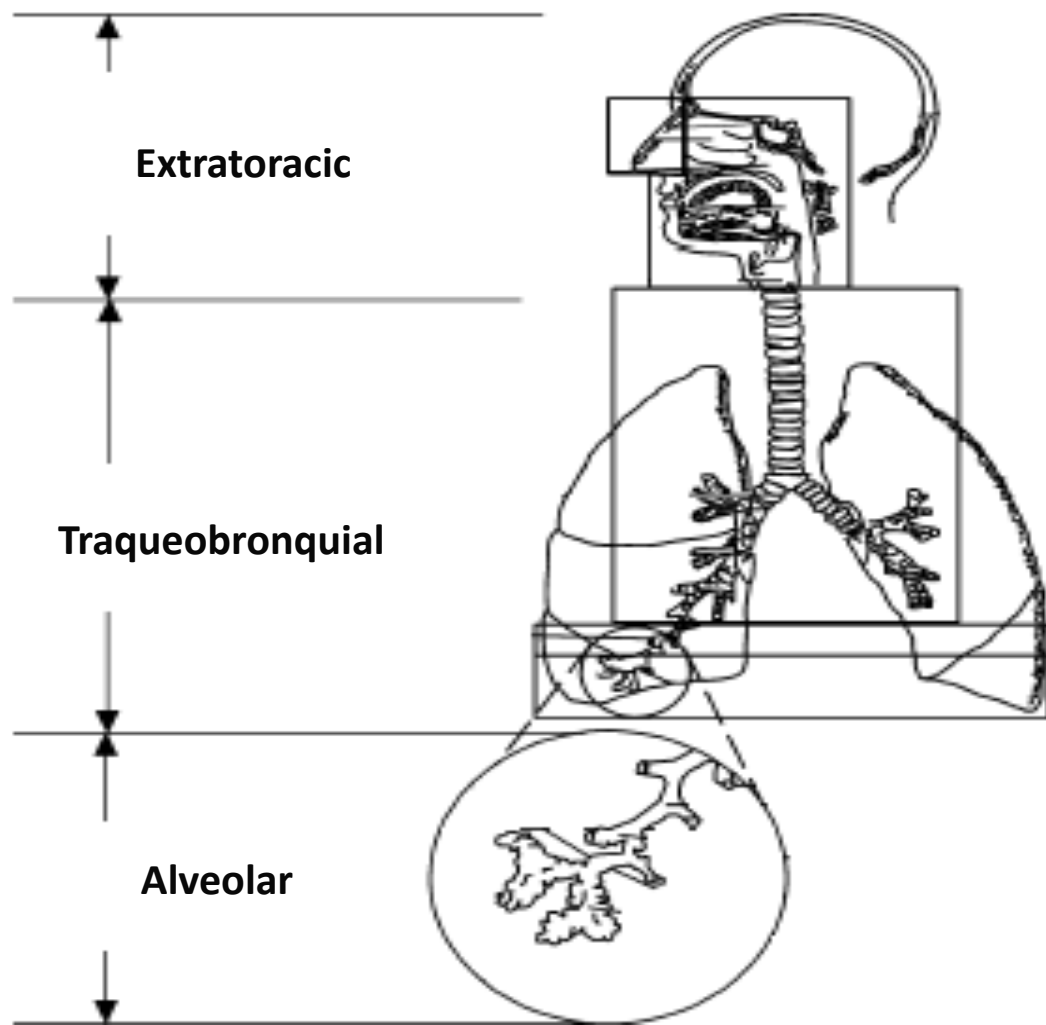
# The problem of PM

The six cities study:  
PM<sub>2.5</sub> –MORTALITY (Dockery , NEJM 1993)



# The problem of PM

## PM EFFECTS



> PM<sub>10</sub>

PM<sub>10-2.5</sub>  
Allergens,  
inflammation, oxidative stress  
Happo et al., 2008  
Javala et al., 2008  
Pérez et al., 2009

PM<sub>10-2.5</sub>

PM<sub>2.5-0.1</sub>  
Additional lung physical effect

< PM<sub>2.5</sub>

PM<sub>0.1</sub>  
Cardiovascular, UFPM  
Reaching all important organs

# The problem of PM

## Particulate Matter and health effects in Barcelona

Perez et al., 2009 ES&T

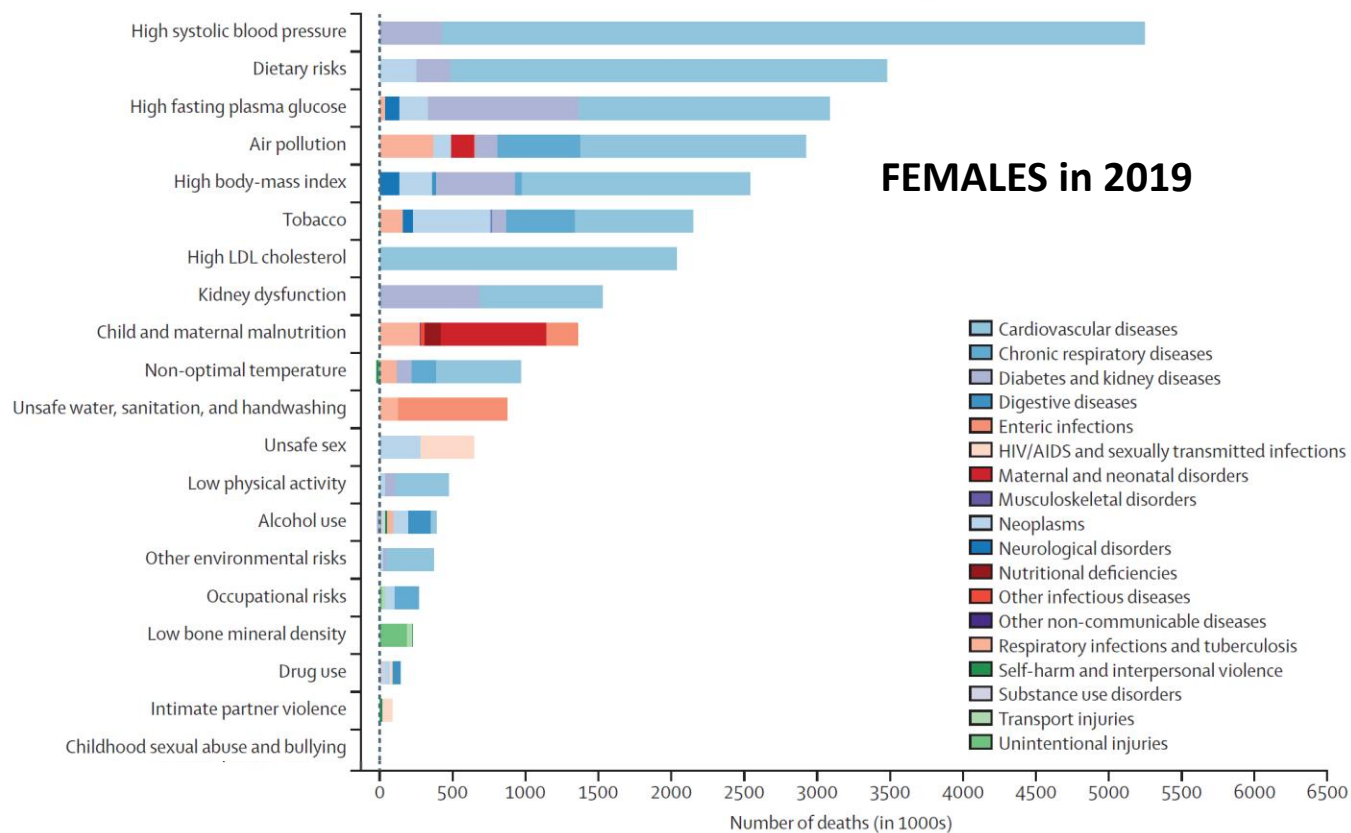
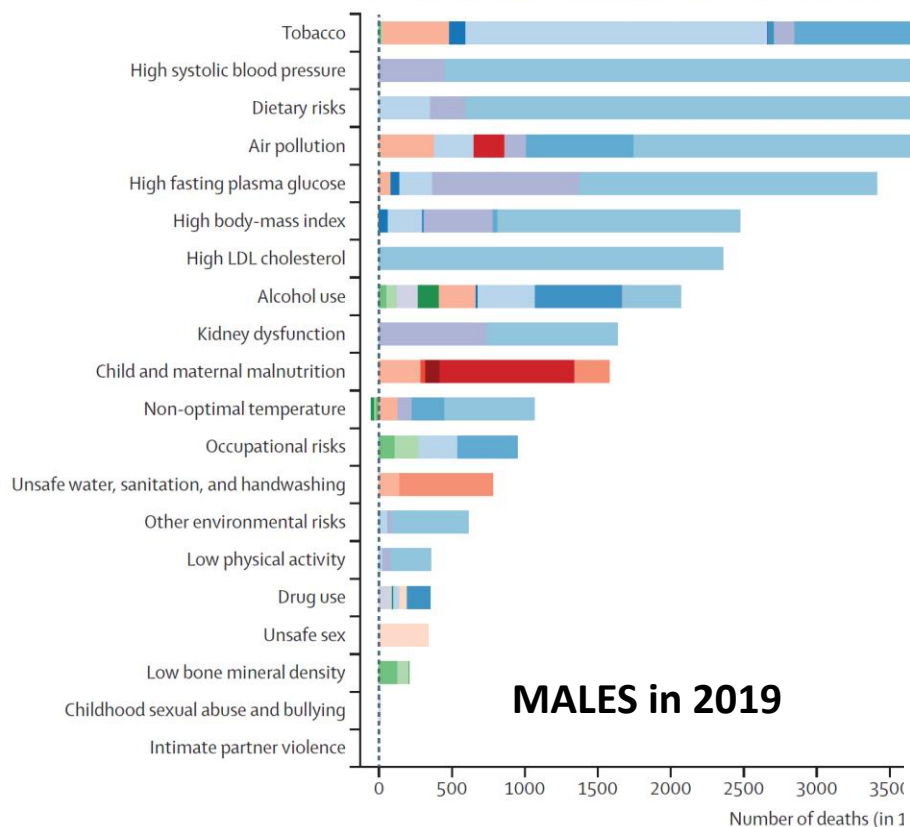
Selected results

Odds ratio per 10 ug/m<sup>3</sup>

| Fraction             | Respiratory mortality<br>(Lag2) | Cardiovascular mortality<br>(Lag1) | Cerebrovascular mortality<br>(Lag1) |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| PM <sub>10-2.5</sub> | 1.033<br>(0.980-1.089)          | <b>1.059</b><br>(1.026-1.094)      | <b>1.098</b><br>(1.030-1.171)       |
| PM <sub>2.5-1</sub>  | <b>1.206</b><br>(1.028-1.416)   | 0.984<br>(0.892-1.086)             | 0.905<br>(0.743-1.102)              |
| PM <sub>1</sub>      | 1.010<br>(0.963-1.059)          | <b>1.028</b><br>(1.000-1.058)      | <b>1.063</b><br>(1.004-1.124)       |

# The problem of PM

## Global attributable deaths from Level2 risk factors



- Cardiovascular diseases
- Chronic respiratory diseases
- Diabetes and kidney diseases
- Digestive diseases
- Enteric infections
- HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections
- Maternal and neonatal disorders
- Musculoskeletal disorders
- Neoplasms
- Neurological disorders
- Nutritional deficiencies
- Other infectious diseases
- Other non-communicable diseases
- Respiratory infections and tuberculosis
- Self-harm and interpersonal violence
- Substance use disorders
- Transport injuries
- Unintentional injuries

The Lancet, 17/10/2020, 396: 1223–49

# The problem of PM

## PM EFFECTS Impact on ecosystems

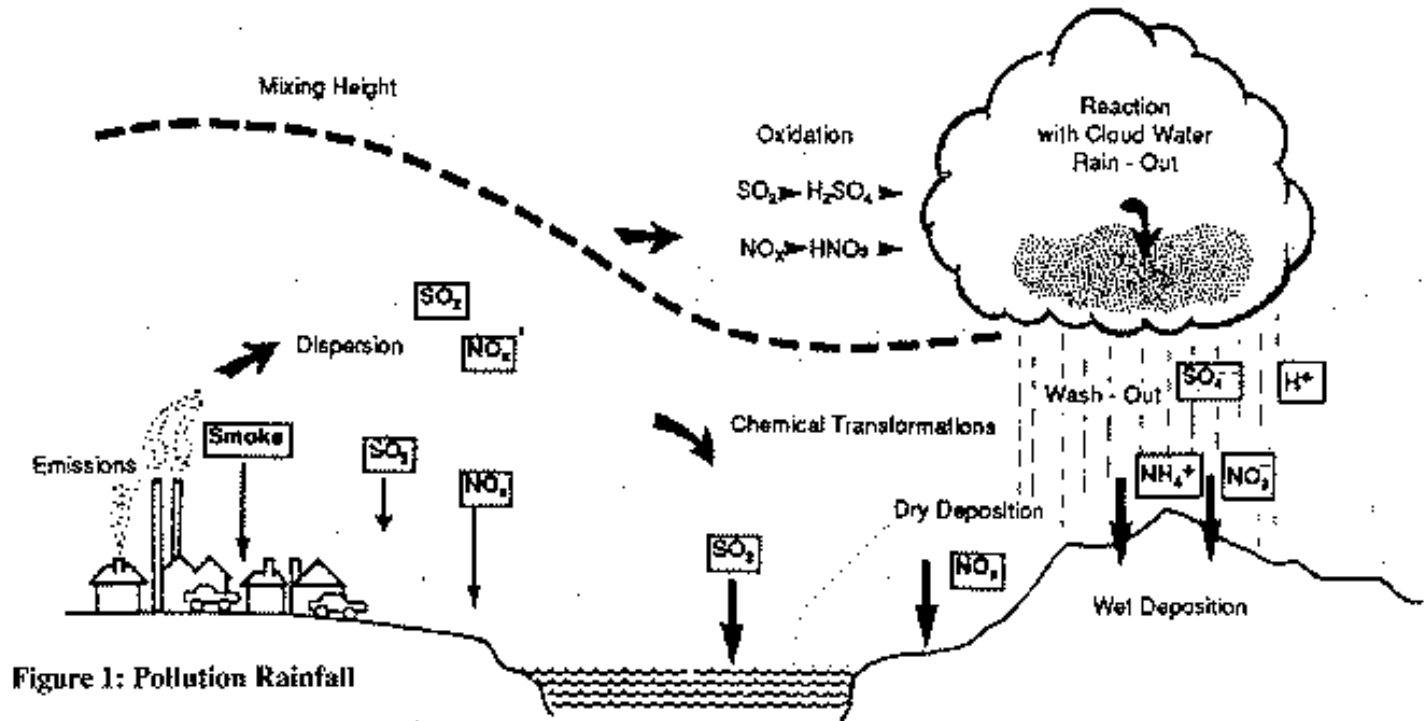


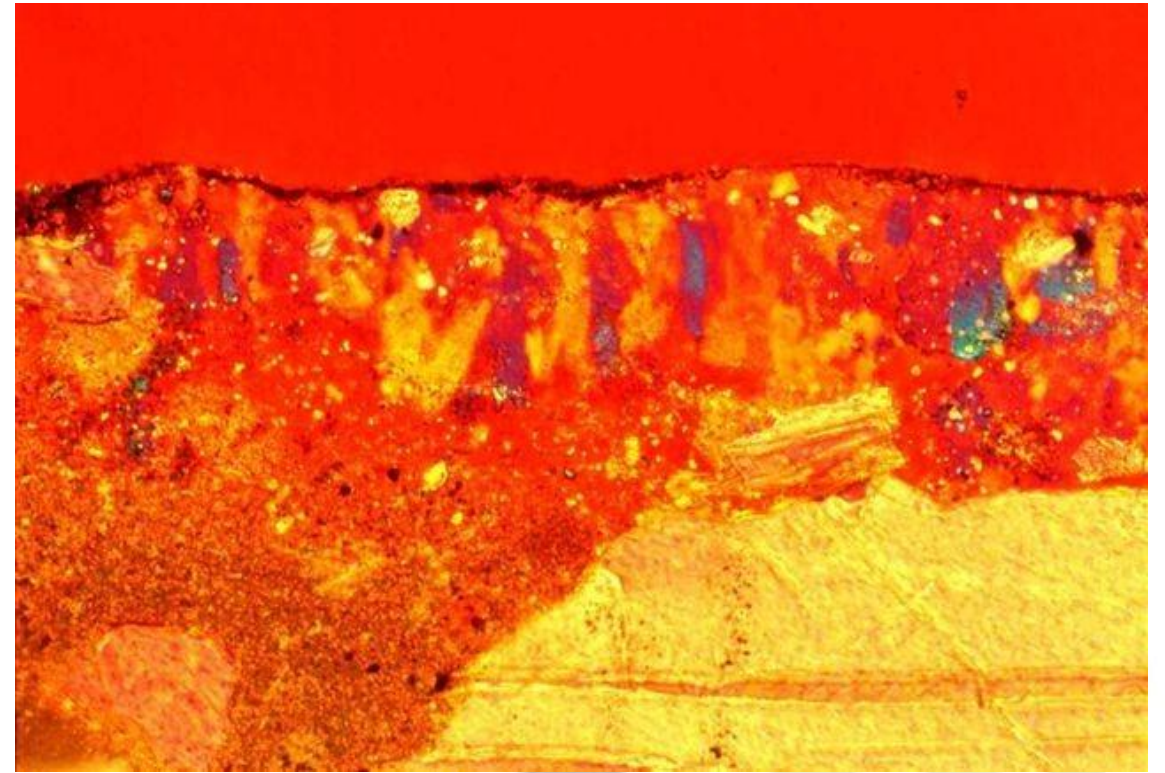
Figure 1: Pollution Rainfall

Slamba Poremba, Poland (C. Martin, The Environmental Picture Library)

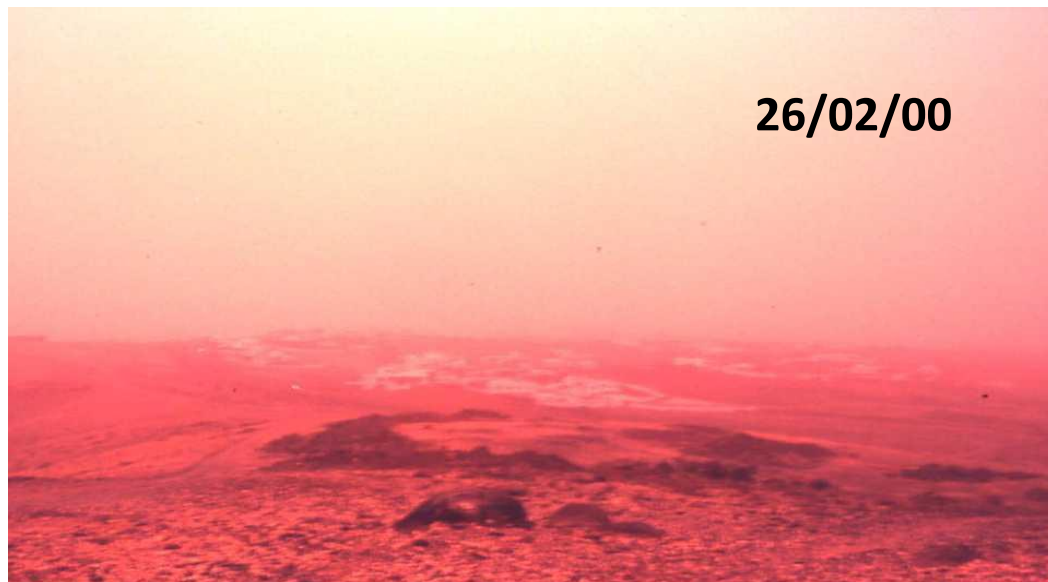
# The problem of PM

## PM EFFECTS

### Weathering of building materials



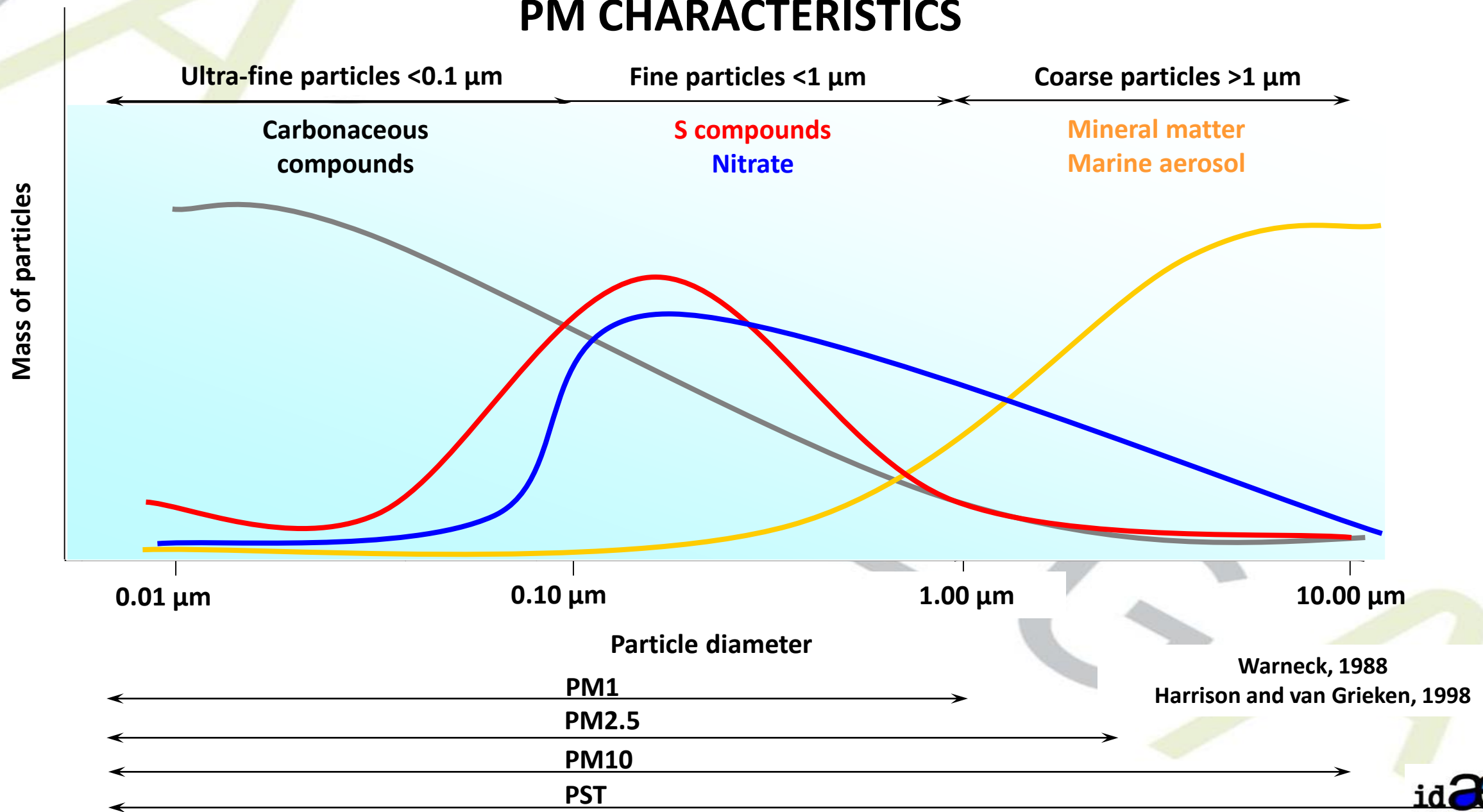
# The problem of PM



**PM EFFECTS  
VISIBILITY**

# The problem of PM

## PM CHARACTERISTICS



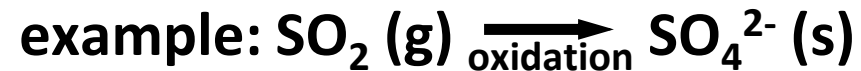
# The problem of PM

## CLASSIFICATION OF ATMOSPHERIC PARTICLES

### 1. Process of formation:

**Primary particles:** directly emitted to the atmosphere as a solid

**Secondary particles:** produced into the atmosphere from gaseous precursors



### 2. Origin:

**Natural particles**

**Anthropogenic particles (human activities)**

# The problem of PM

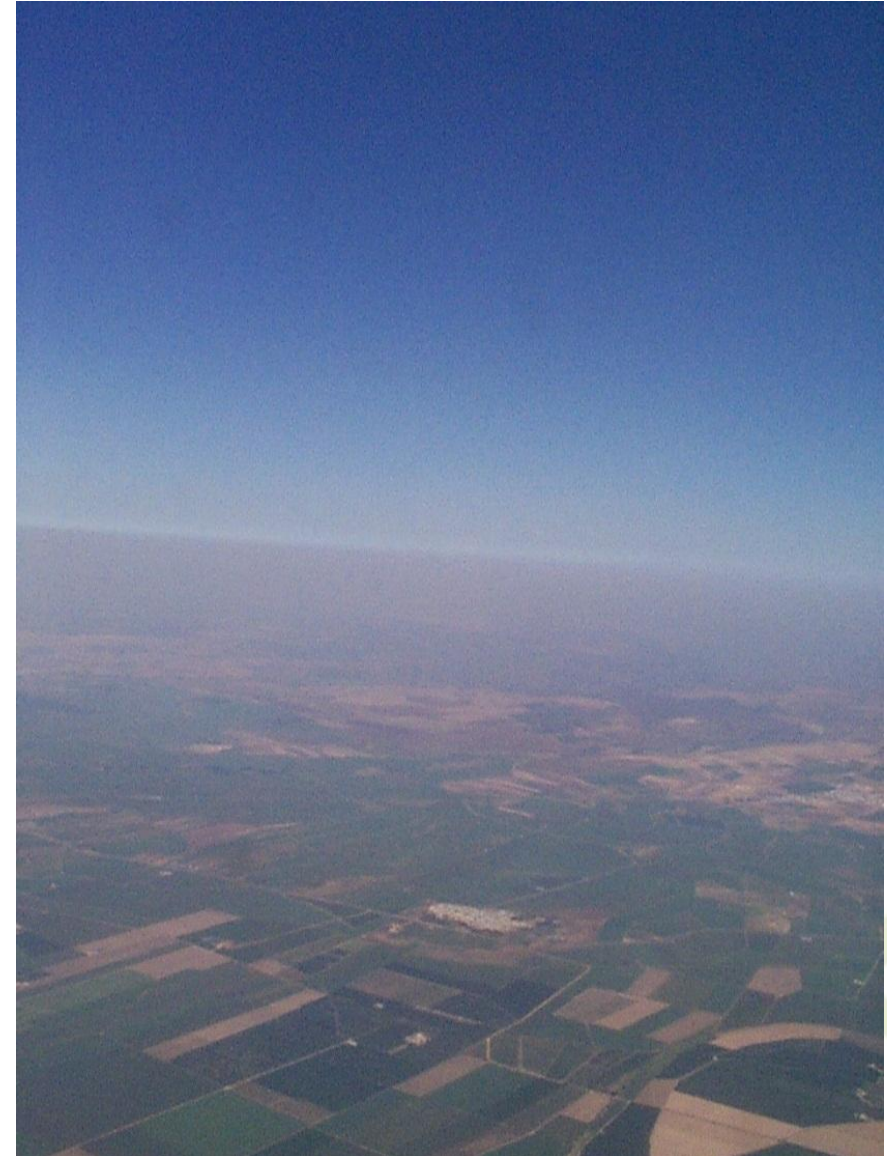


**PRIMARY PM**



# The problem of PM

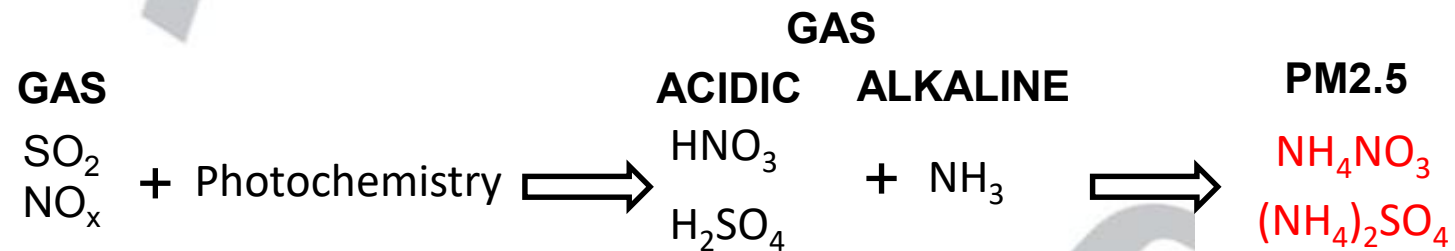
## SECONDARY PM



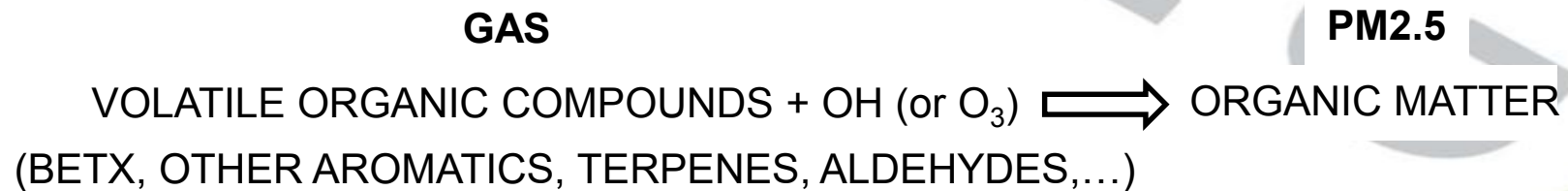
# The problem of PM

## FORMATION OF SECONDARY AEROSOLS

### SECONDARY INORGANIC AEROSOLS



### SECONDARY ORGANIC AEROSOLS



# The problem of PM

## PM ORIGIN

### PRIMARY

- **Natural**  
re-suspension (loc/ext)  
evap./precip.
- **Anthropogenic**  
direct emissions  
fugitive emissions

$\text{SiO}_2, \text{Al}_2\text{O}_3, \text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3, \text{TiO}_2$   
 $\text{CaCO}_3, \text{NaCl}, \text{C}_{\text{org}}, \text{metals}$

0.1  $\mu\text{m}$  1.0  $\mu\text{m}$  10  $\mu\text{m}$  25  $\mu\text{m}$



### SECONDARY

- **Natural**  
natural sulphate  
biogenic emissions
- **Anthropogenic**  
PM from gas by nucleation  
condensation evaporation

$\text{SO}_4^=, \text{NO}_3^-, \text{NH}_4^+, \text{H}^+$   
 $\text{C}_{\text{org}}, \text{metals}$

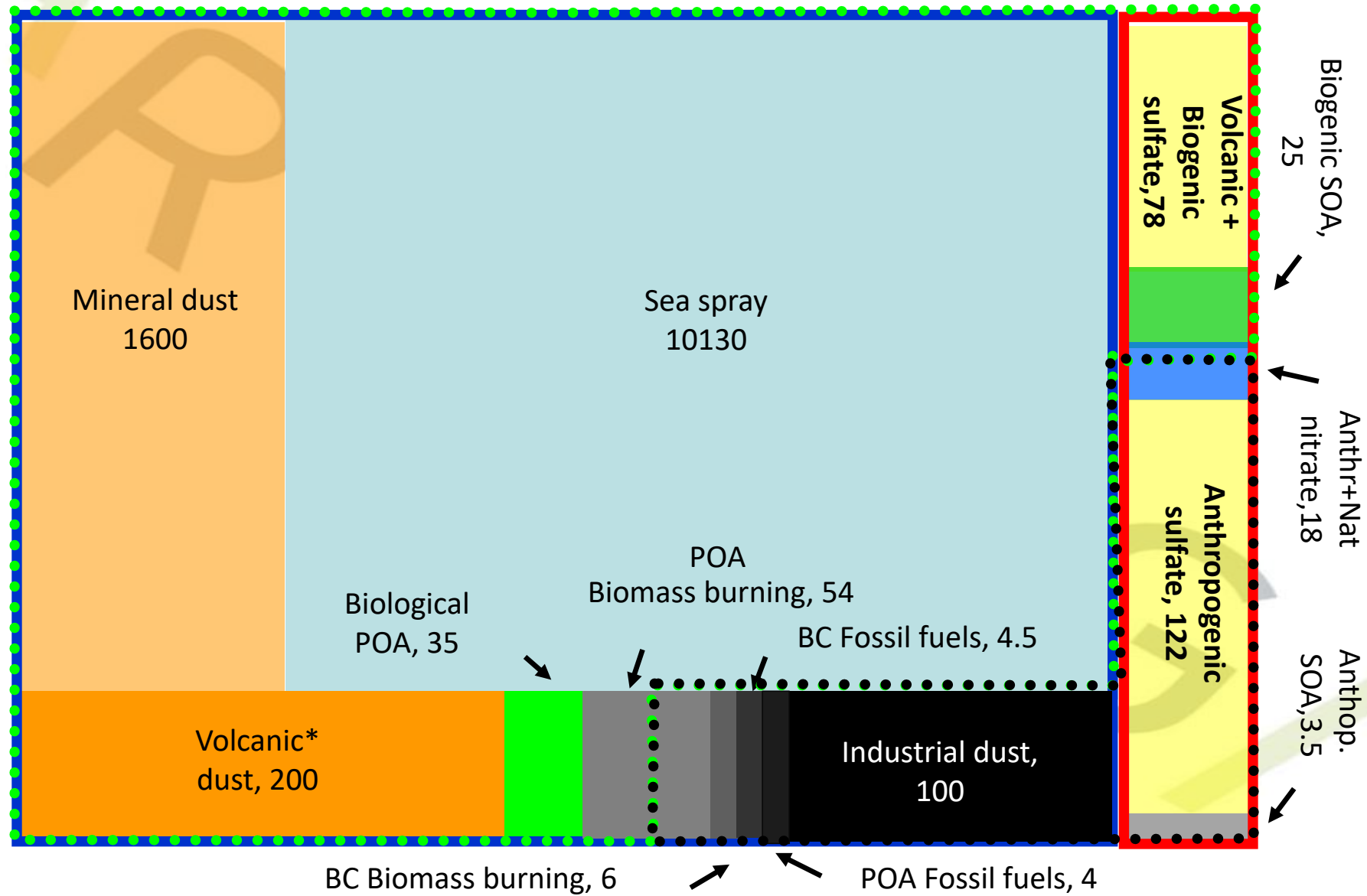
0.1  $\mu\text{m}$  1.0  $\mu\text{m}$  10  $\mu\text{m}$  25  $\mu\text{m}$



# The problem of PM

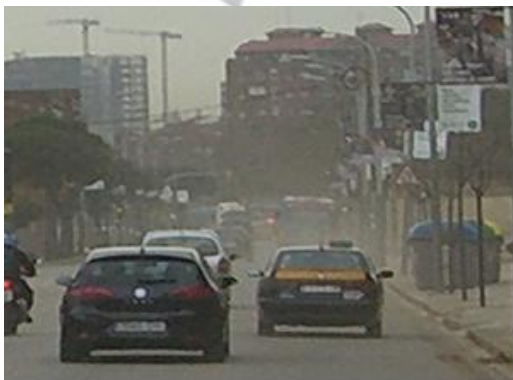
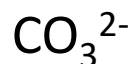
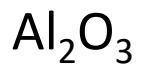
Tera grams / Year, Andreae and Rosenfeld (2008) and Durant et al. (2010)

●●●●● Natural ●●●●● Anthropogenic — Primary — Secondary

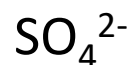


# The problem of PM

## Crustal-mineral



## Sea spray

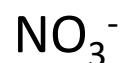
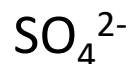


## PM ORIGIN

### Carbonaceous aerosols (OM and EC)



### Secondary Inorganic aerosols



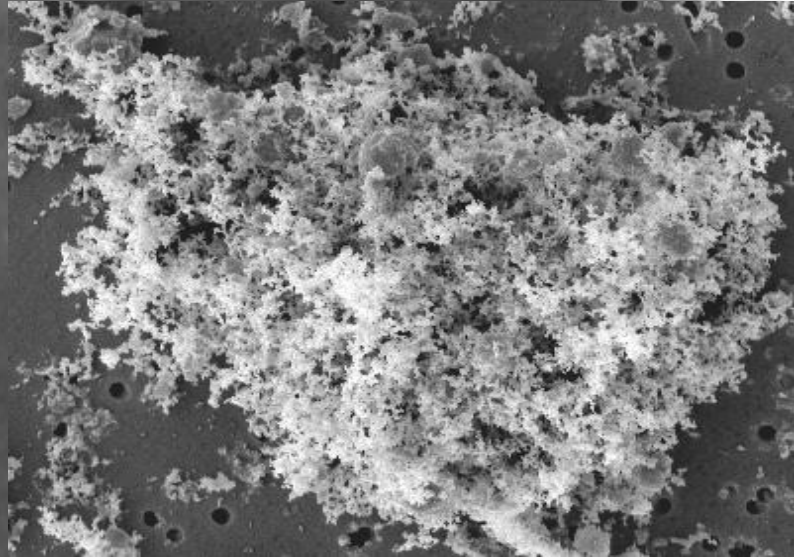
### Trace elements

As, Ba, Bi, Cd, Ce, Co, Cr, Cs, Cu, Dy, Er, Ga, Gd, Ge, Hf, La, Li, Mn, Mo, Nd, Ni, Pb, Pr, Rb, Sb, Sc, Se, Sm, Sn, Sr, Ta, Th, Ti, Tl, U, V, W, Yb, Zn, Zr



Courtesy NREL

Diesel soot



'soot'

Vehicle exhaust

Acc.V

Spot Magn

Det

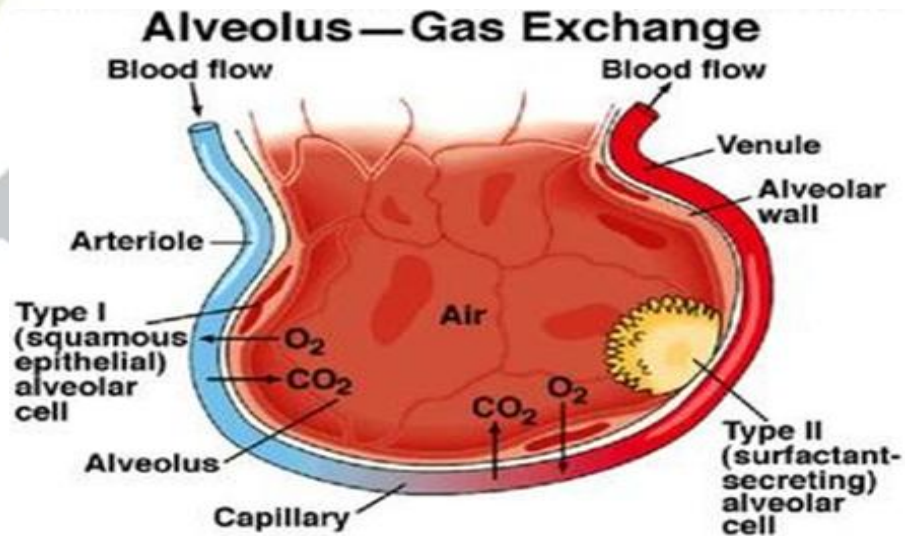
WD

Exp

1  $\mu$ m

# The problem of PM

## Micro-particles <math><2.5\mu\text{m}</math>

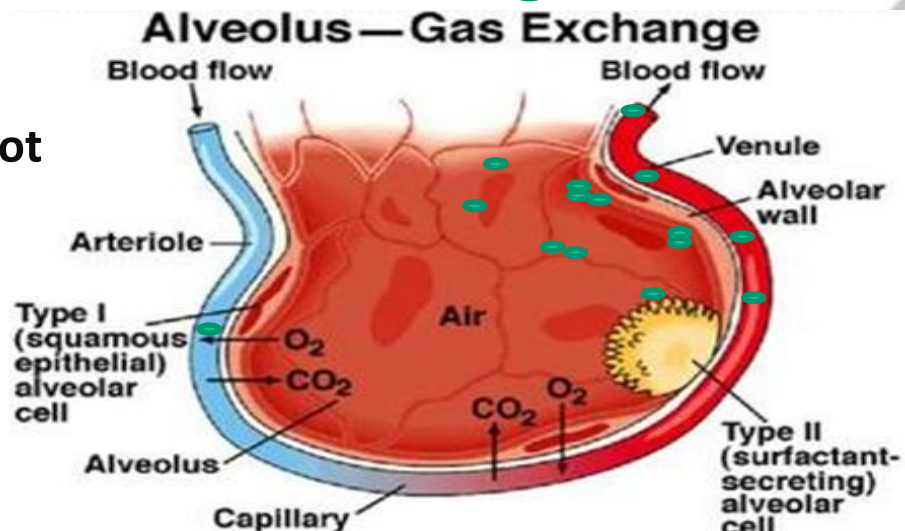


Modified after <https://birdrespirator.weebly.com/gas-exchange.html>

Clearance within 6-14 hr



## Ultrafine-particles <math><0.1\mu\text{m}</math>



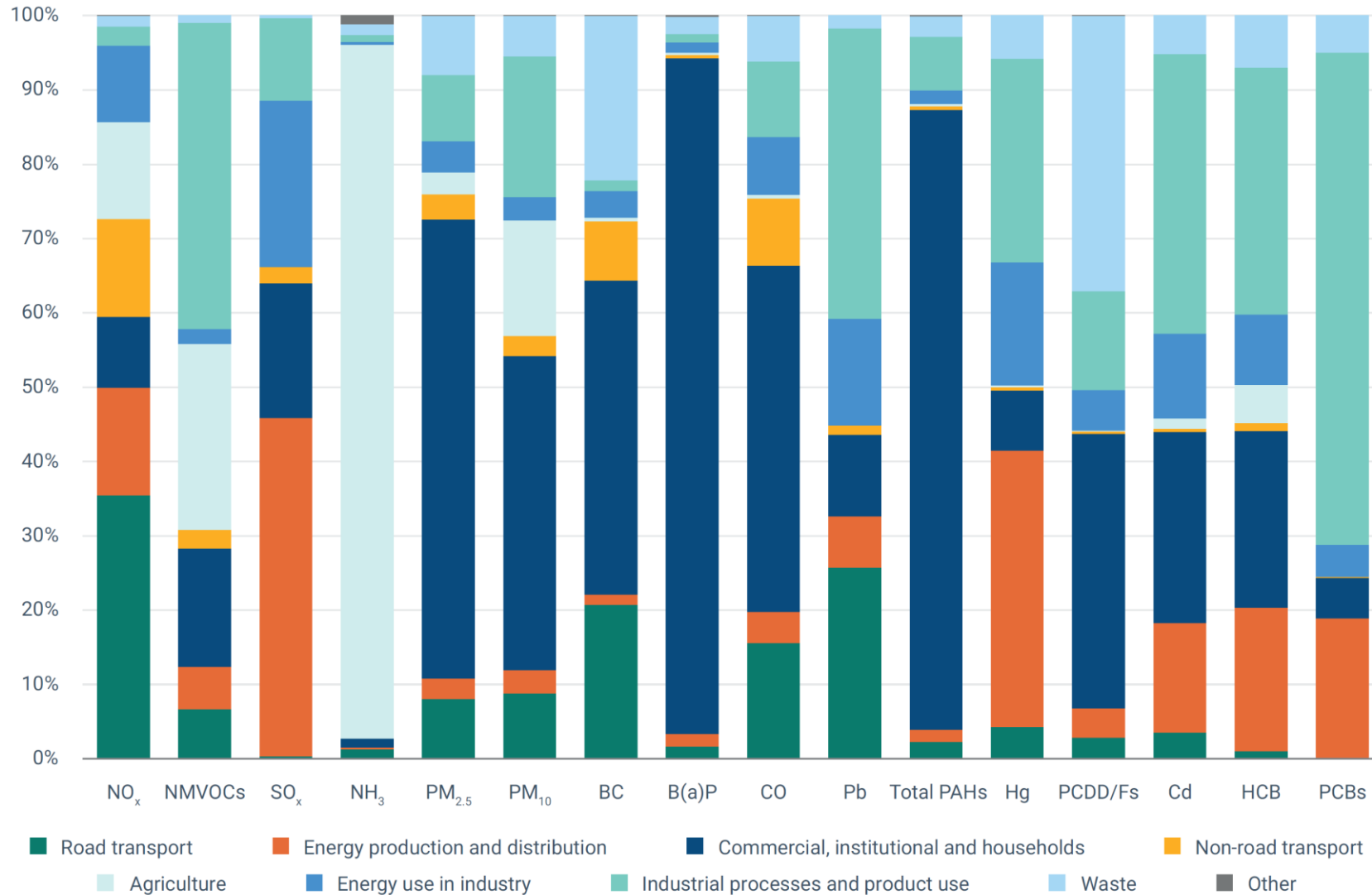
Stadium size = pollen  
Football ball = diesel soot

UFP uptake by epithelial cells +  
interstitial translocation +  
lack of macrophage recognition

*F.R. Cassee | AAAR 2019*

# The problem of PM

## EU-27 emissions (2022)



Does these proportions reflects the contribution to human exposure for each pollutant?

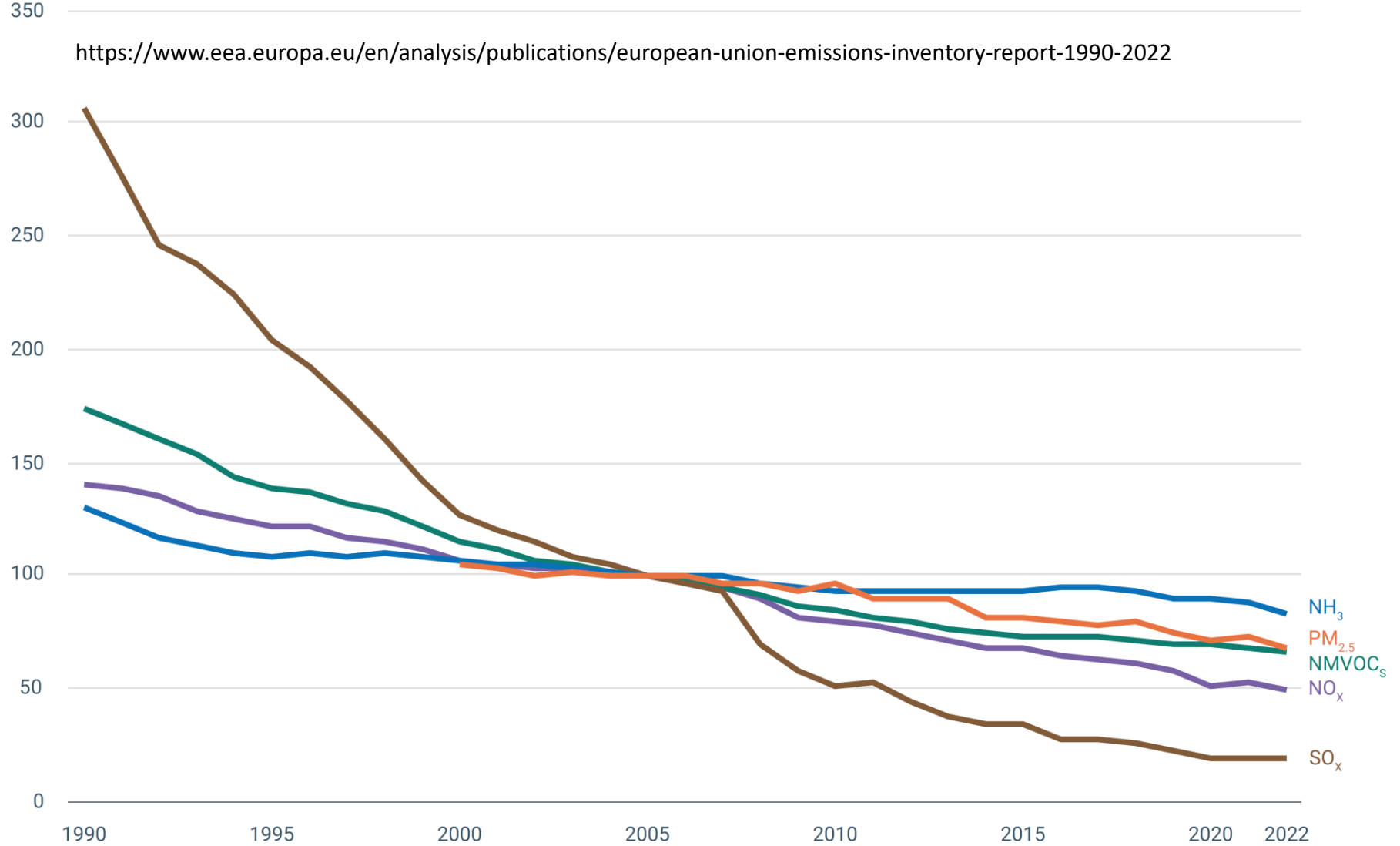


# The problem of PM

Index (2005=100)

## EU-27 emissions

<https://www.eea.europa.eu/en/analysis/publications/european-union-emissions-inventory-report-1990-2022>



25/06/2024

European Environment Agency



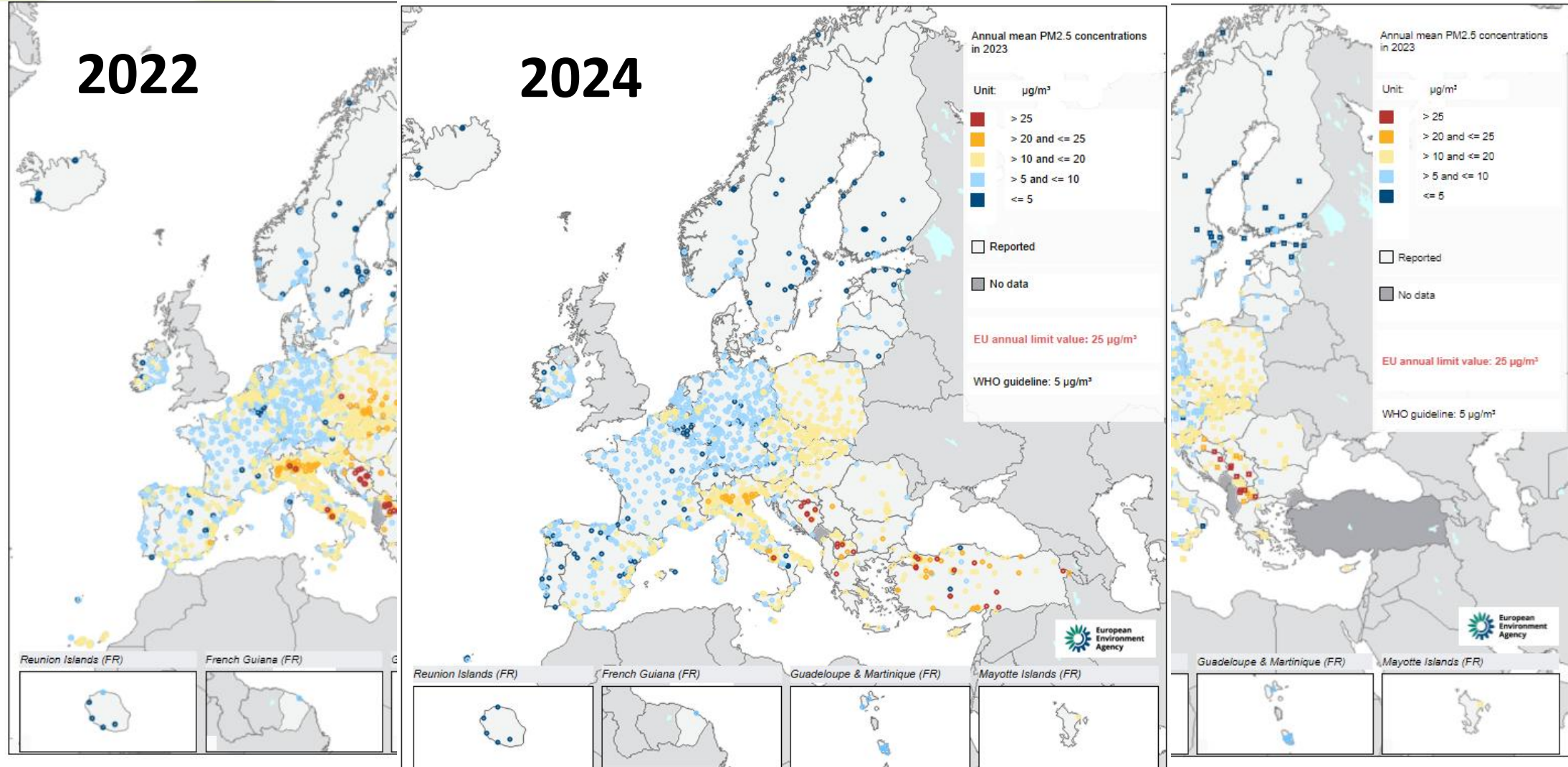
idæ<sup>a</sup>

# The problem of PM

## PM2.5, annual mean

<https://www.eea.europa.eu/en/analysis/publications/air-quality-status-report-2025>

9th April 2025



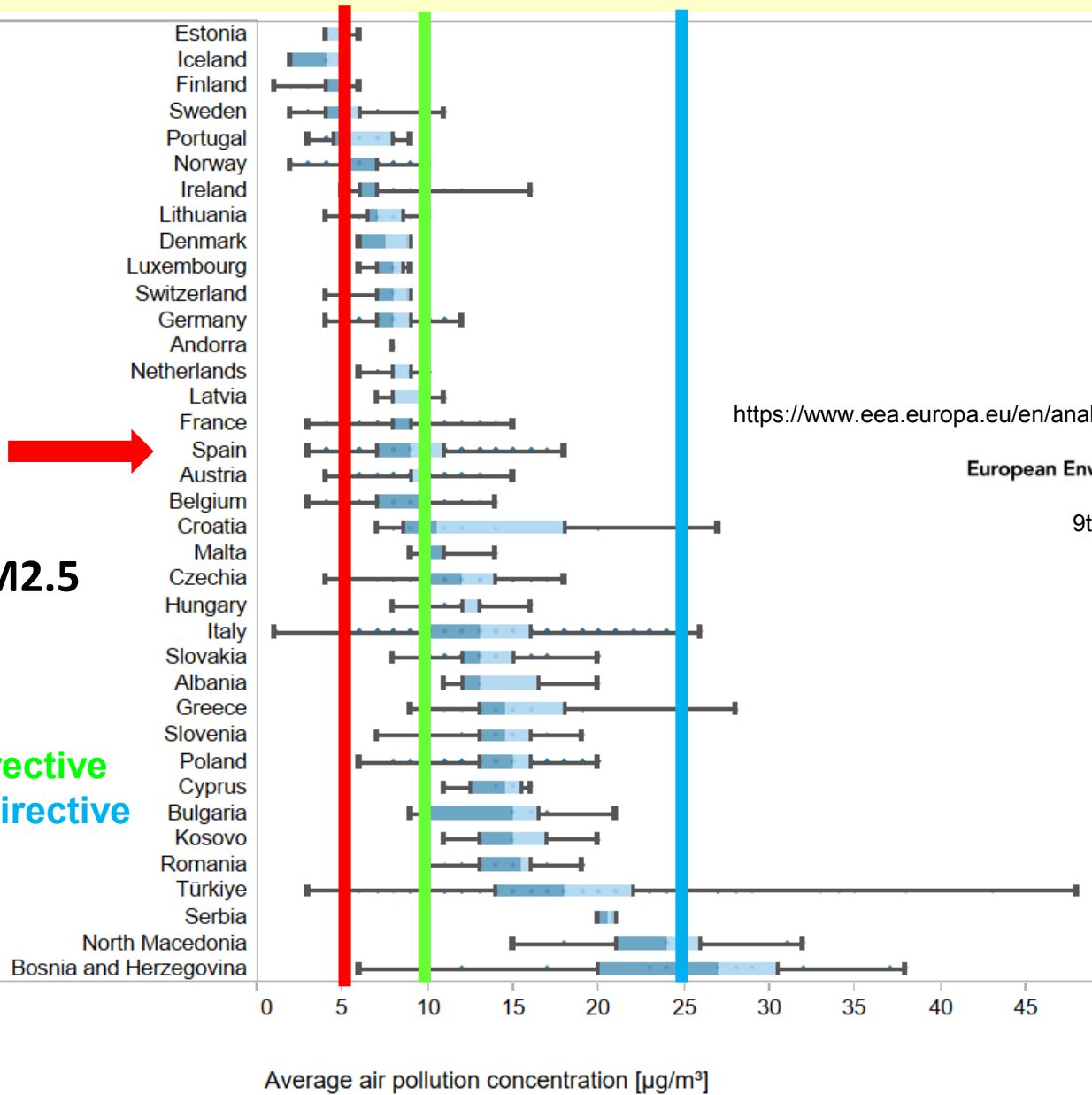
# The problem of PM

EU annual limit value: 25  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

WHO guideline: 5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

**2023**  
Annual Limit Value for PM2.5

**WHO AQG**  
Limit value future EU AQ Directive  
Limit value current EU AQ Directive



<https://www.eea.europa.eu/en/analysis/publications/air-quality-status-report-2025>

European Environment Agency



9th April 2025



# The problem of PM

## PM10 (annual mean)

1. Road Traffic is the main source contributing to PM10: **31-38%** (ATH 23%)
  - 1.1. Vehicle exhaust + traffic related  $\text{NO}_3^-$  are the main causes: **21-29%** (ATH 15%)
  - 1.2. Non-exhaust vehicle emissions are also relevant: **8-11%**
2. Regional OC and/or  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  dominated pollution: **20-26%** (POR-TR 10%)
3. Local dust : **10-19%**
4. Biomass burning very relevant in POR & FI (**14-16%**), less in ATH (**7%**) and negligible in BCN
5. Industry BCN **11%**, **4-5%**, ATH <1%
6. Non traffic- $\text{NO}_3^-$  **6-8%** (2% POR)
7. Shipping **4%** in coastal sites
8. African dust ATH **14%**, 1-4%
9. Sea salt POR **13%**, **4-8%**
10. Anthropogenic dust (Local dust + Non exhaust) reaches **19-25%**

## PM10 (days of exceedance)

- 36-45%** (ATH 15%)
- 30-34%** (ATH 6%)
- 18-29%** (ATH 3%, POR 6%)
- BCN **19%**, 2-6%
- POR **27%**, 1-4%
- POR & FI (**25-30%**), ATH 1%, negligible in BCN
- BCN **17%**, <1-3%
- BCN & FI 7-9% (1-2% POR & ATH)
- 3-4% in coastal sites
- ATH **52%**, 1%
- ATH **7%**, 1-3%
- 11-33%**, ATH 4%



## PM2.5 (annual mean)

1. Road Traffic is the main source contributing to PM2.5: **28-39%** (ATH **22%**)
  - 1.1. Vehicle exhaust + traffic related  $\text{NO}_3^-$  are the main causes: **25-34%** (ATH 17%)
  - 1.2. Non-exhaust vehicle emissions are also relevant: **5-9%** (BCN&FI 1-2% )
2. Regional OC and/or  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  dominated pollution: **19-37%** (POR **13%**)
3. Local dust: POR **16%**, **2-6%**
4. Biomass burning very relevant in MLN, FI & POR (**18-21%**), less in ATH (**10%**) and negligible in BCN
5. Industry **5-12%**, ATH <1%
6. Non traffic- $\text{NO}_3^-$  **3-6%** (POR **1%**)
7. Shipping **5-7%** in coastal sites
8. African dust: ATH **6%**, <1%
9. Sea salt POR **5%**, <1-3%,
10. Anthropogenic dust (Local dust + Non exhaust) reaches **10-21%**, BCN **7%**, FI **4%**

## PM2.5 (days of PM10 exceedance)

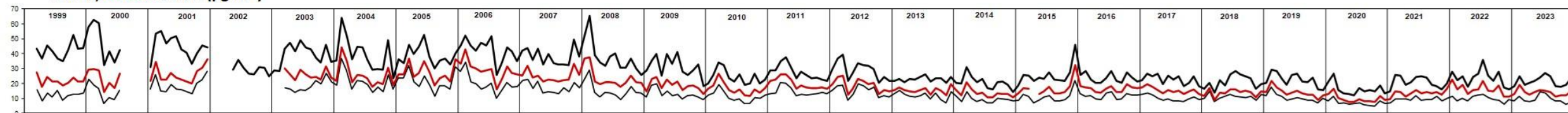
- 32-42%** (ATH 11%)
- 31-40%** (ATH 10%)
- 1-7%**
- BCN & MLN **11-22%**, 2-6%
- POR **22%**, 1-2%
- POR, FI & MLN (**26-33%**), <2%
- BCN **18%**, <1-3%
- BCN, FI & MLN **6-9%** (1-3% POR & ATH)
- 6-10%** in coastal sites
- ATH **45%**, 1%
- <1%-1%
- POR 15**, 3-9%



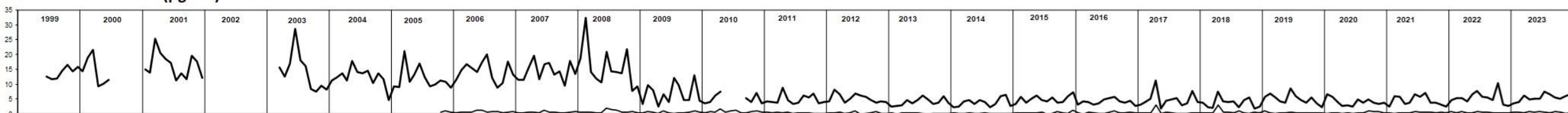
# The problem of PM

## BARCELONA PM & PM COMPONENTS 1999-2023

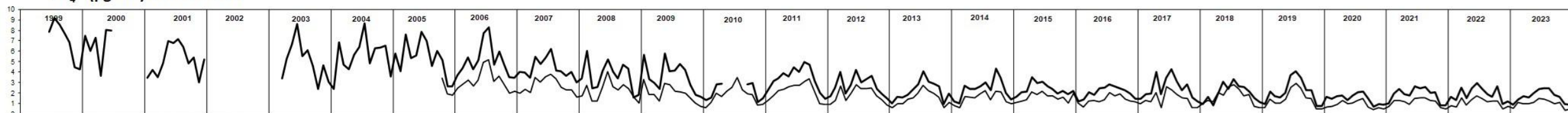
PM10, PM2.5 & PM1 ( $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ )



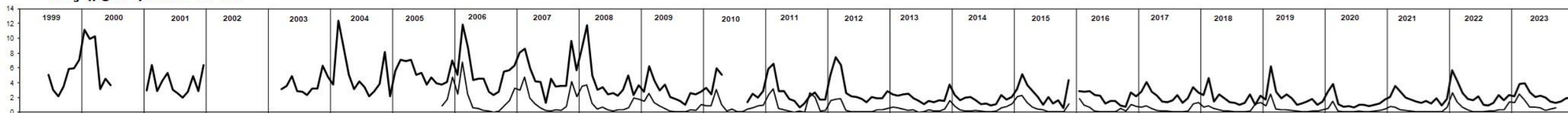
Mineral matter ( $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ) PM10 & PM1



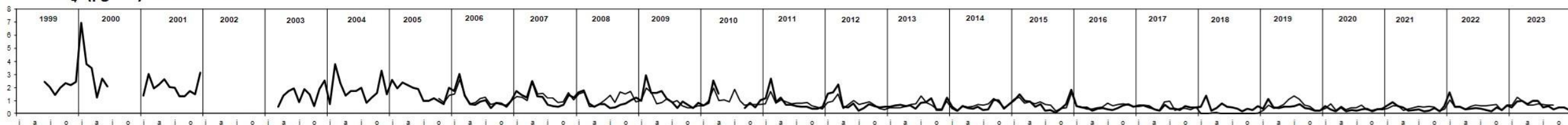
$\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  ( $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ) PM10 & PM1



$\text{NO}_3^-$  ( $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ) PM10 & PM1

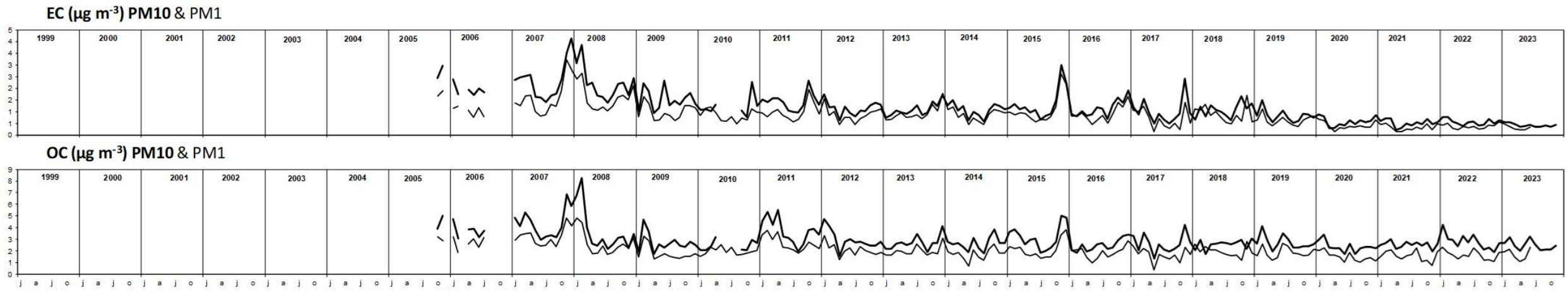


$\text{NH}_4^+$  ( $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ) PM10 & PM1

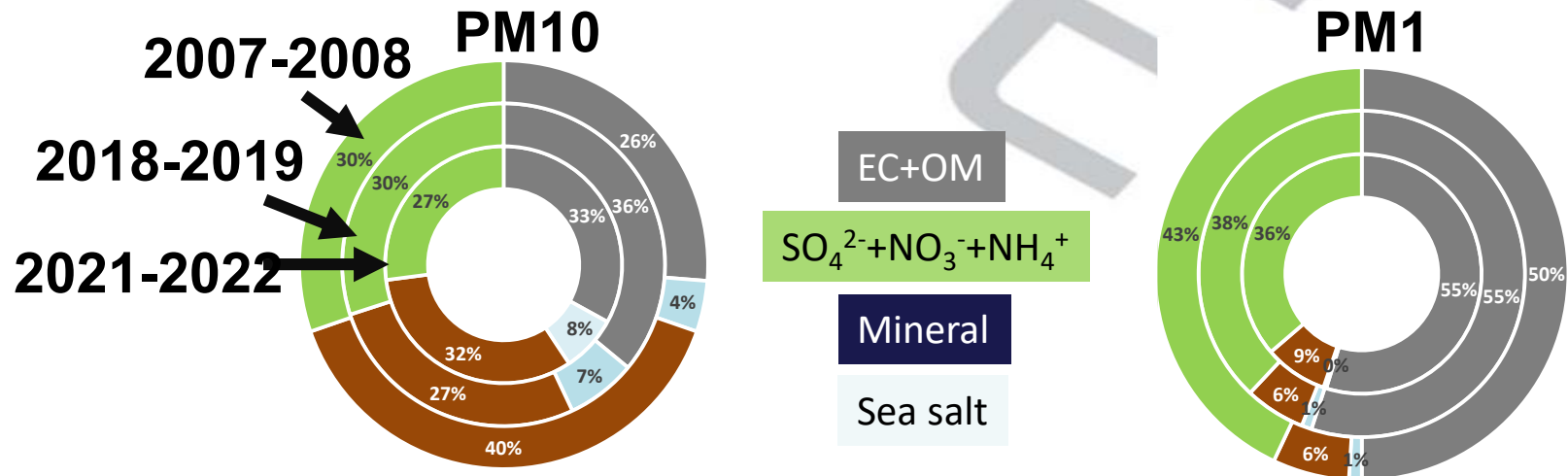


# The problem of PM

## BARCELONA PM & PM COMPONENTS 1999-2022

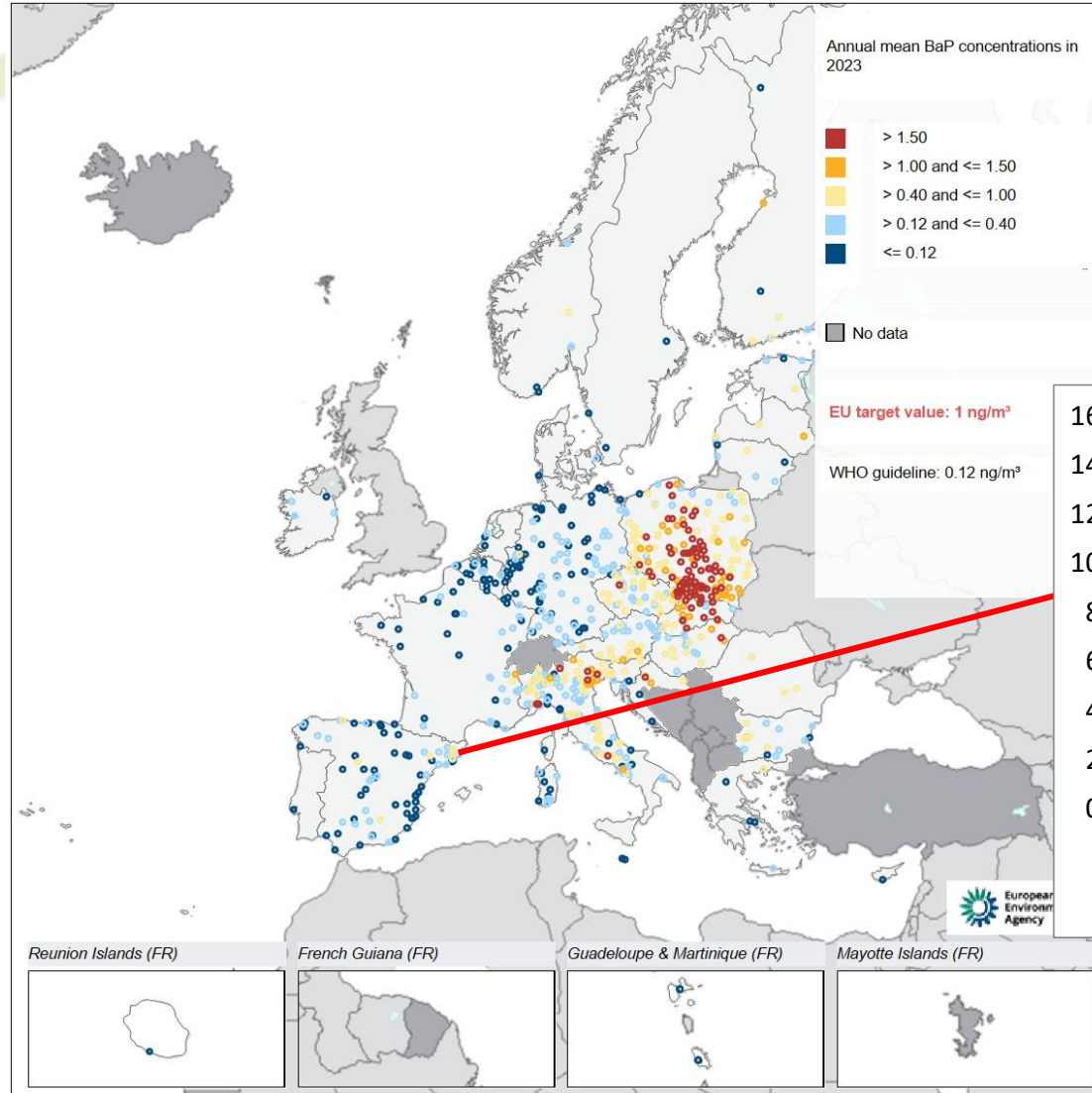


**ORGANIC PM POLLUTANTS SHOULD GUIDE ON HOW REDUCE SOA & PM2.5**



# The problem of Benzo-a-pirene

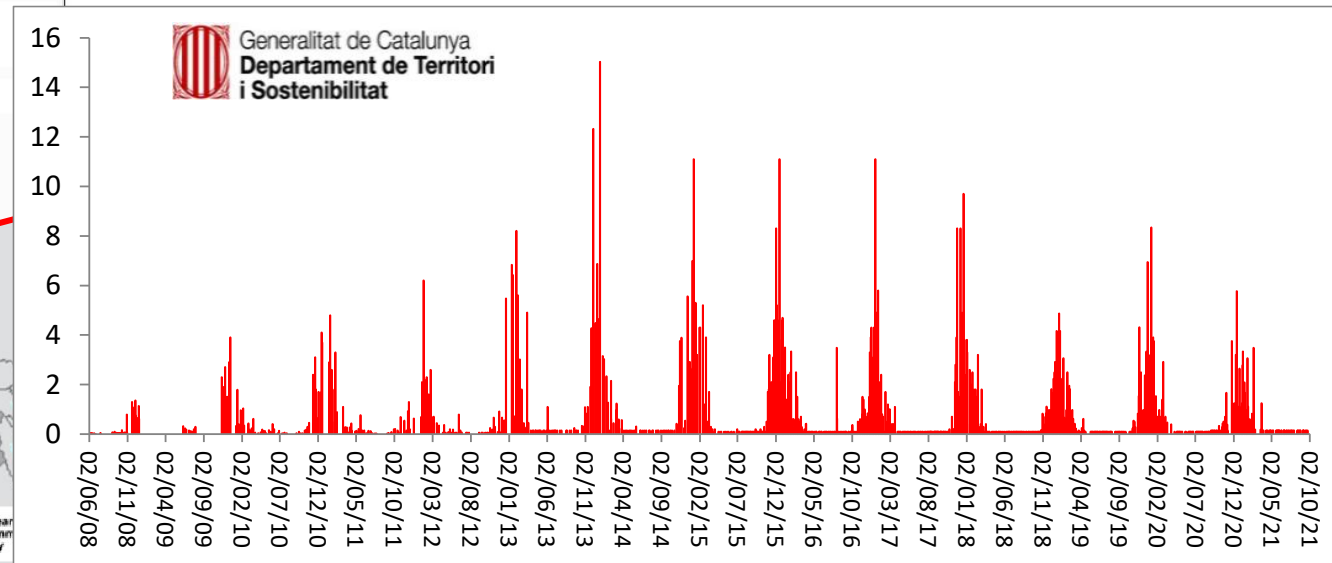
<https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/europes-air-quality-status-2025>



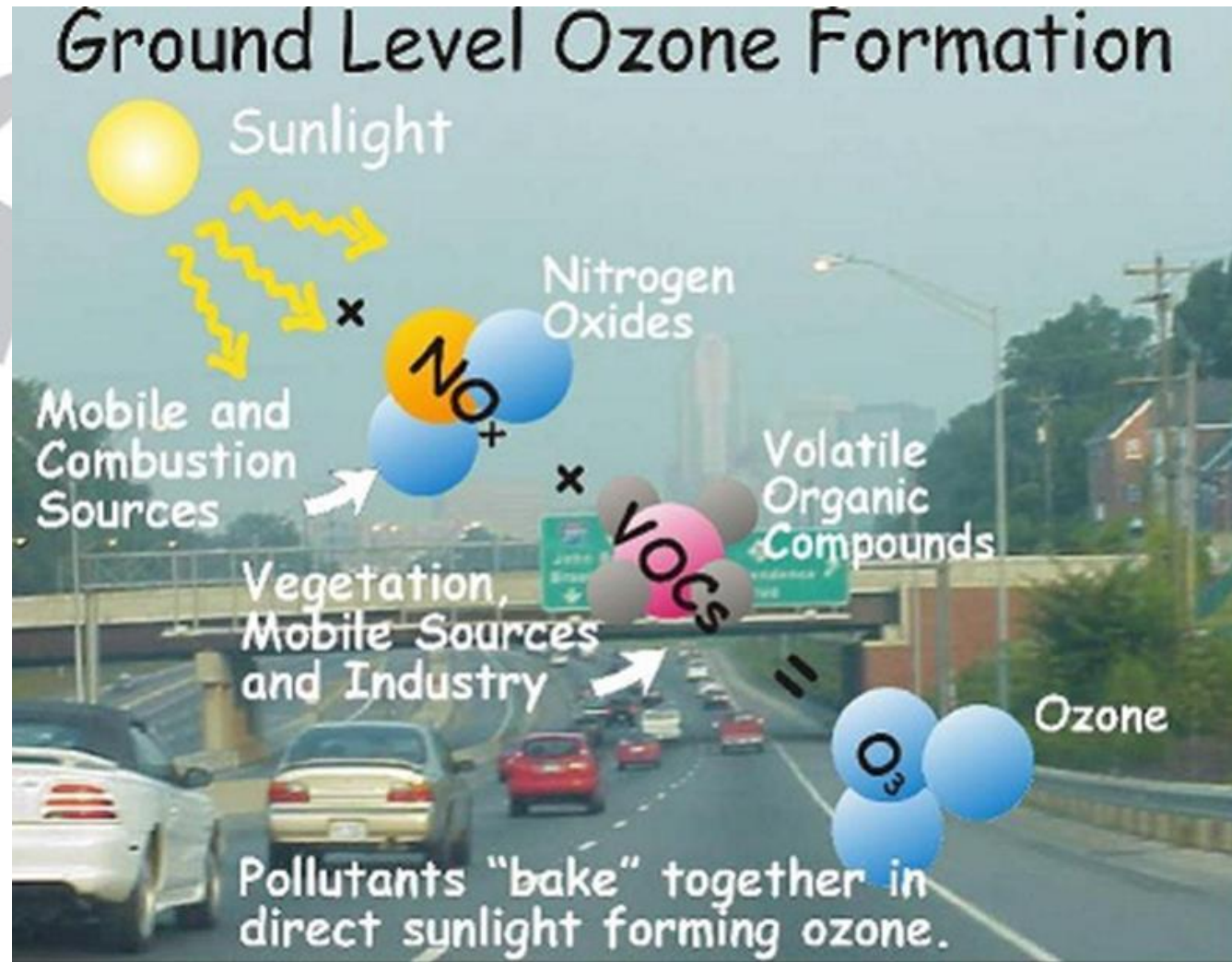
## BaP, annual target value 2023



### Manlleu BaP



# The problem of ozone



<http://www.geo.sunysb.edu/ess-workshops/lesson-plans.html>

# The problem of ozone

## Relevant VOCs to generate O<sub>3</sub>

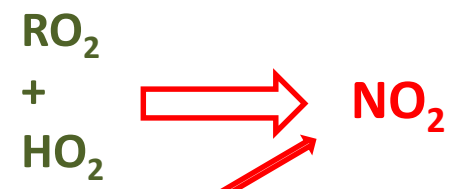
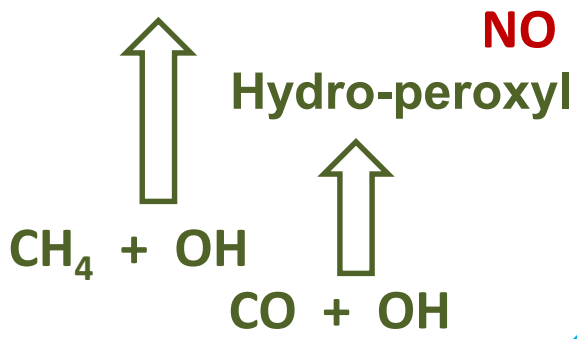
- PAHs
- Aldehydes & ketones
- A few alkanes
- Alkenes
- Alcohols
- others

## Lifetime in the atmosphere

- Isoprene 1h
- Methane 10 years

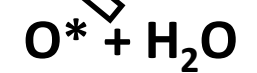
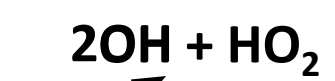
## How O<sub>3</sub> is generated?

### Organic radicals



**How O<sub>3</sub> is consumed?**  
 NO + O<sub>3</sub>  
 in urban areas  
 O<sub>3</sub> is consumed

in polluted areas  
 HONO & H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>



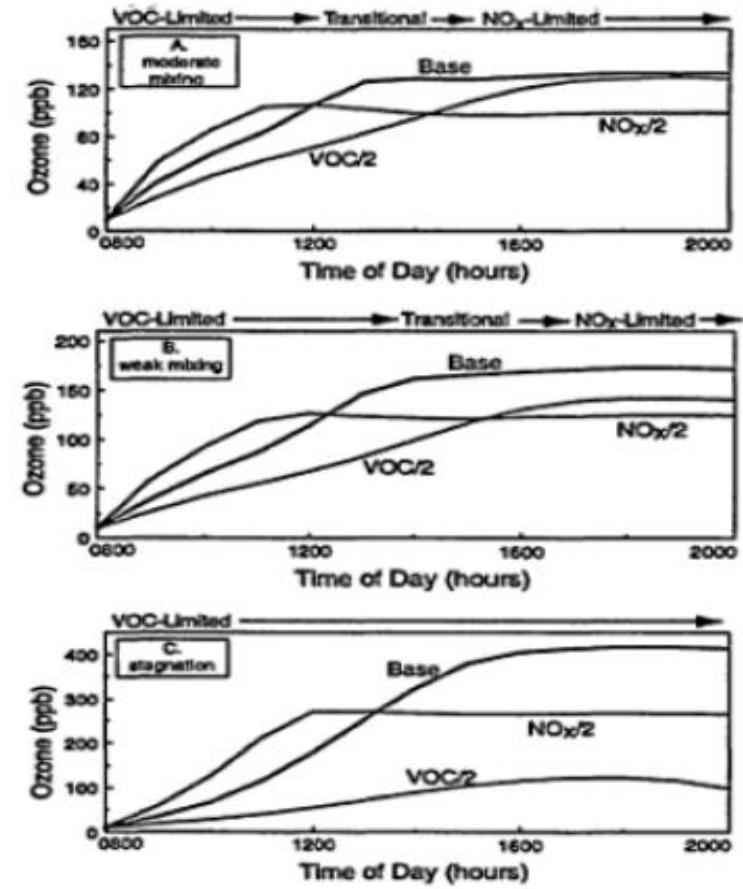
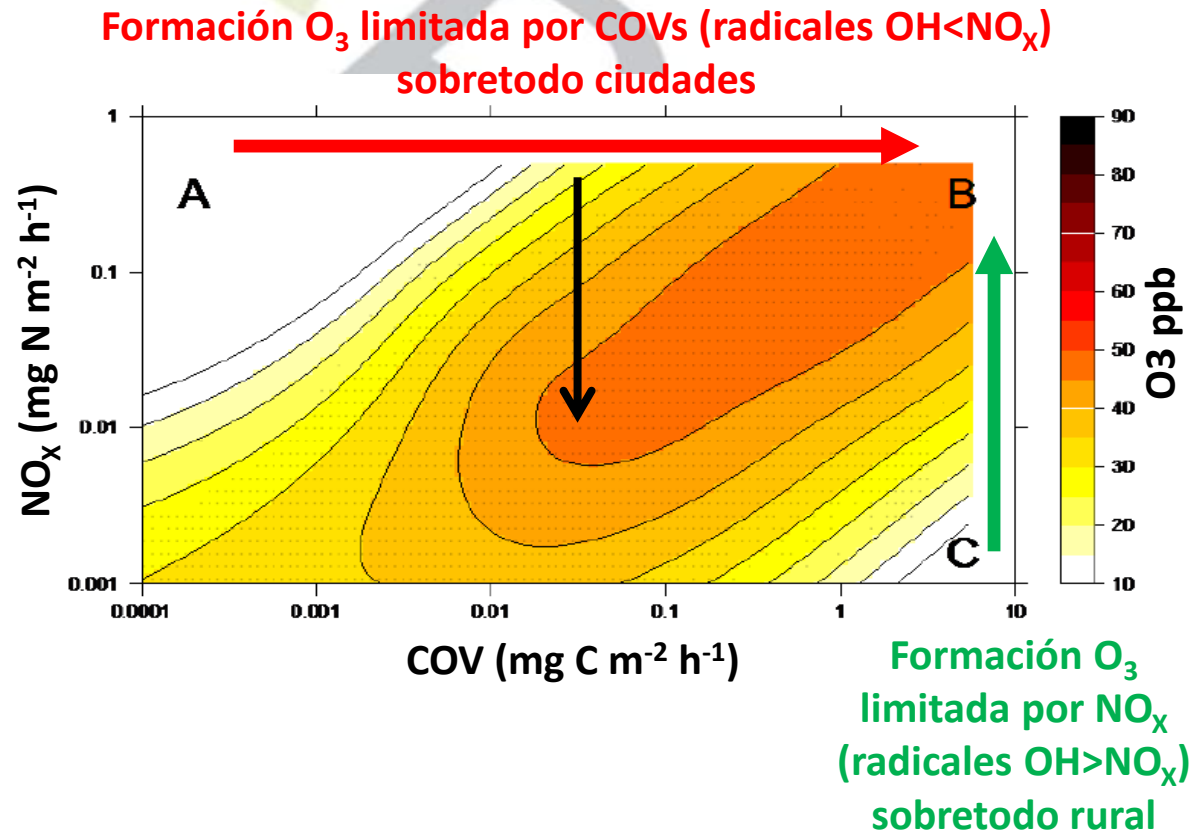
SOA

AVOCs  
 BVOCs

- Reaction with vegetation:
  - Stomatal deposition
  - Non-stomatal deposition
- Deposition in water



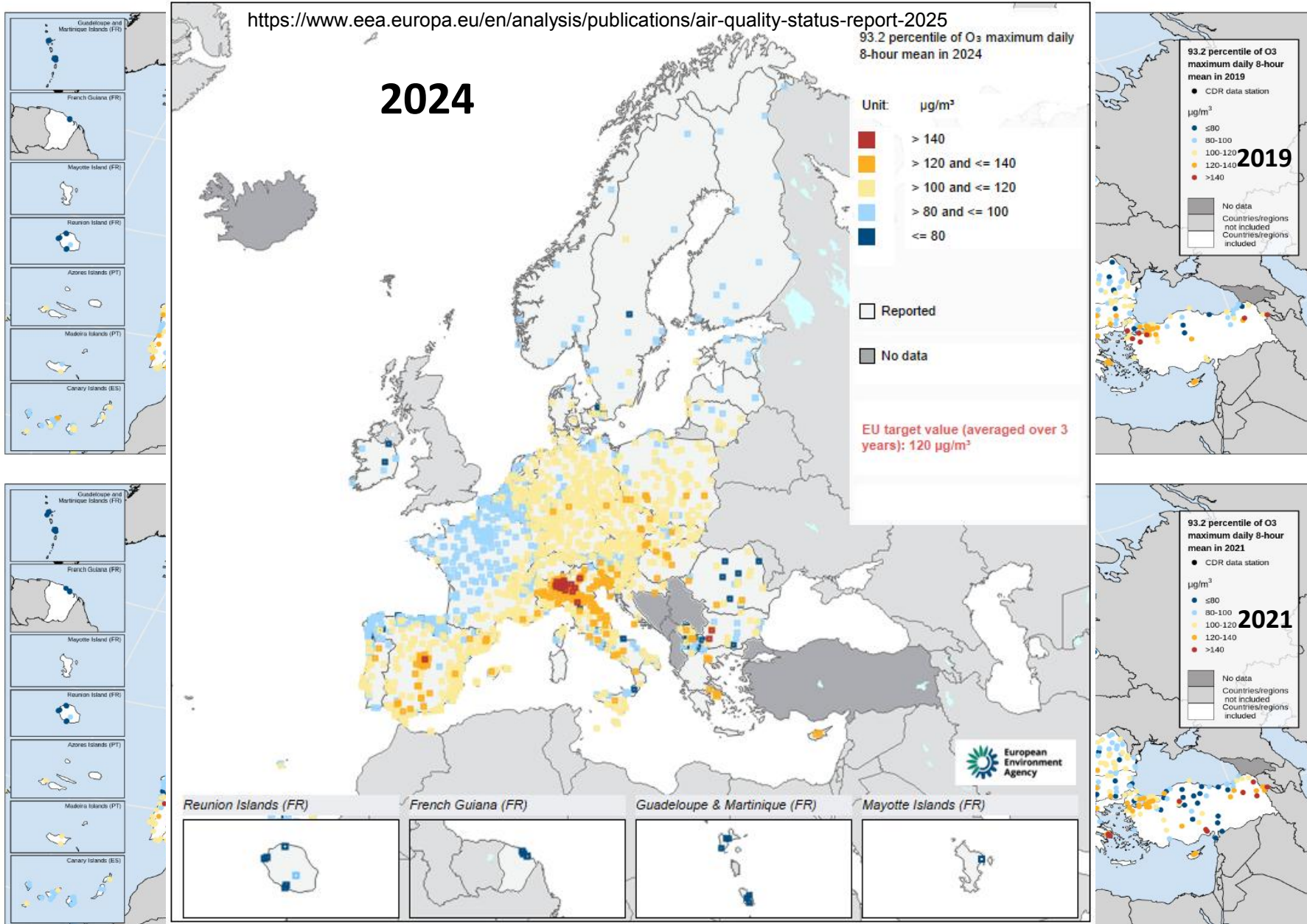
# The problem of ozone



Monks et al., 2015, ACP

# The problem of ozone

<https://www.eea.europa.eu/en/analysis/publications/air-quality-status-report-2025>



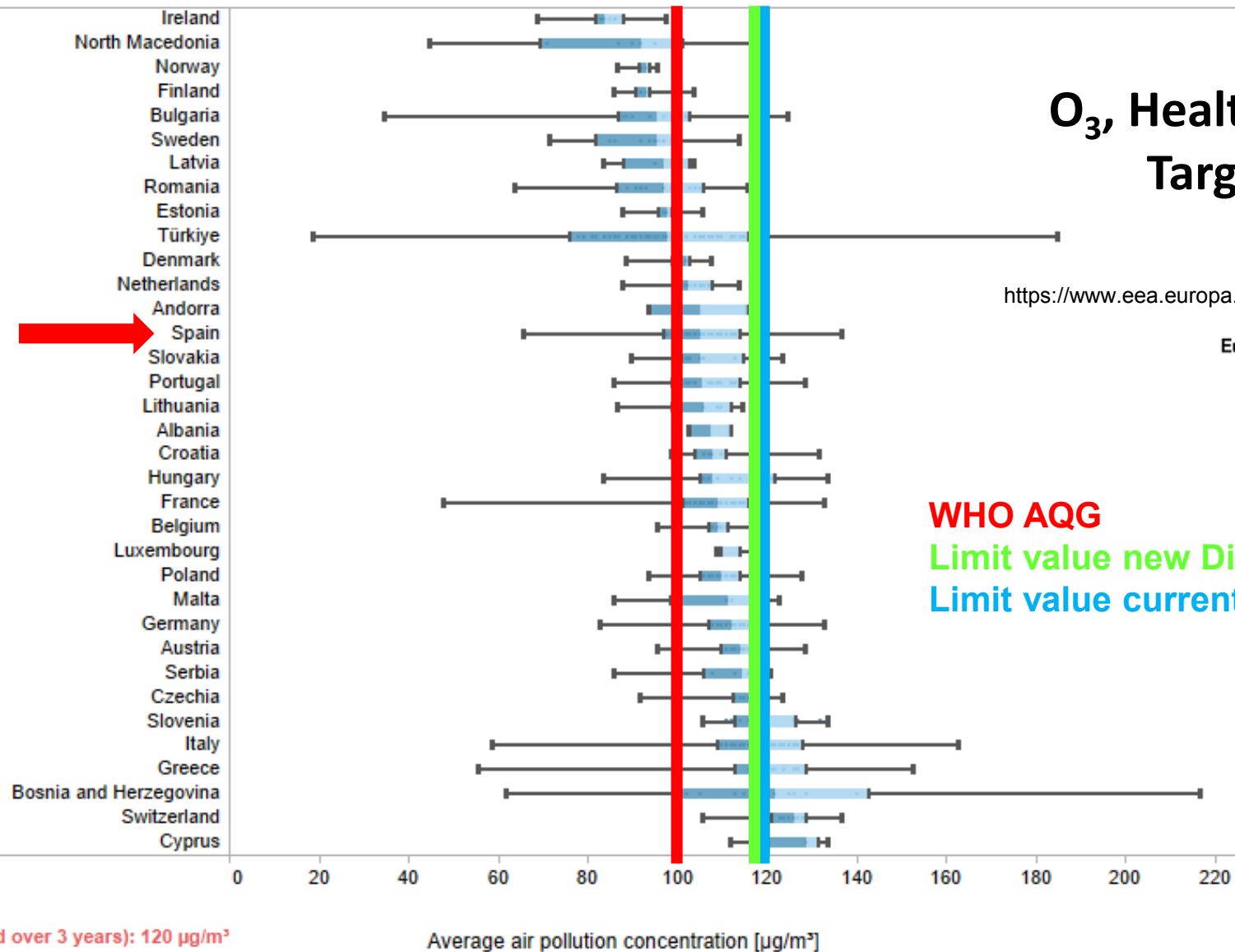
## O<sub>3</sub>, 93.2 percentile 8hDM

9th April 2025

European Environment Agency



# The problem of ozone



## O<sub>3</sub>, Health Protection 2023 Target Value

<https://www.eea.europa.eu/en/analysis/publications/air-quality-status-report-2025>

European Environment Agency



9th April 2025

WHO AQG

Limit value new Directive >120 MD8h <3d/y

Limit value current EU AQ Directive >120 MD8h <25 d/y

EU target value (averaged over 3 years): 120  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$



# THANKS!

**IR0000032 – ITINERIS, Italian Integrated Environmental Research Infrastructures System**  
(D.D. n. 130/2022 - CUP B53C22002150006) Funded by EU - Next Generation EU PNRR-  
Mission 4 “Education and Research” - Component 2: “From research to business” - Investment  
3.1: “Fund for the realisation of an integrated system of research and innovation infrastructures”



Finanziato  
dall'Unione europea  
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Ministero  
dell'Università  
e della Ricerca

