

Slow down: Dutch cut max speed limit to rein in pollution

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The Dutch government is lowering the top speed limit on highways in a

bid to put the brakes on emissions of the pollutant nitrogen oxide.

Prime Minister Mark Rutte announced Wednesday that the [maximum speed limit](#) will be cut from 130 kilometers per hour to 100 km/h (81-62 miles per hour) on many of the country's highways.

It was a climbdown for Rutte, whose [conservative party](#) is known as the "vroom vroom" party because of its support of motorists.

Rutte says he is "unbelievably unhappy that the 130 is disappearing."

The measure follows a Dutch Supreme Court decision in May that said the government's rules for granting permits to projects that emit nitrogen oxide breach European Union environmental law.

That led to a freeze on permits for many construction projects.

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