

REGIONAL LEVELS OF TROPOSPHERIC OZONE OVER EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

K. KOURTIDIS, C. ZEREFOS, D. MELAS

Laboratory of Atmospheric Physics, Physics Dept., Aristotle University of Thessaloniki,
Campus Box 149, GR-54006 Thessaloniki, Greece.

ABSTRACT

During the last five years, information on the regional tropospheric ozone levels over Eastern Mediterranean has become available. All available information from relatively long timeseries shows that ozone regional background values in the area are above the EU 32 ppb phytotoxicity limit for the entire year. This suggests that there is a need for both better quantification of damage to plants and ozone abatement. During periods of northern synoptic flow in summertime the Eastern Mediterranean receives air that is not only above the EU phytotoxicity limit but is also above the EU health protection threshold of 53 ppb. Since this air enters the area already at these high values, it appears that attainment of the above limits for ozone over Eastern Mediterranean is beyond local emissions control and can be controlled only with European-scale emission reductions.