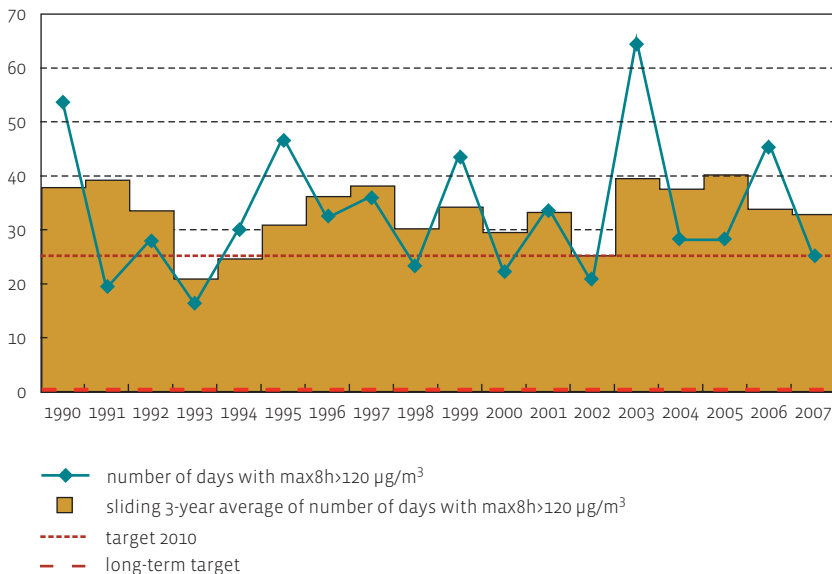


exceedance (number of days)



Source: IRCEL, interregional air database

**2007 was a good year for ozone, but the target for 2010 difficult to achieve**

In 2008, the new European Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC) came into force, which replaces the former Air Framework Directive and 3 associated Daughter Directives. The targets for ozone concentrations for the protection of the public health have been preserved and are also incorporated in the MINA plan 3+ (2008-2010). As a long-term target for the exceedance indicator, the average 8-hour ozone concentration in the ambient air must not exceed 120 µg/m³ on any day. The medium-term target for 2010 remains a maximum of 25 days per calendar year, averaged over 3 years (NET60<sub>ppb</sub>-max8h).

The number of exceedance days fluctuates from year to year and in particular follows the annual variation in sunshine and temperature. In 2007, nobody in Flanders was exposed to values above the European target for 2010. It was the third most favourable year since 1990, after 1991 and 2000. In the 1990s, 1995, 2003 and 2006 there was a lot of ozone pollution.

Even in a meteorologically favourable year such as 2007, the reduction in the emission of ozone precursors in West Europe is insufficient for reaching the target for 2010 for the sliding 3-year average. Other lasting reduction measures, as planned for reaching the emissions standard in the National Emission Ceiling Directive (2001/81/EC), must be implemented to reach the target everywhere and permanently. Additional efforts will still be required for further reducing the NO<sub>x</sub> emissions.

	1990	1995	2000	2003	2005	2007
number of days with max8h > 120 µg/m³	54	47	22	65	28	25
sliding 3-year average of number of days with max8h > 120 µg/m³	38.0	31.0	29.7	39.7	40.3	33.0