

## ***Interactive comment on “A Comparison of Long-term Trends in Observations and Emission Inventories of NO<sub>x</sub>” by Elena Macdonald et al.***

**Anonymous Referee #1**

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The manuscript reports interesting results on long-term trends in observed NO<sub>x</sub> in comparison with its emissions. The authors found downward trends for the majority of the cities, which aligned well with the total emissions of NO<sub>x</sub> and listed the limit of the approached adopted. The authors also report “an overall very diverse picture in their absolute values and trends and also in their relation to traffic emissions”. The latter results reflect the weakness of the approach, which can also be said to the weakness of the study. To this reviewer, a revision is required to exclude the climate perturbation on long-term trend analysis such as Yao and Zhang (ACP, 20(2), 721-773). After this, the authors may gain robust conclusion, which allow the study scientifically publishable.

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