

Brussels, 26 September 2018

AIR QUALITY IN THE EUROPEAN QUARTER MEASUREMENT CAMPAIGN CARRIED OUT BY COMMISSION PERSONNEL



(source : BRAL.brussels)

SUMMARY

TAO-AFI has just concluded a project on measuring the pollution in Schuman area and surroundings together with the ONG BRIAL. Colleagues have volunteered to measure pollution from home to work, in the Schuman area, using different means of transports. One of the most interesting results is that the metro is apparently a particularly polluted place. We will continue the measurement for a longer period. Read more below.

TAO-AFI, the Association of Independent Officials has recently set up an “Aircasting” project with BRAL, an ONG which is working on sustainability in Brussels. Previous cooperation projects between BRAL and Commission colleagues were focussing on measuring cyclists’ exposure to pollution only, in particular particulate from PM1 to PM10. We thought that a wider angle – involving more transport modes - would provide a more comprehensive view on pollution exposure in the European Quarter and surroundings of specific interest for the Commission personnel.

A number of **TAO-AFI** volunteers have now finished a first test phase, covering our work area in the period of end-June-Mid July. They travelled by bicycle, metro, car, train and on foot in and around the Schuman area. The tests have been made so far to get acquainted with the Aircasting measurement devices, and to define the best way to obtain useful results.

Although the time-frame of the test is still short (3 weeks), we can already share some interesting provisional outcomes :

1. The pollution measured by our volunteers appears to be in line with the official results for this time of the year. Of course, we need to mention that some of the measurement stations in Brussels may not be included in the official figures
2. The metro is apparently a more polluted place than the streets in low traffic periods. That pollution seems to be a combination of particles generated by the brakes and wheels of metro trains. There was no pollution outside to be taken in at that time
3. The end of the school year is clearly a turning point in the year’s overall pollution with a marked diminution of traffic, and considerably better air quality
4. Air in our offices is consistently better than the air outside.

This action by **TAO-AFI** has been recently restarted to obtain specific measurement results during normal working days in the European quarter, supplementary to the ones obtained in summer. They should give us a more realistic view on the impact of our mobility habits on our living and working environment.

We will consequently come back to you shortly to share our results and the possible conclusions/proposals that can be put forward to all the personnel and our administration.

TAO-AFI thanks everybody for your continuing support and good ideas, and kindly asks for your vote at the forthcoming Staff Committee to continue our actions for all the personnel.

For more information about our previous actions on mobility and air quality, check out our website [here](#)



TAO-AFI

*proximity
independence*



Association of Independent Officials



Executive committee

TAO-AFI

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Join TAO-AFI to reinforce the staff's action and to be informed on your



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