

## PRESS RELEASE

# TOP 10 – The most dangerous environmental zones in Europe - German zones with the highest ozone levels

**Berlin, 04.09.2019. The Green-Zones portal has determined in which European environmental zones the highest values were reached in the summer of 2019 with the potentially carcinogenic toxic gas ozone.**

The ozone which is increasingly produced in the summer months and is formed near the earth by the reaction of nitrogen oxides, oxygen and high UV radiation, is a high risk for our health due to its corrosive effect if we spend too much time outdoors. At an ozone level of about 200  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ , symptoms such as tear irritation, mucous membrane irritation in the throat and bronchi, headaches, increased cough irritation and deterioration of lung function can occur. It is therefore mandatory to inform the population at values above 180  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ .

For this reason, too, driving bans should be imposed in European environmental zones not only on particulate matter and nitrogen oxides, but also on excessively high ozone levels. However, such a rule is currently only valid in a few countries, so that extremely high ozone levels can occur unhindered in most environmental zones.

The German city of Darmstadt and the three Dutch cities of Arnhem, Delft and Rijswijk rank among **the last** European environmental zones with the highest ozone values (hourly average in micrograms/ $\text{m}^3$ ). In these cities it was allowed to drive unhindered with ozone levels of 223-230  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ .

The environmental zones of the German Ruhr area and Wiesbaden are ranked **in the middle**, where ozone levels of 244-246  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  were reached in the summer of 2019, without the public being informed significantly.

The German city of Limburg ranks **1<sup>st</sup>** among the most dangerous environmental zones in Europe. On 26.06.2019, the European maximum ozone value of 251  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  was reached as a 1h average value in environmental zones and, unlike the French city of Lyon, no driving ban was imposed.

Find below a table with the TOP-10 zones. All details for each environmental zone in Europe can be viewed by clicking on the links in the table.

The TOP rankings of Europe's environmental zones will continue in the summer months – followed by evaluations of the “largest”, “smallest”, “most polluted”, “oldest”, “newest”, “most beautiful”, “most dangerous” and “most unusual” environmental zones in Europe.

The Berlin-based company Green-Zones provides information about permanent and weather-dependent (temporary) environmental zones in Europe and in the respective European countries through its portals [green-zones.eu](http://green-zones.eu), [umweltplakette.de](http://umweltplakette.de), [crit-air.fr](http://crit-air.fr) and [blaue-plakette.de](http://blaue-plakette.de), among others. Thanks to the free Green-Zones app and the professional app (Fleet-App), tourists and especially commercial users (e.g. bus and transport companies) can obtain reliable information in real time about the current environmental zones. The required [badges and registrations](#) are also available from Green-Zones.