

Notes to Editors

The monitoring was carried out over one month from 19 February to 20 March this year. ClientEarth placed NO₂ diffusion tubes in various locations in Brussels. They were sent to an accredited laboratory for analysis at the end of the monitoring period ([Gradko International Limited](#)).

Under the EU Ambient Air Quality Directive, levels of nitrogen dioxide should not exceed an annual average (mean) of 40 µg/m³.

The Directive also requires authorities to measure air pollution in the areas where people will be exposed to the highest levels.

Currently, the most polluted area according to the official records from Bruxelles Environnement is Avenue de la Couronne, where, during the measurement campaign, mean NO₂ concentrations were 52.5 µg/m³.

The monitoring stations in Rue Belliard and Arts-Loi in the past registered very high NO₂ concentrations, but were turned off in 2013 and 2008 respectively. The monitor in Arts-Loi was switched on again following the launch of ClientEarth and the Brussels citizens' legal action. However, the Brussels authorities have announced that they do not want to officially measure air quality in Arts-Loi and Rue Belliard and will not use the data collected for checking compliance with levels of air pollution set by the EU Ambient Air Quality Directive.

They are proposing, however, to measure air quality in the Esplanade of the European Parliament, far away from traffic (the main source of pollution in the capital).

	Exposure Data		
Location	Date On	Date Off	µg/m ³
Belliard	19/02/2017	20/03/2017	69.22
Rue De La Loi	19/02/2017	20/03/2017	91.01
Arts - Loi	19/02/2017	20/03/2017	71.93
Avenue Des Arts (US Embassy)	19/02/2017	20/03/2017	99.44
Esplanade European Parliament	19/02/2017	20/03/2017	30.96

Source: ClientEarth measurements from 19 February to 20 March 2017. Samples analysed by [Gradko International Limited](#)

Air pollution in Belgium: cost per year

Health related cost	€8 billion
Lost work days	2.5 million
Cost to employers	€401 million
Cost for healthcare	€32 million

Source: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eir/pdf/report_be_en.pdf