

Interactive comment on “Variability in regional background aerosols within the Mediterranean” by X. Querol et al.

Anonymous Referee #3

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I wanted to offer a brief comment in response to the comment from Dr. Aas. On page 589 that reviewer refers to the study of Yttri et al., 2007 as "a complete dataset using same method all over Europe". In fact figure 1 on that paper (<http://www.atmos-chem-phys.net/7/5711/2007/acp-7-5711-2007.pdf>) shows that the spatial coverage of that study was MUCH more limited, with a strong focus on Central Europe and very few outlying sites. On that study, no sites were used in the Mediterranean basin (Greece, the Italian peninsula away from the Po Valley, Mediterranean Spain, the Mediterranean islands), in most of Eastern Europe (Romania, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Russia, Belarus, the Baltic states, the former Yugoslavia) as well as the North of the Nordic Countries. In fact less than half of the European land mass is near one of those sites.

I mention this not because of this individual comment (which in isolation would be a

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minor oversight from Dr. Aas) but because it is a vexing and very repeated experience: aerosol researchers from Central/Northern Europe report results for some sites on that region and somehow implicitly assume that they must apply over the rest of Europe, sometimes dismissing the need to study the same topic in e.g. the Mediterranean, even though there are large differences in emission sources and meteorology, as clearly illustrated by this paper. This attitude can be very important for example on the funding of European proposals.

In offering this comment I am hoping to call this tendency to overly extrapolate to the attention of aerosol researchers from Central and Northern Europe.

Interactive comment on Atmos. Chem. Phys. Discuss., 9, 10153, 2009.

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