

Lisbon, Luxembourg rank Europe's worst for pollution fight

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Lisbon and Luxembourg, view of downtown Luxembourg City seen here, rank last in a test of how hard European cities are fighting air pollution, while Zurich and Copenhagen come top

Lisbon and Luxembourg rank last in a test of how hard European cities are fighting air pollution, while Zurich and Copenhagen come top, an environmental group said Tuesday.

Dublin, Glasgow, Madrid and Rome also fared badly in the test of 23

mainly western European cities carried out by Friends of the Earth Germany.

"Lisbon and Luxembourg finish in the last bottom two places for tackling [air pollution](#) in only a half-hearted manner," the group said.

They had done the least to reduce pollution, ban heavy polluters from the roads, introduce clean buses and other forms of public transport, offer economic incentives, promote [public transport](#) as well as encourage walking and cycling, it said.

The gap with the top ranking cities was wide, the group said.

"Both in Zurich and in the runner-up [city](#), Copenhagen, the number of cars has been substantially reduced and there are restrictions on highly-polluting vehicles such as diesel cars, trucks and construction machines," it said.

The study, based on the US school grading system, gave the Swiss city a "B plus" rating while the Danish capital and the Austrian capital Vienna both got Bs.

Stockholm got a B minus, Berlin got a C, while Helsinki, London, Paris and the German city of Stuttgart got C minus scores.

Amsterdam in the Netherlands and the Austrian city of Graz were graded D plus. The German city of Duesseldorf, the French city of Lyon, and Brussels were ranked D.

Spanish city Barcelona, Italian industrial hub Milan and the Czech capital Prague all got D minus grades.

Dublin, Madrid, Rome and the Scottish city of Glasgow were all given F

grades, but were still deemed to be doing slightly better than Portugal's Lisbon and the tiny duchy of Luxembourg.

The study was backed by the European Environmental Bureau, a coalition of grassroots environmental organisations.

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