



OU_E: European odour units; the map reflects the situation in 2004

Source: PRG Odournet nv

Traffic as a source of odour nuisance

By means of odour emission indicators for vehicles, a map was created showing the odour nuisance from road traffic in Flanders. On this map, the big cities are clearly visible as a result of the dense road network and the high traffic intensities.

The zero effect level is the minimum odour concentration for the source to produce a significant effect.

Based on the odour nuisance map and the zero effect level the number of people potentially experiencing nuisance and the surface area affected by odour nuisance as a result of road traffic can be determined. In 2006 the proportion of people potentially experiencing nuisance as a result of road traffic in Flanders was 27 %. The surface area affected by odour nuisance is defined as the area within which the zero effect level is exceeded on a yearly basis; for 2006 this was 11 % of the surface area of Flanders.

Currently the odour emission from road traffic is mostly indirectly influenced by international and European legislation which is aimed at the reduction of emissions from other air pollutants.