

Interactive comment on “Comparison of the levels of organic, elemental and inorganic carbon in particulate matter in six urban environments in Europe” by M. Sillanpää et al.

Anonymous Referee #1

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The manuscript is very timely because of quite a lack of data on OC/EC in Europe, specifically of data obtained with a minimum quality check. However, this said I dearly miss reference to recent work performed with filterpacks, in which even denuders were used. This refers to work by the groups of Maenhaut in urban settings and reported in J. Aerosol Science and Putaud for a site in the polluted PO-Valley (in frame of Eurotrac-II). The analysis of inorganic carbonate is possibly the most important addition because it is often raised as an issue in conjunction with the specific method for analysis of OC/EC used here. Normally acidification is used or suggested as the proper tool to remove carbonate but actual measurement of the contribution of carbonate is even better for a

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proper closure of the mass of PM-coarse.

There is a lack of a general conclusion, which may be related to the different seasons in which the sampling was performed; but this should also be realised in the coamariosl of data from different cities in the main text. In this sense the abstract contains too many data. This also applies for the main text. For instance the SD's should not be mentioned with every data point in the main text, rather a general statement on the vairance should be made and actual SD's appear in the tables to make the paper more accessible.

1. Is earlier work adequately recognized and credited? No, see above
2. Is the paper well organized and clearly presented? Yes though there is a repetition of data for EC
3. Can any of the illustrations be clarified, reduced, combined or eliminated? Yes the map with the well-known cities is redundant
4. Is the standard of English usage satisfactory? There are quite some instances that (in translation) wording has been chosen that is not the standard jargon to the extent that the meaning of a sentence is not really clear. Instances provided in the specific comments

Interactive comment on Atmos. Chem. Phys. Discuss., 5, 2719, 2005.

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