**Free tropospheric ozone reductions due to reduced emissions in the COVID-19 pandemic.**

W. Steinbrecht1, D. Kubistin1, C. Plass-Dülmer1, J. Davies2, D.W. Tarasick2, P. v. d. Gathen3, H. Deckelmann3, N. Jepsen4, R. Kivi5, N. Lyall6, M. Palm7, J. Notholt7, B. Kois8, P. Oelsner9, M. Allaart10, A. Piters10, M. Gill11, R. Van Malderen12 , A.W. Delcloo12 , R. Sussmann13, E. Mahieu14, C. Servais14, G. Romanens15, R. Stübi15 ,G. Ancellet16, S. Godin-Beekmann16 , S. Yamanouchi17, K. Strong17 , B. Johnson18, P. Cullis18,19, I. Petropavlovskikh18,19, J.W. Hannigan20, J.-L. Hernandez21, A. Diaz Rodriguez21, T. Nakano22, F. Chouza23, T. Leblanc23, C. Torres24, O. Garcia24, A.N. Röhling25, M. Schneider25, T. Blumenstock25, M. Tully26 , C. Paton-Walsh27, N. Jones27, R. Querel28, S. Strahan29,30, R.M. Stauffer29,31, A.M. Thompson29, A. Inness32, R. Engelen32 , K.-L. Chang19,33, O.R. Cooper19,33, G.P. Brasseur20,34, I. Bouarar34, and B. Gaubert20

1 Deutscher Wetterdienst, Hohenpeißenberg, Germany, 2 Environment and Climate Change Canada, Toronto, 3Alfred Wegener Institut, Potsdam, Germany, 4 Danish Meteorological Institute, Copenhagen, 5 Finnish Meteorological Institute, Sodankylä, 6 British Meteorological Service, Lerwick, 7 University of Bremen, Germany, 8 Institute of Meteorology and Water Management, Legionowo, Poland, 9 Deutscher Wetterdienst, Lindenberg, Germany, 10 Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute, DeBilt, 11 Met Éireann (Irish Met. Service), Valentia, 12 Royal Meteorological Institute of Belgium, Uccle, 13 Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, IMK-IFU, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, 14 Institute of Astrophysics and Geophysics, University of Liège, Belgium, 15 MeteoSwiss, Payerne, Switzerland, 16 LATMOS, Sorbonne Université-UVSQ-CNRS/INSU, Paris, France, 17University of Toronto, Canada, 18 NOAA ESRL Global Monitoring Laboratory, Boulder, USA, 19 Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences (CIRES), University of Colorado, Boulder, USA, 20 National Center for Atmospheric Research, Boulder, USA, 21AEMET, Madrid, Spain, 22Meteorological Research Institute, Tsukuba, Japan, 23JPL, CalTech, Table Mountain Facility, Wrightwood, USA, 24Izaña Atmospheric Research Center, AEMET, Tenerife, Spain, 25 Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, IMK-ASF, Germany, 26 Bureau of Meteorology, Melbourne, Australia, 27 Centre for Atmospheric Chemistry, University of Wollongong, Australia, 28 NIWA, Lauder, New Zealand, 29 NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Earth Sciences Division, Greenbelt, USA, 30 Universities Space Research Association, Columbia, USA, 31 ESSIC, University of Maryland, College Park, USA, 32 ECMWF, Reading, UK, 33NOAA Chemical Sciences Laboratory, Boulder, USA, 34 Max-Planck Institute for Meteorology, Hamburg, Germany

Ozone soundings and NDACC Fourier Transform Infrared Spectrometers show a reduction of free tropospheric ozone in late spring and summer 2020 by about 7% at nearly all stations in the Northern Hemisphere. The observed ozone decrease is not reproduced by operational chemical weather analyses from the Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service, which do not account for reduced emissions during the COVID-19 pandemic. Dedicated model simulations by the CAM-Chem model, however, account for reduced emissions during the COVID-19 pandemic, and for 2020 meteorological conditions (including the Arctic ozone hole of 2020). They reproduce the observed northern hemispheric ozone decrease, and attribute about one third of the ozone decrease to reduced surface emissions, one third to reduced aircraft emissions, and one third to 2020 meteorological conditions (including the 2020 Arctic ozone hole). In the Southern Hemisphere, simulated emission related ozone reductions appear to have been masked by 2020 meteorological conditions (including the large wild-fires in Australia) - consistent with observed "normal" free tropospheric ozone at the few stations in the Southern Hemisphere.

We will also use new data from 2021 to check for anomalous tropospheric ozone in this year.