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## **GLOBAL**

### **1- Airlines Face Cuts in Ozone Gases Under New Pact**

The world's airlines must make cuts of 12 percent in nitrogen oxide emissions blamed for depleting the ozone layer, the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) said. The pact, adopted unanimously among the 36-member council of the UN body, comes amid growing concern that the expansion of budget airlines and global air travel poses serious environmental risks. Airlines will have until 2008 to comply with the new restrictions, the Montreal-based ICAO said in a statement.

The new nitrogen oxides standards are "12 percent more stringent than the previous levels agreed to in 1999," it said. The council's move followed recommendations made by the 35th session of the 181 member ICAO last year. Reductions in emissions will be achieved mainly through modifications to aircraft engines.

But some airlines have argued, however, that the move will entail extra costs which could threaten the fragile recovery of the industry which slumped following the September 11 attacks in 2001, and the SARS epidemic in Asia and Canada.

Aviation fuel releases greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide when it is burnt which contribute to global warming.

Nitrogen oxides and substances also produced are blamed for depleting the ozone layer, which filters the Sun's harmful rays.

The Kyoto Protocol on climate change, which came into force last month, called on industrialized countries to work through the ICAO to reduce greenhouse gases on civil aviation.

**Source:** News AFP 2005, Via: Designerz, 2 March 2005

## **NORTH AMERICA**

### **2- Dupont Releases Update on Supply of HFC-134a**

DuPont announced last September it was notifying customers of a supply shortfall for hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) 134a, marketed in the automotive air conditioning industry as DuPont™ Suva® 134a refrigerant. Due to a combination of the growth in global demand, and operational issues in 2004 at a major manufacturing facility, a significant production shortfall has occurred. This has constrained our ability to build inventory entering 2005, and although our production facilities are fully utilized, and we are making as much product as we can, we expect the shortfall to continue in 2005.

We are continuing communications to our customers on our projected supply limitations in order to give them as much lead-time as possible to plan, and we will continue to communicate closely with them about this situation going forward. DuPont has done everything possible to insulate its customers from the market forces of supply and demand at work in this situation, but at some point, the market realities impact everyone. DuPont remains committed to its customers and their success based on the high-quality products and service we have provided as a leader in refrigerants over the last 75 years, and we look forward to serving their future needs.

**Source:** [Mobile Air Conditioning Society Worldwide \(MACS Worldwide\), March 2005](#)

## **WEST ASIA**

### **3- Iraq Expected to Intensify Efforts in Environment Sector**

The Iraqi ministry of environment confirmed that there are many efforts to assist Iraq to join the Vienna Agreements and Montreal Protocol to protect the Ozone layer and dangerous waste.

A source at the ministry has clarified that these efforts are part of the ministry plans to protect the environment and prepare an updated database in order to curtail causes of pollution in Iraq. He added, according to "Almendhar" newspaper, that the WHO expressed its readiness to train Iraqis in the field of qualitative tests for drinking water and industrial control.

It should be noted that the World Bank has recently allocated US\$25 million to as an emergency grant for environmental projects in Iraq.

**Source:** [Albawaba, 10 March 2005](#), Mena Report 2005 ([www.menareport.com](http://www.menareport.com))

## **EUROPE**

### **4- Ozone Hole over Central Europe**

COLOGNE - Arctic winds have caused a hole in the atmosphere's ozone layer to form over central Europe, experts in Germany warned on Wednesday.

The Arctic winds, also linked to record-setting low temperatures across Europe in recent weeks, exacerbated the ozone depletions process, it was said.

According to findings obtained by high-altitude Russian research aircraft, nitrogen oxide and nitrogen dioxide gases in the upper stratosphere have climbed to the highest levels in at least two decades.

The increases have led to ozone reductions of up to 60 percent roughly 20 kilometres in altitude above the heart of Europe, said Marc von Hobe, a scientist with Germany's Juelich Research Centre.

"This decline was completely unexpected," he said. "The findings point out a critical need to better understand the processes occurring in the ozone layer."

Winds in the upper part of a massive winter low-pressure system that confines air over the Arctic region, known as the polar stratospheric vortex, sped up in February to become the strongest on record, he said.

The spinning vortex allowed the nitrogen gases, believed by the team to have formed at least 20 kilometres above the stratosphere as a result of chemical reactions triggered by energetic particles from the sun, to descend more easily into the stratosphere.

The increases in the two nitrogen gases - collectively known as NO<sub>x</sub> - are important because they are major players in the stratospheric ozone destruction process. A form of oxygen, ozone protects life on Earth from the harmful effects of ultraviolet radiation. The ozone layer has thinned markedly in high latitudes of the Northern and Southern Hemispheres in recent decades, primarily due to reactions involving chlorofluorocarbons and other industrial gases.

Scientists believe the 1987 Montreal Protocol, an international agreement that has phased out the production and use of such ozone-destroying compounds, may allow the protective ozone layer to be restored by the middle of this century.

**Source :** [Expatica](#), 9 March 2005

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