

We would like to thank the referees for their careful reading, review and useful questions and comments, which definitely will help to improve a revised version of the paper. We have addressed all comments below and indicate modifications planned for a revised version.

Replies to the comments of Referee #1

The paper represents important study of the PAH content in the atmosphere and can be published after some corrections.

Specific comments:

1. The first sentence of the abstract is not rather clear. It is not mentioned that measurements were made for the subset of PAHs (25 PAHs). May be there is also a need to characterize somehow what kind of PAHs were selected in the study (light, heavy, etc.) and may be to give the fraction in particulate phase as the range (not just one value – 8%).

yes, agree. For better clarity the first sentence of the abstract ' Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) concentration in air of the central and eastern Mediterranean in summer 2010 was 1.45 (0.30–3.25) ngm⁻³, with ≈8% in the particulate phase, associated with particles < 0.25 μm.' will be re-phrased as 'Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons concentration in air of the central and eastern Mediterranean in summer 2010 was 1.45 (0.30–3.25) ngm⁻³ (sum of 25 PAHs), with 8 (1-17) % in the particulate phase., associated with particles < 0.25 μm.'

2. In the introduction (in the first statement) domestic heating also could me mentioned.

yes, agree, domestic heating will be mentioned in revised version

3. In section 2.1, the last paragraph might need reformulation as it is not rather clear that from the absence of difference between observed values on board of the ship it follows that ship-based sources were not significant.

yes, agree. For better clarity the sentence 'The PAH levels indicated by these samplers did not show significant differences, hence the ship-based contamination is negligible.' will be re-phrased as 'The PAH levels of these samples indicated that ship-based contamination was negligible.'

4. In section 2.3, in the first sentence it could be useful to note more clear what data set is meant. It is also mentioned that no data on soot or PM composition is available, but it could be said at least that this process can also affect partitioning. The underprediction mentioned later on may be connected with this selection of partitioning models.

yes; data set will be specified by '15 high-volume samples of separate gas and particulate phase concentrations'. Significance of soot for gas-particle partitioning will be emphasized: ' We refrain from testing dual adsorption and absorption models (e.g. Lohmann and Lammel, 2004) as no soot data or PM chemical composition data are available.' will be re-phrased as 'Adsorption to soot is a significant gas---particle partitioning processes for PAHs, but no soot data or PM chemical composition data are available. We, therefore, refrain from testing dual adsorption and absorption models (e.g. Lohmann and Lammel, 2004).' In the discussion of the results of the gas-particle partitioning models tested (section 3.2) the sentence ' The neglect of adsorption to soot, not covered by the gas-particle partitioning models tested, may explain a at least part of the underprediction' will be added.

5. In section 2.5 the selection of RET for the simulations of air-sea exchange can be somehow explained.

yes, agree. Short sentence 'RET is selected, because of the prevalence of one dominating source.' will be added to section 2.5.

6. In section 2.6 there is a need to give more detailed information on the generation of these retroplumes and their use for identification of potential sources.

agree. 1st paragraph of section 2.6 will start in the revised version with an introductory sentence, providing also references to respective applications i.e., 'Distributions of potential sources can be identified by inverse modelling using meteorological input data (Stohl et al., 2003; Eckhardt et al., 2007).'

7. Section 3.1: the value of total PAH concentration and its range differ from that given in the Table 1a.

The values differ because the mean values in Table 1a are referring to all 15 samples, regardless whether exceeding LOQ or not, with the ones < LOQ replaced by LOQ/2. To avoid confusion the value in the table will be mentioned in the text, too, explaining the difference.

Some comments would be useful on those PAHs that were higher than previously measured. For gaseous phase (Table 2a) these are FLT and PYR, but for particulate phase (Table 2b) there are more PAHs that were higher than previously measured. This might be connected with difference in seasons or something else. . .

Agree, although the basis for comparison of this and previous studies is limited, as emphasized. The discussion of the results will be expanded: 'The variability of advection or advection in combination with different routes taken by a vessel being influenced differently by coastal or ship emission plumes may explain this difference.' will be changed to:

'In the ISS some PAHs are found somewhat higher than previously measured i.e., FLT and PYR (in the gas-phase) and BAP and PER (in the particulate phase). Due to a sampling artefact BAP and other particulate phase PAHs could be underestimated by up to 25% (aforementioned, section 2.1). The seasonality of emissions and the variability of advection or advection in combination with different cruise routes being influenced differently by coastal or ship emission plumes can have a large influence and may explain these differences. On the other hand, the duration of temporal averaging atmospheric concentrations was similar across the various studies.'

8. In section 3.2 again effect of sorption on OC and EC could be mentioned, not just the absence of data.

yes; a respective sentence will be added in the revised version i.e., 'The neglect of adsorption to soot, not covered by the gas-particle partitioning models tested, may explain at least part of the underprediction.'

9. In section 3.3, the units of (> 50 ngm³ d⁻¹) seems to be wrong.

yes, thanks, should be ng m⁻² d⁻¹

10. In section 4, conclusions, it should be added that for most of measured PAHs the levels were lower than previously measured,

This conclusion is anyway drawn (first sentence of the section reads 'PAH pollution of the atmospheric Mediterranean environment was below previous observations at the beginning of the decade (2001-02; Tsapakis and Stephanou, 2005a; Tsapakis et al., 2006),

also considering possible losses during sampling. This might reflect emission reductions.')

again effect of sorption on OC and EC could be mentioned. Potential sources of pollution of marine atmosphere could also be mentioned as it was evaluated through the use of FLEXPART model.

We refrain from drawing a conclusion on gas-particle partitioning because of the lack of data needed to test all relevant models.

A conclusion section should include conclusions, nothing else. The results on long-range transport paths (to the ship's position, using the inverse model FLEXPART) are mentioned in the results section and are the subject of an on-going study, to be published soon.

11. Table 3a provides observed and predicted fractions of particulate phase, but the units mentioned are ng m⁻³ that seems to be not correct.

Yes, thanks, unit will be removed.

Replies to the comments of Referee #2

This paper on the air-sea exchange of PAHs in the Mediterranean is based on a unique dataset of air and water samples and gives new insights into the cycling of PAHs between different environmental compartments. While the idea of the paper is compelling and in general suitable for publication in ACP the paper suffers from a variety of shortcomings. Thus, I can only support publication of this work after major revisions.

First of all, the paper would strongly benefit from a revision by a native speaker. Some sentences are obscure and it is not clear what exactly the authors want to say. A few examples:

p5967 l20,21 'Each one' [...] 'as far as possible identical manipulations on site'

will be re-phrased for better clarity: "Field blank values, b, were gained from GFFs and PUFs manipulated in the field, as far as possible identical to the samples, except without switching the high-volume sampler on."

p5972 l16 'corresponds with no or being hit of such areas'

will be re-phrased for better clarity: "..., vice versa, low concentrations corresponded with no apparent passage of such areas"

p5972 l16 'This perception' should probably be 'This finding'

yes, agree

p5973 l17,18 '...PAH was almost exclusively quantified in particle size fraction <0.25µm' should probably mean 'the majority of the particulate PAHs were found in the size fraction <0.25 µm'?

yes, agree. Will be modified to "most of the particulate PAH mass was found in the size fraction <0.25µm."

p5974 l3 'FLT and PYR are indicated to be close to phase equilibrium' should probably mean 'were found to be'

yes, agree

p5974 l24 'observable' should be 'observed'

yes, agree

Secondly, besides the title '... aerosols and air-sea exchange ...' there is only little information on the actual findings about PAHs in/on aerosols. Also the air-sea exchange was only investigated for 3 PAHs.

PAHs in aerosols: The gas-particle partitioning of semivolatile PAHs is presented in Sections 3.2 and S2.1 (and Tables 2, S2). We refrained from reporting trivial findings (e.g., on gas-particle partitioning of more volatile and non-volatile PAHs, which was expectedly close to 0 and close to 1, respectively), not needed to be communicated 25 years after publication of key literature in this topic.

PAHs air-sea exchange: Only for 4 PAHs surface seawater concentrations >LOQ were found (Table 1b). This will be stressed for better clarity in the text of section 3.1 and caption of Table 1. We prefer to refrain from speculating about air-sea exchange of PAHs which could not be quantified in surface seawater.

detailed comments:

ABSTRACT: In the Abstract (p5964 11-6) Why are only the findings of particles <0.25 μm discussed? What is the total percentage of particulate PAHs, how is the size distribution? It is later stated (p5966 13) that particles were collected with 2.5, 1.0, 0.5, and 0.25 μm filters. But the size distribution is never discussed in the paper.

Will be re-phrased for better specification. The PAH mass size distributions will be presented (new Table S4) and discussed including more literature (following suggestions of ref. #3).

Further, with the strong focus on air-sea exchange at least a rough estimate about the total annual flux should be made.

Agree. A rough estimate of total annual flux of particulate phase PAHs can be made for the season (but not annually) and will be included in the conclusion section and abstract of a revised version:

The residence time in the troposphere is longest for particles around 0.2 μm of size, with $\approx 0.01 \text{ cm s}^{-1}$ being a characteristic corresponding dry deposition velocity (Franklin et al., 2000), which translates into a residence time of ≈ 120 days in the MBL (depth of 1000 m; see Table S3) and deposition fluxes $F_{\text{dep}} = c \times v = 0.03\text{-}0.13 \mu\text{g m}^{-2} \text{ year}^{-1}$, for the individual PAHs associated with the particulate phase ($c = 0.01\text{-}0.04 \text{ ng m}^{-3}$; Table 2b), such as BAP, and 0.80 and 0.35 $\mu\text{g m}^{-2} \text{ year}^{-1}$, respectively, for the total flux of particulate phase PAHs in the ISS and SEM in summer, respectively. The flux will be higher in winter because of the seasonality of the emissions.

Ref.: Franklin et al.: Quantitative determination of persistence in air. In: Criteria for persistence and long-range transport of chemicals in the environment (Klečka et al., eds.), Pensacola, USA (SETAC Press), pp. 7-62, 2000.

p5964 110-12: 'It is concluded that future negative emission trends or interannual variability of regional sources may trigger the sea to become a secondary PAH source' How large could this source be compared to the primary sources in the Mediterranean?

Thank you for this question. This should indeed be quantified and added to the paper (conclusions). For retene it is found that one third was returned to the atmosphere during the study period: While the flux of secondary retene emissions (from surface seawaters) in the study area was 1.0 $\mu\text{g m}^{-2} \text{ year}^{-1}$ (mean of 6 years, UEPS), the primary sources amounted to 3.1 $\mu\text{g m}^{-2} \text{ year}^{-1}$ (mean of 6 years). This result will be included into the abstract of the revised version ('One third of primary retene sources to the sea region in the period 2005-2010 returned to the atmosphere as secondary emissions from surface seawaters.')

METHODOLOGY: p5968 13: Abbreviation LOQ should be explained the first time it is used.

yes, abbreviation LOQ introduced at first time mentioned

Section 2.4 seems a bit too short. It should be made clear how k_w and k_a were calculated. Also it should be discussed whether the air-sea exchange is dominated by k_a or k_w . For most species one of the two mass transfer coefficients clearly dominates the exchange process. Also the difference between 2 and 4 ring PAHs should be discussed here (e.g. what values were used to describe the diffusivity of the different species, was a temperature dependency taken into account). In general, readers of the paper should be able to reproduce the calculations done by the authors. Giving the formula and the reference to Schwarzenbach et al. is not enough here.

Transfer coefficients were calculated for one 3 ring and two 4 ring PAHs (stated in section 3.3), $k_w \ll k_a$ throughout (will be specified section 3.3). Derivation of k_w and k_a now explained in detail, including the references to the input data sources:

' $k_a = (0.2U_{10} + 0.3) * (D_{i,air} / D_{H_2O,air})^{0.61} * 36$, $k_w = (0.45U_{10}^{1.64}) * (Sc_i / Sc_{CO_2})^{-0.5} * 0.01$. U_{10} is the wind speed at 10 meter height above sea level ($m s^{-1}$), $D_{i,air}$ and $D_{H_2O,air}$ are the temperature dependent diffusivities of substance i and H_2O in air, and Sc_i and Sc_{CO_2} are the Schmidt numbers for substance i and CO_2 (see Bidleman and McConnell, 1995; Zhong et al. 2012; and references therein). U_{10} , T_a , T_w and air pressure are taken from the ship based measurements.'

Section 2.5: Is river runoff considered as a source for PAHs? Is it an important source?

Many PAHs are enriched in coastal waters as opposed to the open sea, most likely as river runoff is a significant source. As retene is rarely monitored this is not obvious for this substance. In an urban estuary in the USA, the linkage with river runoff was found less obvious for retene than for other PAHs (Lohmann et al., Env Sci Technol 2011, 45, 2655-2662). The neglect of the riverine retene source in our modelling may cause an underestimate of the emission flux, F_{aw} , and might explain part of the discrepancy (underestimate when compared to observed flux). This will be added to the discussion text (section 3.6): The sentence 'The sensitivity to input uncertainties (SM S1.2) may explain part of the underestimate, but not up to one order of magnitude.' will be extended: 'Neglected retene sources to seawater, such as riverine input may explain part of the discrepancy.'

Section 2.6 is much too short (2 sentences) to justify an additional section.

This part of the methodology is different from others. Its results are included in the text of section 3.1 (1st paragraph).

RESULTS: Section 3.1: It should be discussed whether earlier cruises are comparable. Different seasons, different wind conditions, different cruise routes can potentially have a large influence on the observed concentrations.

This discussion is expanded as suggested by reviewer #1. ('The seasonality of emissions and the variability of advection or advection in combination with different cruise routes being influenced differently by coastal or ship emission plumes can have a large influence and may explain these differences. On the other hand, the duration of temporal averaging atmospheric concentrations was similar across the various studies.')

Table 2 should state precisely when the different cruises were taking place.

Months identified in the revised version

The reference (1) in Table 2b is not used.

Ref. (1) is used in Table 2a

Section 3.2: As stated before there should be more information about the size distribution of the PAHs from the 2.5, 1.0, 0.5, 0.25 μm filters.

The PAH mass size distributions will be presented, listed for the size range $<0.25\mu\text{m}$ (below, new Table S4) and discussed including an earlier study of size segregated PAH measurements in the eastern Mediterranean (Kavouras and Stephanou, JGR 2002).

Table S4. Concentrations of 4-6 ring PAHs found in particulate phase size fraction corresponding to $<0.25 \mu\text{m}$ a.e.d. (ng m^{-3}) as time-weighted mean (min-max). n_{LOQ} = number of samples $>$ LOQ (out of 3). PAHs with concentrations $<$ LOQ in all size fractions not listed. LOQ = 0.001 ng m^{-3} except for FLT (0.011) and PYR (0.020).

| | n_{LOQ} | mean (min-max) |
|-----|------------------|--------------------------|
| FLT | 3 | 0.046 (0.035–0.054) |
| PYR | 3 | 0.047 (0.040–0.051) |
| RET | 3 | 0.048 (0.046–0.050) |
| CPP | 1 | 0.007 (<0.001 –0.022) |
| CHR | 1 | 0.002 (<0.001 –0.005) |
| BJF | 1 | 0.002 (<0.001 –0.007) |
| BEP | 1 | 0.003 (<0.001 –0.008) |

CONCLUSIONS: The Conclusions seem to be very short. It would be beneficial to give an estimate about the relation of total annual RET deposition to net revolatilisation. Also there should be more information about the differences between the observed PAHs and on the observed particulate PAHs.

In the revised version retene deposition will be compared with revolatilisation (detailed above).

The results on PAH level trends are partly inconclusive (discussion in section 3.1, expanded as suggested by reviewer #1). We prefer to refrain from drawing conclusion from inconclusive results.

Replies to the comments of Referee #3

General comments The current manuscript presents PAHs concentrations in the air and the seawater that were obtained during a 15-day cruise (27 Aug-12 Sept 2010) of the research vessel Urania across central and southeastern Mediterranean. Although the g-p partitioning of PAHs is presented, the authors focus mainly at the diffusive air-sea exchange fluxes of the three PAHs measured in sea water. The manuscript contains interesting original data concerning the occurrence of PAHs in the open sea atmosphere. Nevertheless, it suffers from various scientific and technical deficiencies (several obscurities, inconsistencies, insufficient comparison with literature data, etc), most of which are listed below. In my opinion, the manuscript needs revision before it can be accepted for publication in ACP.

Specific comments:

Title The title of the manuscript is not consistent with the content, I would suggest the following (Gas-particle partitioning and air-sea exchange of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in the Mediterranean)

agree, title changed into 'Air-sea exchange and gas-particle partitioning of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in the Mediterranean'

Methods - Section 2.1: It should be clarified whether results presented in the manuscript have been corrected for possible losses during sampling due to oxidation by ozone.

This is anyway clarified in the text of section 2.1 ('Based on such sampling artefact quantification studies (Tsapakis and Stephanou, 2003; Galarneau et al., 2006) and ozone levels (Table 1a) and sampling times (Table S1) we expect that total PAHs are underestimated by up to 50% in the gas-phase and by up to 25% in the particulate phase.'). Implications now included in the discussion (section 3.1).

- Section 2.2: The section title about organic trace substances is confusing, please, change to the following "PAHs analyses and quality assurance". Also, change "organic" with "PAHs" in the first sentence of this section.

agree, will be modified accordingly

- Section 2.2: It is stated that no QFF field blank was taken for impactor sampling, but instead the mean of values of the QFF substrates of the 2 uppermost impactor stages (in total 5) was taken". Hence, more information about the concentrations of PAHs in the 1-2.5 μm and the 2.5-10 μm particle fractions needs to be provided.

agree, will be specified in section 2.2 ('No QFF field blank was taken for impactor sampling. As no PAHs were detected in the stages corresponding to 2.5-10 μm (all PAHs < limit of detection in all such samples), instead the mean of values of the QFF substrates of the 2 uppermost impactor stages (in total 5) was taken.')

- Section 2.4: It is unclear which concentrations were used in the air-sea diffusive mass exchange calculations. The FR equation requires the dissolved aqueous concentration C_w . However, as stated in Section 2.2, "Water samples (2-2.5 L) were extracted immediately after their collection using solid phase extraction on C18 Empore discs", which means that total PAHs concentrations (dissolved and adsorbed on suspended particles) were determined (those presented in Table 1b).

Indeed total PAH concentrations were determined and dissolved concentrations used for mass exchange calculations: To this end dissolved aqueous concentrations were derived from the bulk seawater concentrations using $C_w = C_{\text{bulk}} / (1 + k_{\text{POC}} \cdot C_{\text{POC}} + k_{\text{DOC}} \cdot [\text{DOC}])$, with POC and DOC from Pujo-Pay et al 2011, and k_{POC} and k_{DOC} from Lüers & ten Hulscher 1996, Ma et al 2012, Karickhoff et al 1981, and Rowe et al 2009. This sentence now added to the section text.

- Section 2.4: Please correct the concentration units for C_w .

unit is correct, ng m^{-3} .

- Section 2.6: The analysis of the long-range advection of air needs further clarifications, especially the statement "Hereby, 50000 particles per hour were released and followed backwards in time for 5 days".

will be clarified by re-phrasing (virtual particles)

Results and discussion

- Section 3.1: Statement about the long-range transport (illustrated in Fig. S5) is not very clear.

Agree; will be re-phrased for better clarity, as ‘corresponded with air masses having resided over large urban areas, and, vice versa, low concentrations corresponded with air masses without apparent passage of such areas’

- Section 3.1: The west-east gradient of PAHs concentrations could be evidenced if the sum concentration of PAHs (Σ PAHs) for ISS and SEM were included in Tables 2a and 2b.

Sum concentration will be included and referred to in the text

- Table 1a: Total concentrations (sum of gaseous and particulate phase) of PAHs provided in the Table are not consistent with the values provided in Table 2a and 2b for the separate phases (For instance, the total concentration of PHE is 0.581 ng/m³, whereas the gaseous and particulate phase concentrations are 0.35 and 0.51 ng/m³). Please, check and correct wherever needed.

The data are consistent. The apparent inconsistency is the consequence of time-weighted averaging of different data subsets, 15 samples in Table 1a, but each 5 samples in Table 2 for ISS and SEM data subsets.

- Table 2a,b: Some of the data provided in these Tables indicate an unexpected g/p partitioning for certain PAHs, for instance, for PHE and FLT greater distribution in the particle than in the gaseous phase is shown. This strange g/p partitioning should be explained.

Thanks for pointing to the presentation of these data, which was imperfect. No data suggest unplausible gas-particle partitioning, but the way they were presented (Table 2b) was misleading: mean values <LOQ were erroneously not flagged as such (but only the range shown in brackets showed values for min and max eventually flagged for <LOQ). Will be corrected unambiguously. Also the number of valid digits will be harmonized.

- Table 1b: Only 3 PAHs (PYR, FLT, RET) were quantifiable in sea water? Some comparison with literature data for open sea levels of PAHs would be useful.

Yes, will be compared with earlier data, which suggests similar levels: These observed seawater contamination levels are comparable to levels found in the region 2 and 1 decades ago (Lipiatou et al., 1997; Tsapakis et al., 2003).

– Section 3.2: The g/p partitioning of PAHs should be more thoroughly investigated. The authors are claiming that the effect of temperature was not possible to be examined because of only little temperature variation during the cruise (21-27C). I encourage them to examine the logK_p-logP_{Lo} relationship and evaluate the slope and intercept values.

Such type of examination was inspiring the research research 2 decades ago (Pankow & Bidleman Atmos Environ 1992; Pankow et al. Environ Sci Technol 1994), but is inherently inconclusive, at least as long as supporting parameters are not measured (but fixed values adopted assuming standard or characteristic conditions) and time resolution is not improved. We have been applying this method and will continue to do so for the interpretation of field data, assuring measured (rather than default) aerosol parameters, high time resolution, and an extended chemical characterization of the particulate phase (Lammel et al Atmos Environ 2010, J Environ Mon 2011, and unpublished in urban environments). Neither of these was possible on board RV Urania (our data set).

The examination’s limitations apart from lack of supporting parameters are as follows: If the gas-phase concentrations were controlled by local relaxation to (liquid–vapour) phase equilibrium, then the relationship between these and ambient temperature should be described by the Clausius–Clapeyron equation, physically equivalent to plots of the form

$\log K_p = A/T + B$. $\log K_p$ of PAHs based on differentiating sampling of the gaseous and particulate fractions was found to be correlated with $1/T$ (or $\log p_{LO}$) in a number of studies, but these tests were largely inconclusive for several reasons: Correlation with $1/T$ is in accordance with both adsorptive and absorptive mechanisms of gas-particle partitioning (Pankow et al. Environ Sci Technol 1994). Adsorption had been claimed to lead to a slope of -1, inconclusively, however, as various possible reasons for non-ideality exist which usually cannot be addressed (such as non-equilibrium, temperature change during sampling, and absorption into OM; Pankow & Bidleman Atmos Environ 1992; Goss & Schwarzenbach Environ Sci Technol 1998). This would in particular apply to our data set, as OM was not quantified and long sampling intervals, >12h, with significant temperature variation during sampling prevailed. Non-equilibrium can be caused by kinetic constraints (introduction of fresh particles or clean air) or by the presence of nonexchangeable compounds in the particles. None of these hypotheses explanations could be rejected based on our data set. Furthermore, standard or characteristic aerosol parameters had to be assumed (rather than determined). A large data scatter is anyway expected, as attributed to lack of representativeness of the temperature measurement for the volatilisation process (which may have occurred several days back, in particular if local substance levels are influenced by long-range transport; Hoff et al.: Non-linearities in the slope of Clausius-Clapeyron plots for semivolatile organic compounds. Environ. Sci. Technol. 1998, 32, 1793–1798), again, certainly also in our data set.

The explanation given in the text ('little temperature variation') will be replaced by one sentence identifying the key limitations of the method with regard to its application to our data set.

- The paragraph concerning the size distribution of PAHs needs substantial improvement, otherwise remove. Results are presented in one single phrase "In size-segregated samples PAH was almost exclusively quantified in particle size fractions <0.25 μm a.e.d." The particle mass size distribution is not reported. The authors are claiming that there are no available data in literature for the size distribution of PAHs in the open sea atmosphere; however comparison could be made with some background coastal sites in Mediterranean, such as Finokalia on the Crete Island, for which there are published PAH size distribution data.

Re-phrased for better specification in the abstract (following suggestion of ref. #1). More results from impactor samples presented (see above, following ref. #2)

- Table 3 provides calculated theta and $\log K_p$ values for 4 PAHs only, whereas values for PAHs that were quantified in both phases (such as for FLN, PHE, ANT, FLT, PYR) are missing. Missing data shall be provided.

We limited the substances studied for testing gas-particle partitioning models to those showing obvious semivolatility i.e., concentrations in both atmospheric phases, C_g and C_p , >LOQ in at least half of the samples ($n = 15$), and with input data available. This led to the rejection of FLT and PYR, BBN ($C_p < \text{LOQ}$), CPP, BBF, BJB ($C_g < \text{LOQ}$), and BGF (no p_0 available). These criteria will be explained in the revised version.

- Section 3.3: The FR values reported for FLT, PYR and RET appear to follow the same order with the water solubility of the specific PAHs, FLT (265 $\mu\text{g/L}$) > PYR (135 $\mu\text{g/L}$) > RET (0 $\mu\text{g/L}$). Consequently, I am concerned that, if FRs were calculated from the total (soluble+adsorbed) concentrations in sea water, the FR of RET has been possibly underestimated. The FR equation requires the dissolved aqueous concentration C_w to be

known. However, as described in Section 2.2, sea water samples were extracted immediately after their collection without filtration, which means that total PAHs concentrations (dissolved and adsorbed) were determined. The authors need to address this issue.

Indeed total PAH concentrations were determined and dissolved concentrations used for FR and mass exchange calculations (detailed above)

- Figure S2: Should I suppose that the units of the PM10 concentrations presented in Fig. S2 are $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and not ng/m^3 . Moreover, PM10 concentrations need to be clarified regarding the way they were obtained. If they were obtained from the low volume impactor sampling, they could not be more than 3 (according to sampling description in Section 2.1.). If they were obtained from the high volume sampling, they should be reported as TSP because the high volume sampler was not equipped with a PM10 inlet. Please, make the appropriate corrections and clarifications.

Yes, $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, now corrected in Fig. S2.

Conclusions: The conclusion that “PAH pollution of the atmospheric Mediterranean environment was below previous observations at the beginning of the decade (2001-02; Tsapakis and Stephanou, 2005; Tsapakis et al., 2006)” is not true, since some PAHs such as FLT, PHE and ANT in the particle phase were found in the current study at much higher concentrations. Therefore, it would be better if comparisons were made on the sum concentration of PAHs (Σ PAHs).

The discussion of these results has now been expanded to the individual PAH level (as suggested by reviewers #1 and #2)

1 | [Air-sea exchange and gas-particle partitioning of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in](#)
2 | **the Mediterranean**

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12 |
13 | **Abstract**

14 | Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons concentration in air of the central and eastern
15 | Mediterranean in summer 2010 was 1.45 (0.30-3.25) ng m⁻³ ([sum of 25 PAHs](#)), with 8 (1-17)
16 | % in the particulate phase, [almost exclusively](#) associated with particles <0.25 µm. [The total](#)
17 | [deposition flux of particulate PAHs was 0.35-0.80 µg m⁻² year⁻¹](#). The diffusive air-sea
18 | exchange fluxes of fluoranthene and pyrene were mostly found net-depositional or close to
19 | phase equilibrium, while retene was net-volatilisational in a large sea region. Regional fire
20 | activity records in combination with box model simulations suggest that seasonal
21 | depositional input of retene from biomass burning into the surface waters during summer is
22 | followed by an annual reversal of air-sea exchange, while inter-annual variability is
23 | dominated by the variability of the fire season. [One third of primary retene sources to the sea](#)

24 | [region in the period 2005-2010 returned to the atmosphere as secondary emissions from](#)
25 | [surface seawaters.](#) It is concluded that future negative emission trends or interannual
26 | variability of regional sources may trigger the sea to become a secondary PAH source
27 | through reversal of diffusive air-sea exchange.

28

29 | **Capsule:** Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons phase distributions in marine aerosols, direction
30 | of air-sea exchange and open fires as a possible source characterised in the Mediterranean

31

32 | **Keywords:** polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, long-range transport, air-sea exchange, open
33 | fires

34

35 | **1. Introduction**

36 | The marine atmospheric environment is a receptor for polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons
37 | (PAHs) which are advected from combustion sources on land (power plants, biomass
38 | burning, road transport, [domestic heating](#)). Marine sources may be significant near transport
39 | routes (ship exhaust). Long-range transport from urban and industrial sources on land are the
40 | predominant sources of PAHs in the Mediterranean (Masclat et al., 1988; Tsapakis et. al,
41 | 2003 and 2006; Tsapakis and Stephanou, 2005a). A number of PAHs are semivolatile (vapour
42 | pressures at 298 K in the range 10^{-6} - 10^{-2} Pa) and, hence partition between the gas and
43 | particulate phases of the atmospheric aerosol, influenced by temperature, particulate phase
44 | chemical composition and particle size (Keyte et al., 2013). Upon deposition to surface water
45 | PAHs partition between the aqueous and particulate (colloidal and sinking) phases and may
46 | bioaccumulate in marine food chains (Lipiatou and Saliot, 1991; Dachs et al., 1997; Tsapakis

47 et. al, 2003; Berrojalbiz et al., 2011). They were also found enriched in the sea-surface
48 microlayer relative to subsurface water (Lim et al., 2007; Guitart et al., 2010). Semivolatile
49 PAHs may be subject to re-volatilisation from the sea surface (reversal of air-sea exchange),
50 similar to chlorinated semivolatile organics (Bidleman and McConnell, 1995), in case high
51 concentrations in surface water would build up. This had been predicted by
52 multicompartamental modelling for 2-4 ring PAHs for polluted coastal waters and also the
53 open ocean (Greenfield and Davis, 2005; Lammel et al., 2009a) and was indeed observed in
54 coastal waters off the northeastern United States (Lohmann et al., 2011). Field studies in the
55 open sea found net-deposition to prevail whenever determined (e.g. Tsapakis et al., 2006;
56 Balasubramanian and He, 2010; Guitart et al., 2010; Castro-Jiménez et al., 2012; Mai, 2012).
57 However, some 3-4 ring parent PAHs, among them fluorene (FLU), fluoranthene (FLT) and
58 pyrene (PYR), were reported to be close to phase equilibrium in the Mediterranean, Black
59 and North seas (Castro-Jiménez et al., 2012; Mai, 2012), and net volatilisation of FLT and
60 PYR was observed in the open southeastern Mediterranean Sea in spring 2007 (Castro-
61 Jiménez et al., 2012).

62 The aim of the measurements on board RV Urania was to investigate levels of organic
63 pollutants in summer in Mediterranean air and gain insights about sources and phase
64 partitioning in the aerosol of these substances. This study is on the cycling of PAHs in the
65 marine atmosphere.

66

67 **2. Methods**

68 **2.1 Sampling**

69 Samples were taken during the RV Urania cruise, 27 August – 12 September 2010 (see
70 Supplementary Material (SM), Fig. S1). PAHs were collected in the gaseous and particulate
71 phases using high volume samplers (Digitel) equipped with one glass fibre filter (Whatman)
72 and one polyurethane foam (PUF) plug (Gumotex Břeclav, density 0.030 g cm^{-3} , 50 mm
73 diameter, cleaned by extraction in acetone and dichloromethane, 8 h each, placed in a glass
74 cartridge) in series. Particle size was classified in the particulate phase using high-volume
75 filter sampling ($F = 68 \text{ m}^3 \text{ h}^{-1}$, model HVS110, Baghirra, Prague) and low-volume impactor
76 sampling ($F = 0.54 \text{ m}^3 \text{ h}^{-1}$, Sioutas 5-stage cascade, PM_{10} inlet, cutoffs 2.5, 1.0, 0.5, $0.25 \mu\text{m}$
77 of aerodynamic particle size and back-up filter, impaction on quartz fibre filters (QFF), SKC
78 Inc., Eighty Four, USA, sampler Baghirra PM_{10-35}). In total 15 high-volume filter samples,
79 exposed 8-36 h ($230\text{-}1060 \text{ m}^3$ of air), and 3 low-volume impactor samples, exposed 5 d, were
80 collected. Water sampling was performed using the stainless steel ROSETTE active sampling
81 device equipped with 24 Niskin bottles (volume of 10 l) deployed in water at 1.5 m depth for
82 surface water sampling.

83

84 PAH sampling on GFF and in PUF can be subject to losses related to oxidation of sorbed
85 PAH by ozone (Tsapakis and Stephanou, 2003). This artifact is species-specific and the more
86 pronounced the higher the ozone concentration and the longer the sampling time. Among the
87 PAHs addressed benzo(a)pyrene and pyrene have been identified as particularly vulnerable to
88 oxidation. Based on such sampling artefact quantification studies (Tsapakis and Stephanou,
89 2003; Galarneau et al., 2006) and ozone levels (Table 1a) and sampling times (Table S1) we
90 expect that total PAHs are underestimated by up to 50% in the gas-phase and by up to 25% in
91 the particulate phase.

92 With the aim to characterize the potential influences of ship-bourne emissions on the
93 samples, passive air samplers with PUF disks were exposed at 5 different locations on board
94 during 16 days. The PAH levels [of these samples](#) indicated [that](#) ship-based contamination
95 [was](#) negligible.

96

97 2.2 [PAHs](#) [Organic trace substances](#) analyses and quality assurance

98 For [PAH](#) [organic](#) analysis all samples were extracted with dichloromethane in an automatic
99 extractor (Büchi B-811). Surrogate recovery standards (D8-naphthalene, D10-phenanthrene,
100 D12-perylene) were spiked on each PUF and GFF prior to extraction. The volume was
101 reduced after extraction under a gentle nitrogen stream at ambient temperature, and
102 fractionation achieved on a silica gel column.

103 The first portion of the extract was fractionated on a silica column (5 g of silica 0.063 –
104 0.200 mm, activated 12 h at 150°C). The first fraction (10 mL n-hexane) containing aliphatic
105 hydrocarbons was discarded. The second fraction (20 mL DCM) containing PAHs was
106 collected and then reduced by stream of nitrogen in a TurboVap II (Caliper LifeSciences,
107 USA) concentrator unit and transferred into an insert in a vial. Terphenyl was used as syringe
108 standard, final volume was 200 µL. GC-MS analysis was performed on a 6890N GC
109 equipped with a 60m x 0.25mm x 0.25µm DB5-MS column (Agilent J&W, USA) coupled to
110 5973N MS (Agilent, USA). The MS was operated in EI+ mode with selected ion recording
111 (SIR). The targeted compounds are the 16 EPA priority PAHs (i.e., naphthalene (NAP),
112 acenaphthylene (ACY), acenaphthene (ACE), fluorene (FLN), phenanthrene (PHE),
113 anthracene (ANT), fluoranthene (FLT), pyrene (PYR), benzo(a)anthracene (BAA), chrysene
114 (CHR), benzo(b)fluoranthene (BBF), benzo(k)fluoranthene (BKF), benzo(a)pyrene (BAP),

115 indeno(123cd)pyrene (IPY), dibenzo(ah)anthracene (DBA), benzo(ghi)perylene (BPE)), 10
116 more parent PAHs (i.e., benzo(ghi)fluoranthene (BGF), cyclopenta(cd)pyrene (CPP),
117 triphenylene (TPH), benzo(j)fluoranthene (BJF), benzo(k)fluoranthene (BKF),
118 benzo(e)pyrene (BEP), perylene (PER), dibenz(ac)anthracene (DCA), anthranthrene (ATT),
119 and coronene (COR)), and one alkylated PAH, retene (RET). The injection volume was 1 μ L.
120 Terphenyl was used as internal standard.

121 Field blank values, b, were gained from GFFs and PUFs manipulated in the field, as far as
122 possible identical to the samples, except without switching the high-volume sampler on. No
123 QFF field blank was taken for impactor sampling. As no PAHs were detected in the stages
124 corresponding to 2.5-10 μ m (all PAHs < limit of detection in all such samples), but instead
125 the mean of values of the QFF substrates of the 2 uppermost impactor stages (in total 6) was
126 taken. The respective b value was subtracted from sample values. The limit of quantification
127 needs to take the accuracy of the blank level into account. In lack of a measure for the
128 variation of the field blank, the relative standard deviation (SD) of field blanks from earlier
129 field campaigns, (σ/b_c), on a high-mountain site (high-volume sampling summer 2007, n = 5;
130 Lammel et al., 2009b) and in the Mediterranean (impactor sampling summer 2008, n = 6;
131 Lammel et al., 2010a) was used ($\sigma = (\sigma/b_c) \times b$). The identical samplers, sampling and
132 analysis protocols for all analytes had been applied. Values below the sum of the field blank
133 value (from this campaign) and 3 relative SDs of the field blank values (from the previous
134 campaigns) were considered <LOQ (LOQ = b + 3 σ). NAP and ACY were excluded from the
135 data set, because of the lack of blank values. The field blank values of most other analytes
136 were below instrument LOQ in high-volume PUF and GFF samples. However, higher field
137 LOQs, up to (6-25) pg m^{-3} (according to sampled volume of air) resulted for ANT, PYR and

138 RET, and up to (45-180) pg m^{-3} for ACE, FLN, PHE and FLT in PUF. Field LOQs of PAHs in
139 impactor QFF samples were below instrumental LOQ for most substances, but in the range
140 (8-15) pg m^{-3} for ACE, ANT, and FLT, $\approx 55 \text{ pg m}^{-3}$ for FLN, and 120-140 pg m^{-3} for NAP and
141 PHE.

142 The instrument limit of quantification (LOQ), which is based on the lowest concentration of
143 calibration standards used, was 0.5 ng, corresponding to 0.5-2.5 pg m^{-3} for high-volume
144 samples, $\approx 8 \text{ pg m}^{-3}$ for impactor samples, 6-10 pg m^{-3} for semivolatile PAHs determined in
145 passive air samples and up to 200 pg m^{-3} for non volatile PAHs in passive air samples.

146 Water samples (2-2.5 L) were extracted immediately after their collection using solid phase
147 extraction on C_{18} Empore discs using a vacuum manifold device. Disks were stored closed in
148 glass vials in a freezer and transported to the processing laboratory, PAHs were eluted from
149 disks using 40 mL of dichloromethane. The above listed PAHs were analysed on GC/MS
150 (Agilent GC 6890N coupled to an Agilent single quadrupole MS 5973N operating in electron
151 impact ionisation mode). LOQ was 0.1 ng L^{-1} .

152

153 **Other trace constituents and meteorological parameters**

154 Ozone was measured with an absorption method (Teledyne-API model 400A UV) on the top
155 deck (10 m above sea surface). Meteorological parameters (air temperature, humidity, wind
156 direction and velocity) and oceanographic parameters were determined aboard.

157

158 **2.3 Models of gas-particle partitioning**

159 | The data set ([15 high-volume samples of separate gas and particulate phase concentrations](#))
160 | is used to test gas-particle partitioning models for semivolatile organics in terms of the

161 organics' mass size distribution and size dependent particulate matter (PM) composition. The
162 models assume different processes to determine gas-particle partitioning, i.e. an adsorption
163 model (Junge-Pankow; Pankow, 1987), and two absorption models (i.e. K_{OA} models; Finizio
164 et al., 1997; Harner and Bidleman, 1998). Absorption is into particulate OM. [Adsorption to](#)
165 [soot is a significant gas-particle partitioning processes for PAHs, but](#) no soot data or PM
166 chemical composition data are available. [We, therefore, refrain from testing dual adsorption](#)
167 [and absorption models \(e.g. Lohmann and Lammel, 2004\).](#) Particulate mass fraction, θ , and
168 partitioning coefficient, K_p , are defined by the concentrations in the 2 phases:

169

$$170 \quad \theta = c_p / (c_p + c_g)$$

171

$$172 \quad K_p = c_p / (c_g \times c_{TSP}) = \theta / [(1 - \theta) \times c_{TSP}]$$

173

174 with c_p and c_g in units of ng m^{-3} , c_p representing the whole particle size spectrum.

175 Different models describe different processes to quantify differences in ad- and absorption
176 between compounds. The Junge-Pankow model uses the vapour pressure of the subcooled
177 liquid p_L^0 , $\theta = c_j S / (p_L^0 + c_j S)$, (data taken from Lei et al., 2002), c_j should be approximately
178 171 Pa cm for PAHs (Pankow, 1987). The aerosol particle surface, S , was not measured and
179 a typical value for maritime aerosols is adopted instead ($4.32 \times 10^{-7} \text{ cm}^{-1}$; Jaenicke, 1988).
180 Harner and Bidleman, 1998, use the $\log K_{OA}$ and f_{OM} : $\log K_p = \log K_{OA} + \log f_{OM} - 11.91$; and
181 Finizio et al., 1997, uses only the K_{OA} as predictor (data taken from Ma et al., 2010): $\log K_p$
182 $= 0.79 \times \log K_{OA} - 10.01$. The range of the fraction of OM used here is based on Putaud et al.,
183 2004 (16% lower limit) and Spindler et al., 2012 (45% upper limit).

184

185 2.4 Air-sea diffusive mass exchange calculations

186 State of phase equilibrium is addressed by fugacity calculation, based on the Whitman two-
187 film model (Liss and Slater, 1974; Bidleman and McConnell, 1995). The fugacity ratio (FR)
188 is calculated as:

189

$$190 \text{ FR} = f_a/f_w = C_aRT_a / (C_wH_{\text{Tw,salt}})$$

191

192 with gas-phase concentration C_a (ng m^3), dissolved aqueous concentration C_w (ng m^3),
193 universal gas constant R ($\text{Pa m}^3 \text{ mol}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$), water temperature and salinity corrected Henry's
194 law constant $H_{\text{Tw,salt}}$ ($\text{Pa m}^3 \text{ mol}^{-1}$), and air temperature T_a (K). C_w is derived from the bulk

195 seawater concentration:

196

$$197 \underline{C_w = C_{\text{bulk}} / (1 + K_{\text{POC}} C_{\text{POC}} + K_{\text{DOC}} C_{\text{DOC}})}$$

198

199 with C_{POC} and C_{DOC} from Pujo-Pay et al., 2011, K_{POC} and K_{DOC} from Karickhoff et al, 1981,

200 Lüers and ten Hulscher 1996, Rowe et al, 2009, and Ma et al, 2010. Values $0.3 < \text{FR} < 3.0$ are

201 conservatively considered to not safely differ from phase equilibrium, as propagating from

202 the uncertainty of the Henry's law constant, $H_{\text{Tw,salt}}$, and measured concentrations (e.g., Bruhn

203 et al., 2003; Castro-Jiménez et al., 2012; Zhong et al., 2012). This conservative uncertainty

204 margin is also adopted here, while $\text{FR} > 3.0$ indicates net deposition and $\text{FR} < 0.3$ net

205 volatilisation. The diffusive air-seawater gas exchange flux (F_{aw} , $\text{ng m}^{-2} \text{ day}^{-1}$) is calculated

206 according to the Whitman two-film model (Bidleman and McConnell, 1995; Schwarzenbach
207 et al., 2003):

208

$$209 \quad F_{aw} = k_{ol} (C_w - C_a RT_a / H_{Tw,salt})$$

210

211 with air-water gas exchange mass transfer coefficient k_{ol} ($m h^{-1}$), accounting for resistances

212 to mass transfer in both water (k_w , $m h^{-1}$) and air (k_a , $m h^{-1}$), defined as

213

$$214 \quad \frac{1}{k_{ol}} = \frac{1}{k_w} + \frac{RT_a}{k_a H_{Tw,salt}}$$

215

216 with $k_a = (0.2U_{10} + 0.3) * (D_{i,air} / D_{H2O,air})^{0.61} * 36$, $k_w = (0.45U_{10}^{1.64}) * (Sc_i / Sc_{CO2})^{-0.5} * 0.01$. U_{10}

217 is the wind speed at 10 meter height above sea level ($m s^{-1}$), $D_{i,air}$ and $D_{H2O,air}$ are the

218 temperature dependent diffusivities of substance i and H_2O in air, and Sc_i and Sc_{CO2} are the

219 Schmidt numbers for substance i and CO_2 (see Bidleman and McConnell, 1995; Zhong et al.

220 2012; and references therein). U_{10} , T_a , T_w and air pressure are taken from the ship based

221 measurements.

222

223

224 **2.5 Non-steady state 2-box model**

225 The air-sea mass exchange flux of RET is simulated by a non-steady state zero-dimensional

226 model of intercompartmental mass exchange (Lammel, 2004). RET is selected, because of

227 the prevalence of one dominating source. This 2-box model predicts concentrations by

228 integration of two coupled ordinary differential equations that solve the mass balances for the

229 two compartments, namely the atmospheric marine boundary layer (MBL) and seawater
230 surface mixed layer. Processes considered in air are dry (particle) deposition, removal from
231 air by reaction with the hydroxyl radical, and air-sea mass exchange flux (dry gaseous
232 deposition), while in seawater export (settling) velocity, deposition flux from air, air-sea
233 mass exchange flux (volatilisation), and degradation (as 1st order process) are considered. All
234 input parameters are listed in the SM, Table S2.

235 Atmospheric depositions related to emissions from open fires are assumed to provide the
236 only source for seawater RET. These are available as daily time series for the East
237 Mediterranean domain (28-45°N, 8-30°E) through the fire-related PM_{2.5} emissions as
238 provided by the Global Fire Assimilation System (GFASv1.0; Kaiser et al., 2012) in
239 combination with an emission factor (207 mg RET in PM_{2.5} (kg fuel burnt)⁻¹; Schmidl et al.,
240 2008). The fire emissions are averaged over the domain and assumed to disperse within the
241 MBL only. This is justified due to the assumed underestimation of the fire related emissions
242 and ignorance of other (emission) sources. The 2-box model is run for the years 2005-2010,
243 for the east Mediterranean domain (28-45°N, 8-30°E) with a 1 h time resolution. Fluxes in
244 the range $F_{em} = (0.30 \pm 1.46) \text{ ng m}^{-2} \text{ h}^{-1}$ (positive defined upward) are simulated (using the
245 initially estimated parameter set, Table S2). GFAS uses global satellite observations of fire
246 radiative power to estimate daily dry matter combustion rates and fire emission fluxes. The
247 GFAS system partly corrects for observational gaps (e.g. due to cloud cover) and detects fires
248 in all biomes, except for very small fires (lower detection limit of around 100-1000 m²
249 effective fire area).

250

251 **2.6 Analysis of long-range advection of air**

252 [Distributions of potential sources can be identified by inverse modelling using](#)
253 [meteorological input data \(Stohl et al., 2003; Eckhardt et al., 2007\)](#). So-called retroplumes
254 are generated using operational weather prediction model data and a Lagrangian particle
255 dispersion model, FLEXPART (Stohl et al., 1998, 2005). Hereby, 50000 [virtual](#) particles per
256 hour were '[released](#)' and followed backwards in time for 5 days. The model output is a 3-D
257 distribution of residence time.

258

259 **3. Results and discussion**

260 **3.1 PAH concentrations in air and seawater**

261 The mean total (i.e., sum of gaseous and particulate) $\Sigma 25$ PAHs concentration is 1.45 ng m^{-3}
262 (time-weighted; [1.54 with values <LOQ replaced by LOQ/2, see Table 1a](#)), and ranged from
263 $0.30\text{-}3.25 \text{ ng m}^{-3}$ ~~(high volume samples)~~. The spatial variability of PAH levels in the
264 Mediterranean is large, determined by long-range advection (Tsapakis and Stephanou, 2005a;
265 Tsapakis et al., 2006). The levels found in this study in the southeastern Mediterranean are
266 for most substances lower than found earlier (Table 2). [In the ISS some PAHs are found](#)
267 [somewhat higher than previously measured i.e., FLT and PYR \(in the gas-phase\) and BAP](#)
268 [and PER \(in the particulate phase\). Due to a sampling artefact BAP and other particulate](#)
269 [phase PAHs could be underestimated by up to 25% \(aforementioned, section 2.1\)](#). The
270 [seasonality of emissions and the](#) variability of advection or advection in combination with
271 different [cruise routes taken by a vessel](#) being influenced differently by coastal or ship
272 emission plumes [can have a large influence and](#) may explain ~~these~~ differences. [On the other](#)
273 [hand, the duration of temporal averaging atmospheric concentrations was similar across the](#)
274 [various studies](#). Diagnostic ratios (BAA/(BAA+CHR), FLT/(FLT+PYR); Dvorská et al.,

275 2011) in some of the samples (No. 2, 4, 7, 8, and 15) reflect the influence of traffic and
276 industrial sources. We investigated the potential source distribution of individual samples
277 collected along the cruise (section 2.6) and found that indeed maxima of PAH concentrations
278 corresponded with air masses having resided over large urban areas, and, vice versa, low
279 concentrations corresponded with air masses without apparent passage of such areas
280 (illustrated in Fig. S5). This finding is supported by the ozone data i.e., 53 (47-65)
281 ppbv during influence from urban areas but 37 (33-62) ppbv otherwise.

282 It had been pointed out that the source distribution around the Mediterranean may cause a
283 west-east gradient, leading to higher concentrations found in the Ionian Sea and Sicily region
284 (ISS) than in the southeastern Mediterranean (SEM; Berrojalbiz et al., 2011). This gradient is
285 somewhat reflected in our results, as levels in the ISS exceeded levels in the SEM (Table 2a).

286 Most PAH concentrations in surface seawater were <LOQ, while FLT, PYR and RET were
287 quantified in at least part of the samples (Table 1b). These observed seawater contamination
288 levels are comparable to levels found in the region 2 and 1 decades ago (Lipiatou et al.,
289 1997; Tsapakis et al., 2003). The PAH concentrations in seawater near Crete (samples No. 7
290 and 8a) are very similar to those found in fall 2001 and winter-spring 2002 (Tsapakis et al.,
291 2006; FLT = 0.15 (0.11-0.21) ng L⁻¹, PYR = 0.12 (0.07-0.17) ng L⁻¹.

292

293 Table 1. Concentrations of PAHs found in (a.) air (total, i.e. sum of gas and particulate
294 phases, ng m⁻³) and (b.) seawater (total, i.e. sum of dissolved and particulate, ng L⁻¹) as time-
295 weighted mean (min-max). n_{LOQ} = number of samples > LOQ (out of 15 air and 23 seawater
296 samples). PAHs with concentrations <LOQ in all samples not listed. For calculation of mean
297 values <LOQ were replaced by LOQ/2. Ozone levels are given, too (ppbv).

298 a)

| | n _{LOQ} | mean (min-max) |
|-----|------------------|----------------------|
| ACE | 4 | 0.025 (<0.020–0.089) |
| FLN | 10 | 0.137 (<0.030–0.396) |
| PHE | 15 | 0.581 (0.144–1.41) |
| ANT | 13 | 0.043 (0.008–0.22) |
| RET | 14 | 0.016 (0.006–0.030) |
| FLT | 15 | 0.262 (0.053–0.795) |
| PYR | 15 | 0.203 (0.044–0.564) |
| BAA | 15 | 0.01 (0.0014–0.031) |
| CHR | 15 | 0.04 (0.012–0.092) |
| TPH | 15 | 0.018 (0.007–0.032) |
| BBN | 11 | 0.018 (0.001–<0.085) |
| BBF | 15 | 0.021 (0.004–0.102) |
| BKF | 14 | 0.012 (0.002–<0.085) |
| BAP | 12 | 0.015 (0.001–<0.085) |
| BGF | 15 | 0.021 (0.005–0.067) |
| CPP | 7 | 0.012 (0.001–<0.085) |
| BJF | 15 | 0.016 (0.002–0.079) |
| BEP | 14 | 0.019 (0.004–0.088) |
| PER | 7 | 0.012 (0.001–0.1) |
| IPY | 7 | 0.022 (0.008–0.094) |

| | | |
|----------|---|--------------------|
| BPE | 6 | 0.02 (0.009–0.085) |
| COR | 5 | 0.016 (0.002–0.1) |
| Σ25 PAHs | | 1.539 (0.44–4.694) |
| Ozone | | 42 (33 – 65) |

299

300 b)

| | n _{LOQ} | mean (min-max) |
|-----|------------------|----------------|
| PHE | 1 | 1.1 |
| RET | 12 | 0.1 (<0.1–0.5) |
| FLT | 10 | 0.1 (<0.1–0.3) |
| PYR | 7 | 0.2 (<0.2–0.9) |

301

302 Table 2 Gaseous (a) and particulate (b) concentrations in air (time-weighted mean (min-
303 max), ng m⁻³) of selected PAH compared to other studies in the Ionian Sea and Sicily region
304 (ISS) and in the southeastern Mediterranean (SEM). For calculation of means values <LOQ
305 were replaced by LOQ/2. RV = research vessel cruise.

306 a)

| ISS | | SEM | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|---|
| | | | | Finokalia <u>September- October 2001</u> ₁ | |
| RV <u>August- September</u> 2010 | RV <u>2006, June 2006, May</u> 2007 | RV <u>August- September</u> 2010 | RV <u>June 2006, May 2006</u> 2007 | <u>February, March and July-2002</u> ⁽¹⁾ | Finokalia <u>November 2000- February 2002</u> ⁽²⁾ |

| | this study | Castro-Jiménez 2012 | this study | Castro-Jiménez 2012 | Tsapakis et al. 2006 | Tsapakis & Stephanou 2005 |
|---------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|--|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| FLN | 0.186 (0.0503–0.400) | 2.25 (1.27–5.65) | <u>0.11</u> (<u><0.027</u> – <u>0.34</u>) (<u>0.02</u> – <u>0.34</u>) | 0.69 (0.36–1.23) | 1.05 (0.15–1.67) | 1.8 (0.2–5.7) |
| PHE | 0.592 (0.145–1.410) | 7.00 (3.52–15.45) | <u>0.51 (0.14–1.41)</u> (<u>0.14</u> – <u>1.41</u>) | 3.94 (2.50–6.35) | 4.78 (1.75–7.78) | 7.3 (1.5–27.7) |
| ANT | 0.064 (<u>≤0.021</u> –0.10) | 0.37 (0.18–0.55) | <u>0.0674</u> (<u>≤0.013</u> –0.22) | 0.20 (0.16–0.30) | 0.61 (0.12–1.31) | 0.9 (0.1–4.5) |
| FLT | 0.1538 (0.053–0.314) | 0.05 (0.02–0.07) | <u>0.150</u> (<u>0.061</u> – <u>0.376</u>) | 0.007 (0.003–0.011) | 0.82 (0.12–1.69) | 1.8 (0.07–6.0) |
| PYR | 0.1539 (0.044–0.2987) | 0.04 (0.02–0.06) | <u>0.192</u> (<u>0.058</u> – <u>0.56</u>) | 0.006 (0.003–0.009) | 0.65 (0.14–0.97) | 0.9 (0.1–2.8) |
| CHR | 0.0132 (0.0071–0.021) | 0.09 (0.03–0.23) | <u>0.0184</u> (<u>0.0124</u> – <u>0.03737</u>) | 0.03 (0.02–0.05) | 0.18 (0.06–0.33) | 0.2 (<0.001–0.6) |
| Sum of 6 PAHs | <u>1.1</u> | <u>9.8</u> | <u>1.0</u> | <u>4.9</u> | <u>8.1</u> | <u>12.9</u> |

← - - - Formatierte Tabelle

307

308 b)

| | ISS | | SEM | | |
|-----|---|--------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| | RV <u>August-September</u> 2010 | RV <u>June</u> 2006, <u>May</u> 2007 | RV <u>August-September</u> 2010 | RV <u>June</u> 2006, <u>May</u> 2006, 2007 | Finokalia <u>November</u> 2000- <u>February</u> 2002 |
| | this study | Castro-Jiménez 2012 | this study | Castro-Jiménez 2012 | Tsapakis & Stephanou 2005 |
| FLN | <0.92860.43 (<0.6060- <1.11.13) | 0.001 (0.0009- 0.002) | <0.66 (<0.33- <1.4)<0.250 (<0.33 <1.36) | 0.0013 (0.0011- 0.0016) | 0.02 (<0.001- 0.01) |
| PHE | <1.91.760.88 (<1.21.22- <2.32.28) | 0.06 (0.01- 0.12) | <1.6 (<0.66- <2.7)<1.02.51 (<0.67 <2.76) | 0.04 (0.01- 0.13) | 0.05 (0.004-0.2) |
| ANT | <0.221.10 (<0.1414- <0.2626) | 0.007 (0.0009- 0.012) | <0.16 (<0.07- <0.32)<0.120 6 (<0.08- <0.32) | 0.009 (0.0007- 0.023) | 0.004 (<0.001- 0.02) |
| FLT | <0.858.40 (<0.5656- <1.01.04) | 0.099 (0.01-0.19) | <0.62 (<0.30- <1.3)<0.4623 (<0.31 <1.26) | 0.049 (0.01- 0.12) | 0.1 (0.04-0.2) |
| PYR | <0.111.05 (<0.0707- <0.133) | 0.109 (0.016- 0.216) | <0.08 (<0.044- <0.16)<0.063 (<0.04 <0.16) | 0.057 (0.012- 0.142) | 0.04 (0.01-0.01) |
| BAA | 0.00651 (<0.001804- | 0.013 (0.006- | 0.0030 (<0.0006- | 0.018 (0.004- | 0.03 (0.003-0.1) |

| | | | | | |
|-----|---------------------------------|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| | 0.0253) | 0.023) | 0.0080 0.003- (0.0004-0.01) | 0.046) | |
| CHR | 0.0212 (0.0030- 0.0768) | 0.04 (0.01- 0.08) | 0.010 (0.0033- 0.020)0.01- (0.003-0.02) | 0.043 (0.012- 0.101) | 0.1 (0.02-0.3) |
| BBF | 0.0283 (≤0.00181- 0.4010) | 0.029 (0.012- 0.045) | 0.014 (0.0042- 0.033)0.01- (0.004-0.03) | 0.033 (0.010- 0.060) | 0.04 (<0.001- 0.2) |
| BKF | 0.0152 (≤0.00183- 0.0576) | 0.015 (0.005- 0.027) | 0.0065 (0.0018- 0.015)0.005- (0.002-0.02) | 0.089 (0.005- 0.333) | 0.04 (<0.001- 0.2) |
| BAP | 0.0163 (≤0.00092- 0.0727) | 0.009 (0.04- 0.016) | 0.0052 (<0.0011- 0.0098)0.01- (<0.025-0.01) | 0.034 (0.005- 0.081) | 0.02 (0.01-0.05) |
| BJF | 0.0212 (≤0.00181- 0.0798) | 0.015 (0.014- 0.016) | 0.011 (0.0023- 0.031)0.01- (0.002-0.03) | 0.010 (0.008- 0.011) | - |
| BEP | 0.0233 (≤0.00181- 0.0889) | 0.03 (0.02- 0.05) | 0.011 (0.0035- 0.025)0.01- (0.004-0.03) | 0.046 (0.017- 0.093) | 0.04 (0.01-0.1) |
| PER | ≤0.002863 | 0.002 | ≤0.00085 | 0.026 | 0.004 (<0.001- |

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|---|--|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| | (<0.0009622 0.0114) | (0.0005– 0.004) | (<0.0006– 0.0021) 0.024 (<0.012– 0.002) | (0.0001– 0.068) | 0.01) |
| IPY | 0.0204 (<0.000962 0.094) | 0.01832 (0.006557 – 0.032155) | 0.0043 (<0.00052– 0.019) 0.02 (<0.012– 0.019) | 0.009 (0.002– 0.013) | 0.03 (0.009–0.2) |
| BPE | <0.001463 (<0.000962xx <0.00184) | 0.026 (0.017– 0.042) | <0.00676 (<0.00052– 0.020) 0.02 (<0.012–0.02) | 0.081 (0.012– 0.210) | 0.03 (0.010– 0.09) |
| Sum of 15 PAHs | 0.15 | 1.06 | 0.06 | 0.54 | 0.54 |

← Formatierte Tabelle

309 ⁽¹⁾ months Sep and Oct 2001, Feb, Apr and May 2002. No particulate data reported.

310 ⁽²⁾ 24h per month between Feb 2000 and Feb 2002

311

312 **3.2 Gas-particle partitioning**

313 Only a small mass fraction of the total, $\theta = 0.08$, is found in the particulate phase, confirming
314 earlier findings from remote sites in the region (Tsapakis and Stephanou, 2005a; Tsapakis et
315 al., 2006; Table 3c). The particulate mass fraction, θ , of four semivolatile PAHs varied
316 considerably along track (see SM Fig. S2). θ is thought to be strongly influenced by
317 temperature and doubling per 13 K cooling was found in a Mediterranean environment

318 (Lammel et al., 2010b) apart from PM composition. ~~We refrain from a~~ An exploration of the
319 ~~vapour pressure ($p_{i,0}$) temperature dependence of θ (or K_p) is not possible, because: a low~~
320 ~~time resolution implies lack of representativeness of the temperature measurement for the~~
321 ~~phase change (Pankow and Bidleman, 1992), non-equilibrium conditions cannot be excluded~~
322 ~~(but are likely as a consequence of time resolution; Hoff et al., 1998) and supporting physical~~
323 ~~and chemical aerosol parameters, necessary to relate are lacking.~~

324 of only little temperature variation during the cruise ($T_{\text{mean_sample}} = 21\text{-}27^\circ\text{C}$, Fig. S2). For
325 similar temperatures higher θ values had been observed at sites on the region influenced by
326 urban and industrial sources (Mandalakis et al., 2002; Tsapakis and Stephanou, 2005b;
327 Akyüz and Cabuk, 2010), which is probably related to the influence of higher organic and
328 soot PM mass fractions. Gas-particle partitioning models (Table 3) underpredict θ , except
329 the Finizio et al., 1997, model for one substance, TPH. θ predicted by the Junge-Pankow (JP)
330 model comes closest. ~~A number of semivolatile PAHs could not be included in this test of~~
331 ~~gas-particle partitioning models as concentrations in either the gas-phase (CPP, BBF, BJB), or~~
332 ~~the particulate phase (FLT, PYR, BBN) did not exceed LOQ or no insufficient input data~~
333 ~~were available (BBF). The neglect of adsorption to soot, not covered by the gas-particle~~
334 ~~partitioning models tested, may explain at least part of the underprediction (Lohmann and~~
335 ~~Lammel, 2004).~~ Due to the lack of OC/EC data an extended examination is not possible.

336 In size-segregated samples ~~particulate PAH mass was almost exclusively found in the PAH~~
337 ~~was almost exclusively quantified in particle~~-size fractions $<0.25 \mu\text{m}$ a.e.d. ($<\text{LOQ}$ in the
338 other stages, ~~except 0.002 ng m^{-3} CPP in the size fraction corresponding to $0.5\text{-}1.0 \mu\text{m}$; S2.1,~~
339 ~~Table 4aS4).~~ ~~Most particulate phase PAHs, 40%, have been found associated with particles~~
340 ~~$<0.5 \mu\text{m}$ out of 5 size ranges in the marine background aerosol of the sea region (coast of~~

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341 ~~Crete, November 1996 – June 1997. No similar measurements from the open sea or even~~
 342 ~~clean coastal sites exist to compare with. (Kavouras and Stephanou, 2002). A~~ However, the
 343 ~~observation here is in line with observations at~~ continental sites in central and southern
 344 Europe. There, mass median diameters of PAHs were found to be in the accumulation range,
 345 mostly 0.5-1.4 μm (Schnelle et al., 1995; Kiss et al., 1998; Lammel et al., 2010b and 2010c),
 346 but also a second, coarse mode was found (up to 2.4 μm ; Chrysikou et al., 2009).

347

348 Table 3. Gas-particle partitioning of selected PAHs (mean \pm sd (median), ~~ng m⁻³~~), observed
 349 and predicted by the models Junge-Pankow, 1987 (JP), Harner and Bidleman, 1998 (HB),
 350 and Finizio et al., 1997 (F), expressed as (a) particulate mass fraction, θ , and (b) log K_p of
 351 this study.

352 a)

| | Observed | JP | HB | F |
|-----|------------------------|------------------------|-------------|------|
| BAA | 0.51 \pm 0.28 (0.47) | 0.18 \pm 0.07 (0.18) | 0.08 – 0.20 | 0.18 |
| TPH | 0.27 \pm 0.13 (0.26) | 0.24 \pm 0.10 (0.24) | 0.23 – 0.46 | 0.37 |
| CHR | 0.35 \pm 0.15 (0.35) | 0.31 \pm 0.13 (0.32) | 0.09 – 0.21 | 0.19 |
| BBF | 0.88 \pm 0.40 (0.94) | 0.91 \pm 0.40 (0.97) | 0.49 – 0.73 | 0.59 |

353

354 b)

| | Observed | JP | HB | F |
|-----|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|-------|
| BAA | -1.28 \pm 1.00 (-0.96) | -1.97 \pm 1.14 (-1.84) | -2.43 – -1.98 | -1.89 |
| TPH | -1.77 \pm 1.27 (1.45) | -1.80 \pm 1.07 (-1.63) | -1.91 – -1.46 | -1.48 |
| CHR | -1.59 \pm 1.18 (1.34) | -1.65 \pm 1.01 (-1.46) | -2.41 – -1.96 | -1.87 |

| | | | | |
|-----|----------------------|----------------------|---------------|-------|
| BBF | -0.94 ± 0.19 (-0.24) | -0.52 ± 0.66 (-0.74) | -1.41 – -0.96 | -1.08 |
|-----|----------------------|----------------------|---------------|-------|

355

356 3.3 Fugacity ratio and air-sea exchange flux

357 Fugacity ratios (Fig. 1a) and vertical fluxes (Fig. 1b) could be quantified for FLT, PYR and

358 RET. The uncertainty window of $FR = f_a/f_w = 0.3 - 3.0$ is based on the uncertainty of $H_{Tw,salt}$.

359 Values $FR > 3.0$ indicate net deposition, $FR < 0.3$ indicate net volatilisation. For RET both

360 water and air concentrations of sample No. 2 were <LOQ. Transfer coefficients were $k_w \ll$

361 k_a

362 \pm

363 Fig. 1. Air-sea exchange, (a) fugacity ratios $FR = f_a/f_w$ (volatilisation > 3 , deposition < 0.3 ,

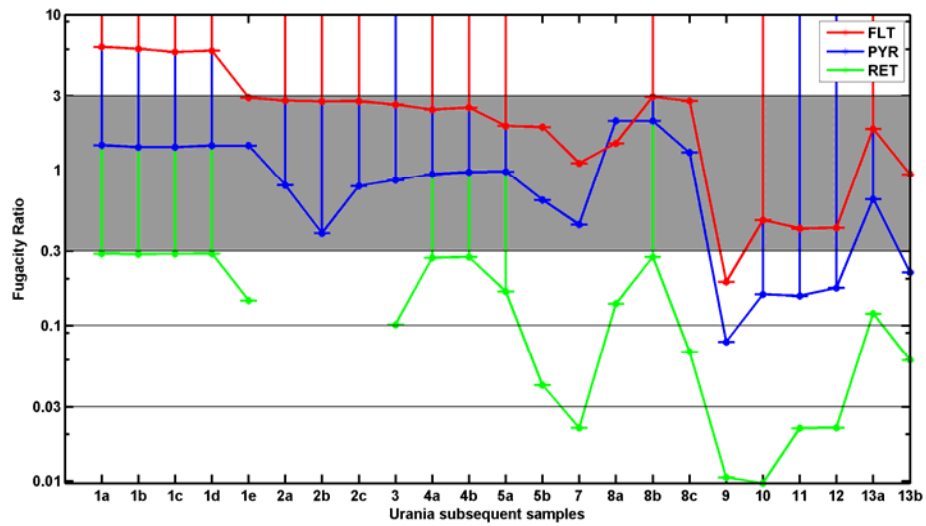
364 grey area insignificant deviation from phase equilibrium) and (b) flux F_{aw} ($ng\ m^{-2}\ d^{-2}$;

365 volatilisation > 0 , deposition < 0) of FLT, PYR and RET along the cruise of RV Urania. Error

366 bars indicate sea water concentration $C_w < LOQ$. The x-axis depicts the correspondence of

367 sequential pairs of air samples (1-13) and water samples (a-e).

368 a.



369

370 b.



371

372

373 | FLT and PYR [were found](#) to be close to phase equilibrium, with most of the FR values within
 374 | the uncertainty range, one sample (No. 1) indicating deposition of FLT and one or two (No. 9
 375 | and 13) indicating volatilisation of FLT and PYR, respectively. In comparison with earlier

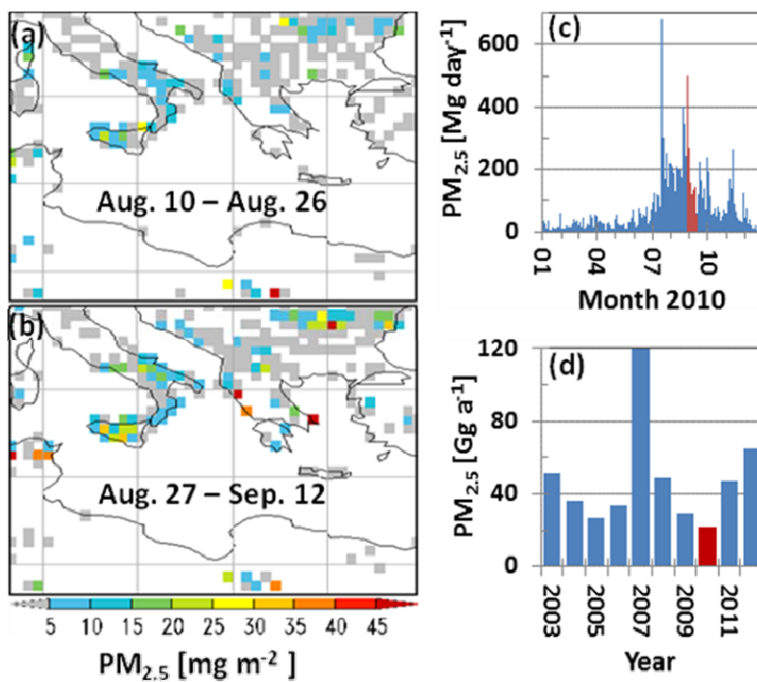
376 observations of FLT and PYR air-sea exchange in the SEM in 2001-02 and 2007 (Tsapakis et
377 al., 2006; Castro-Jiménez et al., 2012) and considering spatial and temporal variabilities no
378 trend, in particular no reversal of air-sea exchange is indicated. This comparison is detailed
379 in the SM, S2.2.1.

380 RET, however, is found net-volatilisation throughout most of the cruise (Fig. 1). Among the
381 highest fluxes ($> 50 \text{ ng m}^{-2} \text{ d}^{-1}$) are some samples with very low FR, < 0.03 . Fugacity of RET
382 from water is supported by its Henry's law coefficient ($11 \text{ Pa m}^3 \text{ mol}^{-1}$ at 298 K) which is
383 higher than for CHR ($0.53 \text{ Pa m}^3 \text{ mol}^{-1}$) and FLT ($2.0 \text{ Pa m}^3 \text{ mol}^{-1}$). RET is commonly
384 considered as biomarker for coniferous wood combustion (Ramdahl, 1983). A decrease in
385 wildfires could explain the suspected RET volatilisation. Integrated over the domain and the
386 year 2010, fires released 7.2 PJ fire radiative energy, which translates into around 22.2 Gg of
387 $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ emitted (Fig. 2). Compared to the $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ emissions of the years 2003 to 2012, the year
388 2010 had the lowest emissions, equivalent to 46% of the 2003-2012 mean, and only 18% of
389 the peak emissions of the year 2007 (Fig. 2d). As typical for the East Mediterranean region,
390 the fire season in 2010 started by the end of June and ended by early October. The Urania
391 cruise measurements took place between 27.8. and 12.9., i.e. towards the end of the main
392 burning season (Fig. 2c). During the first half of the Urania cruise, widespread fire activity
393 was observed in the entire domain, with most intense fires occurring in Southern Italy, Sicilia
394 and along the East coast of the Adriatic and the Ionian Sea (notably in Albania and Greece)
395 (Fig. 2a).

396

397 Fig. 2. Spatial pattern of fire-related $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ emissions (Global Fire Assimilation System
398 GFASv1.0; Kaiser et al., 2012) for the East Mediterranean (28-45°N/8-30°E), (a) time

399 integral of August 10-26, (b) time integral of August 27 - September 12, 2010, given as sum
 400 over each period in mg m^{-2} . Areas with no observed fire activity are displayed in white.
 401 Temporal pattern of domain-integrated (c) daily total $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ emissions over 2010 (c) and
 402 yearly total $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ emissions over 2003 to 2012. Labelled in red is (c) the the period of the
 403 Urania cruise (27 August – 11 September 2010) (d) and the year 2010.



404

405

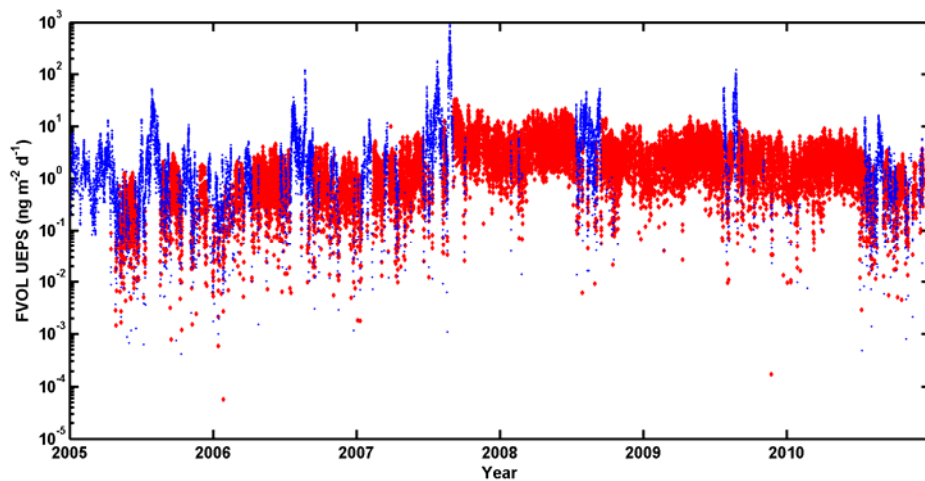
406 The hypothesis that seasonal depositional input of RET into the surface waters during the fire
 407 season (summer) triggers reversal of diffusive air-sea exchange, at least in the year 2010, are
 408 tested by box model (sections 2.5 and S1.3) runs. Two scenarios are considered, an 'Initially
 409 Estimated Parameter Set' (IEPS) representing mean values for environmental parameters, and
 410 an 'Upper Estimate Parameter Set' (UEPS) which represents realistic environmental

411 conditions favouring seawater pollution (SM, Table S3). Simulated diffusive air-sea
412 exchange flux, F_{aw} , during 2005-2010 initialised by the UEPS is shown in Fig. 3a and by the
413 IEPS in the SM, Fig. S3, and during the observations (cruise of RV Urania, 27.8.-9.9.2010)
414 initialised by the UEPS in Fig. 3b.

415 The model confirms the hypothesis that seasonal depositional input of RET into the surface
416 waters during the fire season (July-September, typically in the range $F_{aw} = 10^{-2}$ - 10^1 $\text{ng m}^{-2} \text{d}^{-1}$
417 ¹ under IEPS) is followed by a period of prevailing flux reversal, typically $F_{aw} = 10^{-2}$ - 10^0 ng
418 $\text{m}^{-2} \text{d}^{-1}$, which in the years 2008-10 started in October and lasted until the onset of the fire
419 season, but eventually started later in the years 2005-07 (at least under IEPS). The
420 volatilisation flux is predicted smaller in magnitude than the net-deposition flux during the
421 fire season, but correspondingly, i.e. higher after intense fire seasons. The high RET
422 volatilisation flux, indicated by measured C_a and C_w , seems to be dominated by biomass
423 burning in the region in the previous fire season. F_{aw} is predicted highly fluctuating, also
424 during the observational period (Fig. 3b). Even under UEPS the model is underpredicting F_{aw}
425 (Fig. 3b). The sensitivity to input uncertainties (SM S1.2) may explain part of the
426 underestimate, but not up to one order of magnitude. [Neglected RET sources to seawater,](#)
427 [such as riverine input may explain part of the discrepancy.](#)

428

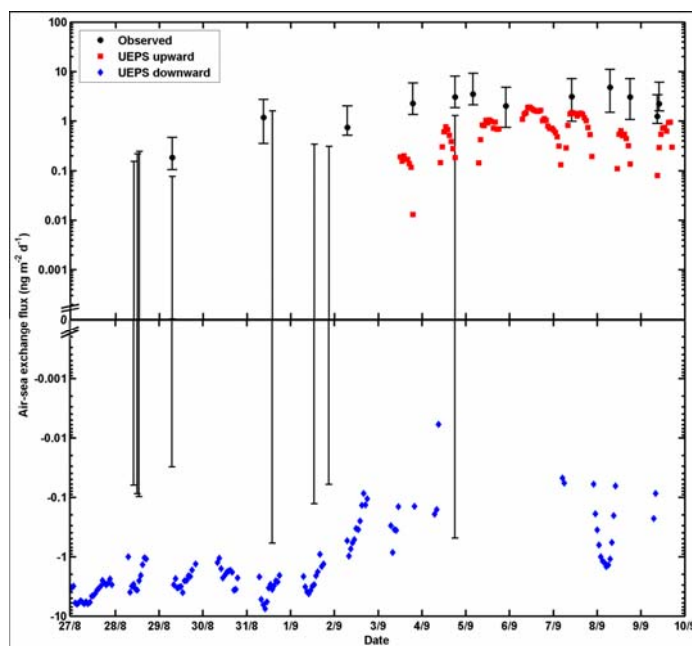
429 Fig. 3. Diffusive air-sea exchange flux, F_{aw} , of RET ($\text{ng m}^{-2} \text{d}^{-1}$; downward in blue and
430 upward in red) using the upper estimate parameter set (UEPS) for the Eastern Mediterranean
431 (28-45°N/8-30°E) (a.) model predicted for 1.1.2005-31.12.2010 and (b.) model predicted and
432 observed (black) for 27.8.-9.9.2010. Hourly mean data filtered against off-shore winds (see
433 text). Error bars including both signs of F_{aw} reflect $C_w < \text{LOQ}$.a.



434

435

436 b.



437

438

439 **4. Conclusions**

440

441 PAH pollution of the atmospheric Mediterranean environment was below previous
442 observations at the beginning of the decade (2001-02; Tsapakis and Stephanou, 2005a;
443 Tsapakis et al., 2006), also considering possible losses during sampling. This might reflect
444 emission reductions. The particulate phase PAHs were concentrated in the size fraction <
445 0.25 μm a.e.d. The residence time in the troposphere is longest for particles around 0.2 μm of
446 size, with $\approx 0.01 \text{ cm s}^{-1}$ being a characteristic corresponding dry deposition velocity (Franklin
447 et al., 2000), which translates into a residence time of ≈ 120 days in the MBL (depth of 1000
448 m; see Table S3) and deposition flux $F_{\text{dep}} = c \times v = 0.03\text{-}0.13 \mu\text{g m}^{-2} \text{ year}^{-1}$ for the individual
449 PAHs associated with the particulate phase ($c = 0.01\text{-}0.04 \text{ ng m}^{-3}$; Table 2b), such as BAP,
450 and 0.80 and 0.35 $\mu\text{g m}^{-2} \text{ year}^{-1}$, respectively, for the total flux of particulate phase PAHs in
451 the ISS and SEM in summer, respectively. The flux will be higher in winter, because of the
452 seasonality of the emissions.

453 Three gas-particle partitioning models were tested and found to underpredict the particulate
454 mass fraction in most of the samples (four PAHs i.e., BAA, TPH, CHR and BBF). Although
455 input parameters were incomplete these results confirm the earlier insight that additional
456 processes on the molecular level need to be included, beyond adsorption (Junge-Pankow
457 model) and absorption in OM (K_{oa} models), namely both adsorption and absorption
458 (Lohmann and Lammel, 2004) or even a complete description of molecular interactions
459 between sorbate and PM matrix (Goss and Schwarzenbach, 2001).

460 Simulations with a non-steady state 2-box model confirm the hypothesis that seasonal
461 depositional input of RET from biomass burning into the surface waters during summer is
462 followed by a period of flux reversal. The volatilisation flux is smaller in magnitude than the

463 net-deposition flux during the previous months, but correspondingly, i.e. higher after intense
464 fire seasons. Future negative emission trends or interannual variability of regional sources
465 may trigger the sea to become a secondary PAH source through reversal of diffusive air-sea
466 exchange. For the wood burning marker RET it is found that the secondary source became
467 significant in recent years: While the flux of secondary RET emissions (from surface
468 seawaters) in the study area was $1.0 \mu\text{g m}^{-2} \text{ year}^{-1}$ (mean of years 2005-2010, UEPS), the
469 primary sources amounted to $3.1 \mu\text{g m}^{-2} \text{ year}^{-1}$. Because of non-diffusive emission from the
470 sea surface, such as aerosol suspension from sea spray and bubble bursting (Woolf, 1997;
471 Qureshi et al., 2009; Albert et al., 2012), the true volatilisation may have exceeded the
472 diffusive flux significantly.

473

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482

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