

***Interactive comment on “Oxygenated compounds in aged biomass burning plumes over the Eastern Mediterranean: evidence for strong secondary production of methanol and acetone” by R. Holzinger et al.***

R. Holzinger et al.

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We thank Thomas Karl for his comment. We agree that the chemical CO loss in biomass burning plumes is poorly constrained. We calculated a CO loss of 24% based on HO measurements at the MINOS ground site in Finokalia, Crete. If the oxidation capacity in biomass burning plumes is significantly enhanced, the percentage loss could as well be higher.

We do not think the altitude profile of acetonitrile indicates general deposition into the Mediterranean Sea. Spatially resolved acetonitrile mixing ratios of the lowest altitude

level are presented in Figure 4, and we argue this Figure suggests deposition of acetonitrile is linked to cold upwelling ocean water rather than net-uptake of acetonitrile into the sea. Unfortunately, the two Figures do not provide firm evidence to elucidate the general role of Oceans with respect to the acetonitrile cycle.

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Interactive comment on Atmos. Chem. Phys. Discuss., 4, 6321, 2004.

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Discussion Paper