



**TNO-MACC-II  
2003-2009 consistent  
European emission  
inventory**

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# TNO-MACC\_II emission inventory: a multi-year (2003–2009) consistent high-resolution European emission inventory for air quality modelling

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## Abstract

Emissions to air are reported by countries to EMEP. The emissions data are used for country compliance checking with EU emission ceilings and associated emission reductions. The emissions data are also necessary as input for air quality modelling.

5 The quality of these “official” emissions varies across Europe.

As alternative to these official emissions, a spatially explicit high resolution emission inventory (7 km × 7 km) for UNECE-Europe for all years between 2003 and 2009 for the main air pollutants was made. The primary goal was to supply air quality modellers with the input they need. The inventory was constructed by using the reported emission  
10 national totals by sector where the quality is sufficient. The reported data were analysed by sector in detail, and completed with alternative emission estimates as needed. This resulted in a complete emission inventory for all countries.

For particulate matter, for each source emissions have been split in coarse and fine particulate matter, and further disaggregated to EC, OC, SO<sub>4</sub>, Na and others using fractions based on literature. Doing this at the most detailed sectoral level in the database implies that a consistent set was obtained across Europe. This allows better comparisons with observational data which can, through feedback, help to further identify uncertain sources and/or support emission inventory improvements for this highly uncertain pollutant.  
15

The resulting emission dataset was spatially distributed consistently across all countries by using proxy parameters. Point sources were spatially distributed using the specific location of the point source. The spatial distribution for the point sources was made year-specific.  
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The TNO-MACC\_II is an update of the TNO-MACC emission dataset. Major updates included the time extension towards 2009, use of the latest available reported data (including updates and corrections made until early 2012) and updates in distribution maps.  
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## 1 Introduction

Over the last decades, environmental problems such as acidification, eutrophication, air pollution and climate change have caused significant adverse impacts on human health and vegetation (EEA, 2010). Only part of the air pollution emission reductions set by the 2010 National Emission Ceilings have been achieved (EEA, 2012a), therefore transboundary air pollution remains a problem (EEA, 2010). All these environmental problems are directly related to the emissions of substances to air. Reliable emission inventories are a prerequisite to understand these environmental issues and to develop effective mitigation options.

For a good understanding of environmental problems, not only the magnitude of the sources but also their location is important. The spatially distributed emissions need to cover the complete domain, and describe the emissions in a consistent way, i.e. in all countries the same sources should be included, and these sources should be assessed as accurately and consistently as possible.

Emission inventories are typically developed by using a bottom-up approach, i.e. combining available statistics on fuel combustion, industrial production, etc. with the most appropriate emission factors. For a detailed description on how emission inventories are constructed we refer to EMEP/EEA (2013), IPCC (2006) and Olivier et al. (1999). This approach has been taken also by many countries that produce annual emission inventories for greenhouse gases and air pollutants, since they have to report their emissions under the various international treaties. Over time, as experience and expertise increased, the number, substances covered and quality of these inventories significantly improved (EMEP, 2013). These in-country systems take into account all country-specific information and national legislation and are therefore capable of providing a more accurate estimate of the emissions compared to a regional or global emission inventory.

When using regional chemical-transport modelling in policy studies, the use of these official inventories is often required. However, the official emissions do still contain

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a number of gaps and shortcomings, e.g. not all countries report according to the requirements (EMEP, 2013). This paper presents a complete, consistent and spatially distributed inventory, which has used the official reported emissions as basis where possible. This makes this inventory suitable for application in policy-related modelling and impact studies for air pollution. The TNO\_MACC-II inventory is the successor of the widely used GEMS inventory for 2000 (Visschedijk et al., 2007) and the TNO\_MACC inventory for the years 2003–2007 (Kuenen et al., 2011; Pouliot et al., 2012).

## 2 Methodology

### 2.1 Emission estimates

The Convention for Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP; <http://www.unece.org/env/lrtap/>) requires countries to report their emissions. Fifty-one countries in Europe and North America, including the EU as a whole, have to annually submit their emissions of air pollutants for the latest year and all historic years to EMEP (Co-operative Program for monitoring and evaluation of long-range transmission of air pollutants in Europe). The reporting follows well-defined Guidelines and asks countries to complete a pre-defined template with emissions by year, pollutant and sector (defined by the Nomenclature for Reporting; NFR). Countries are encouraged to set up their own inventory system and choose the best methodologies for emission estimation which fit their national situation. For larger sources, Parties have to use more advanced methodologies, with specific emission factors for each technology. When no specific national methodology is available, the EMEP/EEA Air Pollutant Emission Inventory Guidebook (EEA, 2013) provides default guidance on how to estimate emissions for each sector. The official submitted data for all countries are collected by the Centre for Emission Inventories and Projections (<http://www.ceip.at/>) and made available online. Because of the more detailed methodologies included in most inventories and the national focus of each of the inventories, the reported emissions often provide

the most accurate estimate for a country. However, in many cases gaps and errors do exist in the reported emission data. Especially the consistency in emissions reporting for consecutive years is problematic.

In order to assess the quality of the reported emissions, we have downloaded the data from CEIP (CEIP, 2011) for CO, NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, NMVOC, NH<sub>3</sub>, PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> and from EEA (EEA, 2012b) for CH<sub>4</sub> for all countries for the period 2003–2009. Before analysing the data in detail, we have first aggregated the NFR sectors to 43 individual sectors (link table available from Supplement). These 43 sectors were defined based on the SNAP (Selected Nomenclature for Air Pollution) at level 1 with one additional level of detail for most sectors. Industrial combustion (SNAP 3) and industrial process emissions (SNAP 4) have been aggregated to a new defined SNAP 34. This was done because there is often confusion between combustion and process emissions for a particular plant or facility, partly because countries may have slightly different definitions on where to draw the line or how to report. In an overarching European inventory this problem is effectively solved by merging both categories. An explanation of the SNAP source categories as used in this study is given in Table 1.

For this dataset we have analysed the time series between 2003 and 2009 in detail. Where the time series or the sector split of the total country emissions was not understandable (e.g. unexplainable jumps in the trend, multiple years of data missing, not understandable sector splits), the data were discarded.

In cases where reported data have not been used or were not available, emissions at the country level were taken from the GAINS model (IIASA, 2012). The GAINS model combines information on economic and energy development, emission control potentials and costs, atmospheric dispersion characteristics and environmental sensitivities towards air pollution (Schöpp et al., 1999). For a more detailed description we refer to Amann (2009) and Amann et al. (2011). The advantage of using the GAINS data is that it is consistent across countries and sectors and regularly updated. Emission data are available at sector and activity level, comprising more than 200 different categories

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emissions are disaggregated to subsectors. An overview of the disaggregated sectoral classification is given in the Supplement.

## 2.2 Particulate matter composition

For particulate matter, the emissions have been further disaggregated from PM<sub>2,5</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> to various components in the coarse and fine mode. To calculate this PM split, more detailed sectoral information is needed, for example the fuel type used in combustion installations and the type of installation. Therefore, the emission data are first disaggregated to GAINS sector and activity combinations (more than 200 categories).

For each GAINS category, a fractional split between 5 PM components (EC, OC, SO<sub>4</sub>, Na and other minerals) was made both for the coarse and the fine mode. The fractional split is constructed in such a way that it adds up to 1, provided that OC is converted from a C-mass basis to full molecular mass (FMM). To convert to FMM, OC was multiplied by a factor 1.3 that accounts for other elements present on OC (e.g. O, N or S). It is known that the conversion factor of OC to FMM ranges between (1.1–1.8) but here a weighted average of 1.3 was used for all sources. Since the PM split provides fractions and not absolute emissions, this has no influence on total PM emissions. For EC and OC, the split is based on a recent bottom-up EC and OC inventory for the year 2005 (Visschedijk et al., 2009). This inventory involved creating “best estimates” per GAINS sector and activity combination for EC and OC fractions in PM, based on literature data and three earlier EC and OC emission inventories.

Particle-bound sulphate is mostly emitted through the combustion of high-sulphur fuels such as coal and residual fuel oil. In the LOTOS-EUROS model (Schaap et al., 2008) it is estimated that around 2 % of the sulphur is emitted in the form of particles. When particle mass is calculated based on the SO<sub>2</sub> emissions, it is found that SO<sub>4</sub> fractions in PM range from 0.1 % for gasoline and diesel combustion in road transport to 10–20 % for coal and residual fuel oil combustion in energy and manufacturing industries and in shipping.

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The sodium fraction is relatively unimportant to the total PM but may be useful when looking at base cation deposition. The sodium content is based on reported sodium content for 40 PM sources calculated in Van Loon et al. (2005).

The fraction “Other minerals” contains other non-carbonaceous particles and is calculated as the remaining fraction after the other fractions have been calculated.

The fractions per GAINS category have been applied to the emissions of coarse PM (PM<sub>10</sub>–PM<sub>2.5</sub>) and fine PM (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) for each GAINS category, and subsequently been aggregated to the 77 source categories which are used as input to the spatial distribution.

## 2.3 Spatial distribution

The final step in the inventory was the distribution of the complete emission dataset across the European emission domain at 0.125° x 0.0625° longitude-latitude resolution. For each of the 77 source categories for which emissions are available, one or more proxies were identified. These proxies provide the mapping of the emissions of a certain pollutant to the grid for a given sector and year. For each country, pollutant, sector and year the most appropriate proxy was chosen in a selection table. An overview of all the proxies used per sector is given in the Supplement.

For point sources, we have made use of the E-PRTR database (<http://prtr.ec.europa.eu/>) which provides information on the location (longitude, latitude) and emissions of major facilities in Europe. E-PRTR data was available on an annual basis from 2007 onwards, while data from the years 2001 and 2004 were available from its predecessor EPER (EC, 1996). For the intermediate years, data from the closest year available was used. Since the EPER and E-PRTR data only contain emissions from facilities above a certain threshold, using this data to distribute total emissions for a certain sector can only be done for those sectors comprised of large facilities, e.g. the cement and aluminium industry. Furthermore, a judgement has been made on the quality of the data before actually using it. For example, there are multiple facilities where the geographical location points to the administrative location (e.g. company headquarters)

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rather than the location where the actual emissions occur. For the other point sources, and also those in countries which are not covered by E-PRTR, TNO's own point source database (described in more detail in Denier van der Gon et al., 2010) was used as a proxy for the distribution of these point source emissions.

For non-point sources (e.g. residential combustion, transport sectors, agriculture), proxies were selected to distribute country total emissions over the grid. These proxies include a.o. total, rural and urban population, arable land, TRANSTOOLS road network (JRC, 2005). The proxies for the area sources were assumed to be static in time, e.g. changes in the population density are not taken into account. Most proxy maps were taken from Denier van der Gon et al. (2010) but a number of modifications and improvements have been made. A new population map for the year 2005 has been implemented at high resolution, and a special proxy has been developed for the distribution of residential wood combustion. The latter takes into account both the population density, but also the proximity to wood. Despite this modification for the distribution of residential wood combustion, an overallocation of the emissions in urbanized centres may well be present in the spatial distribution. This has previously been described by Denier van der Gon et al. (2010a) and Timmermans et al. (2013). However, a universal, representative and well-documented approach that justifies a modification of the spatial distribution between urban and rural areas for Europe does not exist at this moment.

For the actual calculation of the emissions grids, a SQL server system has been set up which performs all the calculations. Emissions that could not be distributed (e.g. because the proxy was not available for that specific country) are by default distributed using either total population, rural population or arable land. In a last step the gridded emissions are aggregated to SNAP level 1, primarily to reduce the size of the output emission grid file.

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EMEP area reported gridded emissions for the main pollutants, and only 15 countries reported gridded data for PM (EMEP, 2011).

### 3.2 Resulting emissions

Table 3 lists the total emissions in each year per pollutant per year. The trend shows that emissions of all pollutants are decreasing in time. The decrease is most pronounced for CO and SO<sub>2</sub>, for which emissions in 2009 are about 25 % reduced compared to 2003. However, the change in emissions is not uniform. Figure 3 shows the relative reduction in 2009 compared to 2003 by country group. It can be seen that for the EU15 countries (plus Norway and Switzerland) the highest emission reductions were achieved (up to 50 % for SO<sub>2</sub>), and also for EU13 countries significant reductions were found. For the non-EU countries however, emission reductions were much smaller and even emission increases were found for CH<sub>4</sub> and particulate matter. On the Europeans seas, most emissions increased going from 2003 to 2009, most notably for NO<sub>x</sub>, CO and NMVOC (Fig. 3).

In the Supplement, an Excel file is included which lists country total emissions by pollutant for each year between 2003 and 2009.

#### 3.2.1 PM fractions

PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> are broken down into components (EC, OC, SO<sub>4</sub>, Na and other minerals) using the developed PM split. Figure 4 shows the EC and OC emissions per SNAP category for the European domain. In terms of total mass, the particulate carbonaceous emissions < 2.5 μm were about 5 times higher than the coarse fraction (< 2.5–10 μm) emissions. The most important source of fine OC is residential combustion (SNAP 2), particularly related to wood combustion. For coarse OC however, agriculture is the most important source of emissions. For EC residential combustion and transport (diesel combustion) are the most important sources for fine EC, while for coarse EC power plants and industry are the main sources.

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The relative importance of source sector contributions varies substantially between countries. As an example, the EC emissions (for coarse and fine mode separately) for Poland and the Netherlands are shown (Fig. 5). In Poland, high EC emissions resulted from coal and wood combustion in the residential sector, which are much less relevant for the Netherlands. Total emissions from the road transport sector in the Netherlands and Poland are quite similar, the larger fleet size in Poland is more or less compensated by the lower share of diesel in the fuel mix.

### 3.3 Spatial distribution

The result of spatially distributing the emissions using the various proxies is shown for  $\text{NO}_x$  and EC ( $< 2.5 \mu\text{m}$ ) for the year 2009 (Figs. 6 and 7, respectively). The major cities, major transport routes and shipping routes at sea can be identified as important sources in these maps.

Figures 8 and 9 show also  $\text{NO}_x$  and EC ( $< 2.5 \mu\text{m}$ ), but now the difference from 2003 to 2009. Positive numbers (blue colour in the maps) indicate a decrease in emissions from 2003 to 2009, while negative numbers (red colour) show an increase in emissions. For  $\text{NO}_x$ , it is shown that most land-based emissions decrease, but in some countries in Eastern Europe an increase is seen, e.g. in road transport for Poland, Slovak Republic and Bulgaria.

For fine particulate EC emissions are decreasing in most countries, but also increases are found especially in Eastern Europe and at sea. Highest reductions are achieved in cities and urban areas, since the initial 2003 emissions in these regions were higher. Increases can be due to a growth in activity, e.g. for the Slovak Republic, the increase is due to higher reported emissions of  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  from road transport in 2009 compared to 2003. Emissions from international shipping increased on all seas (CEIP, 2012).

To ensure consistency at borders, we have chosen to use a generic spatial distribution methodology. To account for sudden changes in point source emissions, e.g., due to implementation of emission abatement measures, E-PRTR data was used on an

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annual basis for the distribution of the emissions over the various point sources. As an example, the share of each major power plant in the total SO<sub>2</sub> emission from the power plant sector in Spain is shown in Fig. 10. The largest emitters in 2003 have reduced their emissions drastically. This causes some of the less important plants to become relatively more important, even though their absolute emission did not change. It was confirmed that in these specific cases for Spain, the power plants switched fuel (using coal with less or no sulphur) or installed advanced control technologies for desulphurisation. The use of annual E-PRTR data for these large point sources enables us to reflect these changes from year to year. As mentioned earlier, for the years 2003, 2005 and 2006 no point source information was available and the closest year available has been used instead.

## 4 Conclusions

A model-ready emission inventory at high spatial resolution for UNECE-Europe for 7 consecutive years (2003–2009) was constructed, which combines the advantage of using official reported emissions to the extent possible. For air quality modelling and environmental impact assessment studies, a good understanding of the magnitude and location of the sources of pollution is of crucial importance for deriving policy conclusions. The main advantages of this inventory are:

- We use source sector specific data in a harmonized way, which allows both tracking of sources in the modelled data as well as trend analysis without artifacts such as differences between annual reporting years. For instance, NMVOC and NO<sub>x</sub> from agriculture were excluded for all countries as reporting was found to be very inconsistent.
- The application of a consistent gridding methodology for all countries ensures patterns across borders do not show sudden changes or jumps; e.g. consistent land use and animal density maps to distribute agricultural emissions



Supplementary material related to this article is available online at  
[http://www.atmos-chem-phys-discuss.net/14/5837/2014/  
acpd-14-5837-2014-supplement.zip](http://www.atmos-chem-phys-discuss.net/14/5837/2014/acpd-14-5837-2014-supplement.zip).

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**Table 1.** Explanation of the SNAP source categories (SNAP 3 and SNAP 4 are merged to SNAP 34).

SNAP	Sector name
1	Energy industries
2	Non-industrial combustion
34	Industry (combustion + processes)
5	Extraction and distribution of fossil fuels
6	Product use
7	Road transport
8	Non-road transport and other mobile sources
9	Waste treatment
10	Agriculture







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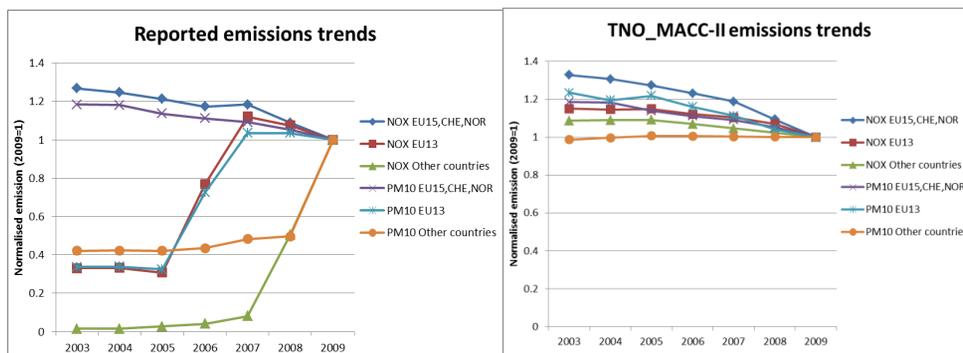
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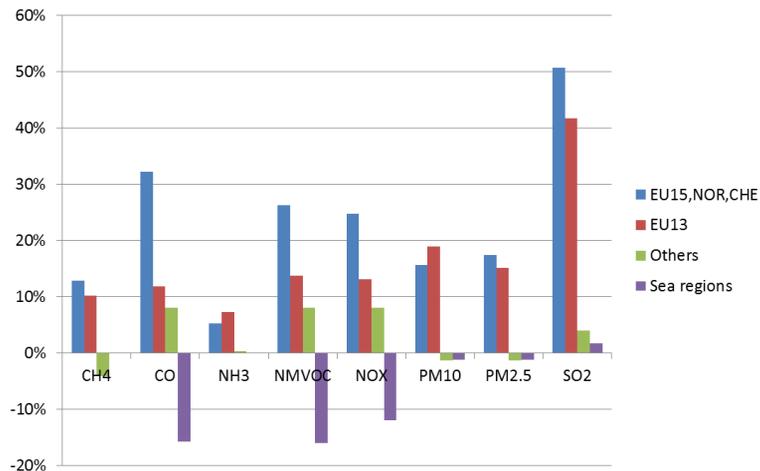
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**Fig. 2.** Trends in reported emissions (left panel) and TNO\_MACC-II (right panel) normalized to 2009 = 1.

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**Fig. 3.** Relative reduction in emissions per country group in 2009 compared to 2003.

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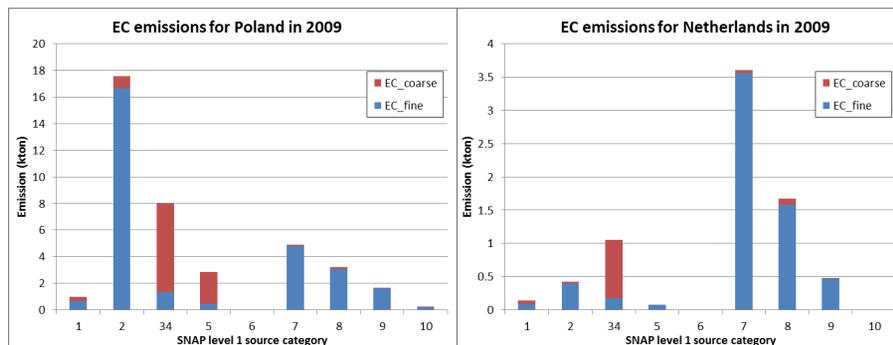
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**Fig. 5.** EC emissions in Poland (left panel) and the Netherlands (right panel) per SNAP level 1 source category in 2009.

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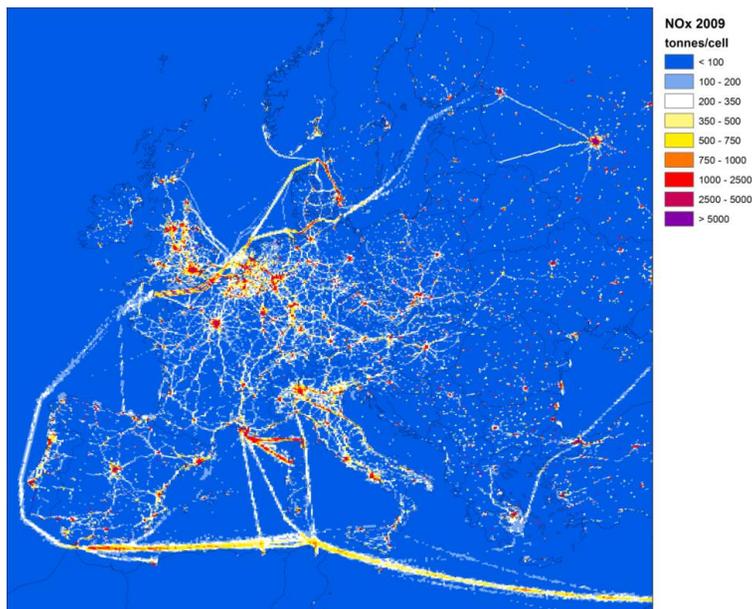
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**Fig. 6.** Spatially distributed NO<sub>x</sub> emissions from the year 2009 for all sources.

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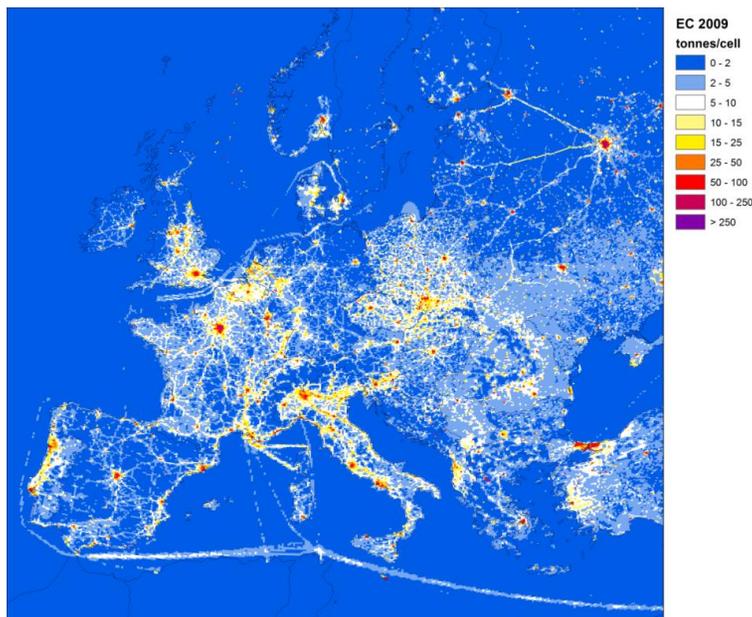
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**Fig. 7.** Spatially distributed EC emissions (fine mode) from the year 2009 for all sources.

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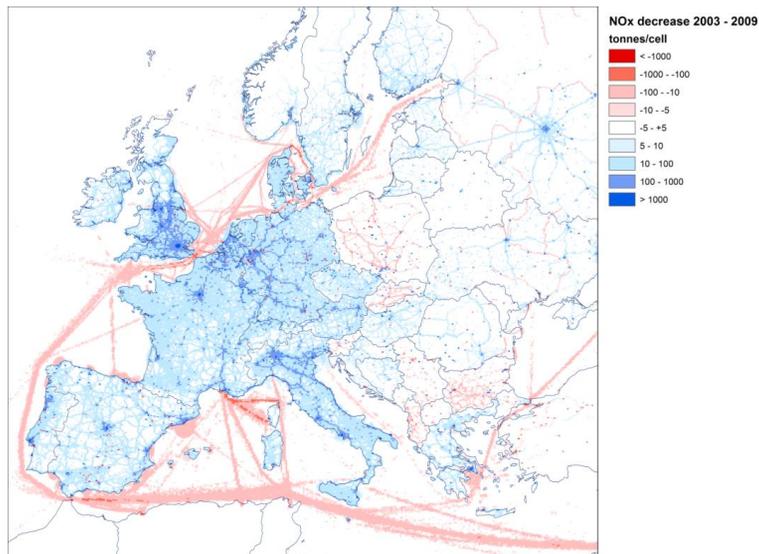
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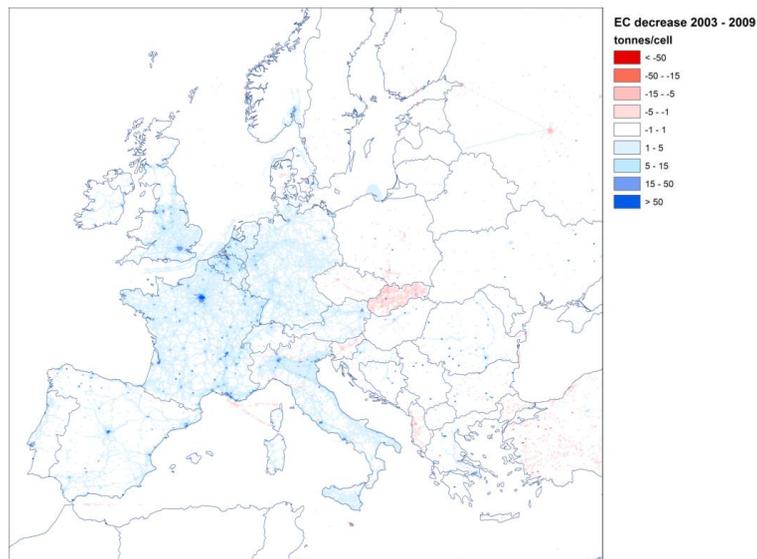


**Fig. 8.** Change in NO<sub>x</sub> emissions between 2003 and 2009 in Europe, for all sources.

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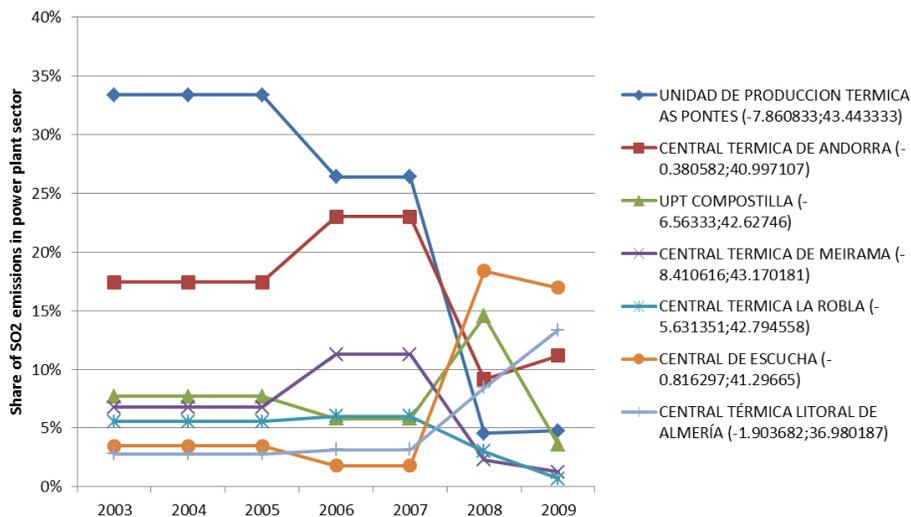


**Fig. 9.** Change in EC (< 2.5 μm) emissions between 2003 and 2009 in Europe, for all sources.

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**Fig. 10.** Contribution of the top-7 SO<sub>2</sub> emitting power plants in Spain in 2003 to the annual total SO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the power plant sector.

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