Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics Discussions

Atmos. Chem. Phys. Discuss., referee comment RC1
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Comment on acp-2021-739

Anonymous Referee #1

Referee comment on "Why is the city's responsibility for its air pollution often underestimated? A focus on $PM_{2.5}$" by Philippe Thunis et al., Atmos. Chem. Phys. Discuss., https://doi.org/10.5194/acp-2021-739-RC1, 2021

The manuscript deals with an important question: who is responsible of air quality in cities? The issue is discussed from a technical point of view that tries to make order and to define common methodologies, useful to develop solid indications to policy makers and to compare different studies. It is discussed in the text, but it must be underlined that the spatial point of emission is not always the same of the responsability to take a measure (local emissions don't always mean local responsabilities).

From technical point of view, despite the fact that are discussed in particular two systems (SHERPA and EMEP), also the choice of many paremters (the border conditions, for example or the spatial distribution of the emission inventroy used) can affect the results. In any case the work is interesting and valueable.