

## ***Interactive comment on “Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in photochemically aged air from the Eastern and Western Mediterranean” by Bettina Derstroff et al.***

**R. Holzinger (Editor)**

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Unfortunately both reviewers recommend to reject the manuscript, so clearly major revisions are needed before publication in ACP can be reconsidered. On the other hand, both reviewers acknowledge the potential of the high-quality data set collected in the Eastern Mediterranean and therefore I'd like to encourage the authors to improve their manuscript.

The manuscript dedicates a lot of space to basic analysis that demonstrates known or expected behavior. Basic analysis is important as it provides the background for the extended analysis. New findings can be interpreted and understood in the light of the basic analysis. However, in my opinion the basic analysis occupies too much

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space and can be significantly focused to create more (and more prominent) space for new findings. I also agree with both reviewers who suggest to extend and deepen the analysis and I encourage the authors to do so. The revised version of the manuscript will undergo a full review process.

Minor comment: Figure 8 details the periods that were considered "East" and "West", respectively. However, it looks like the "East" group also contains periods of mixed origin (e.g. the days around July 16). I would expect that the analysis becomes clearer after excluding these periods from "East".

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