

Beat: Travel

PARIS IS SET TO INTRODUCE CUTS TO TRAFFIC WHEN POLLUTION LEVELS SPIKE

CAR-FREE DAY BRINGS DROP AIR POLLUTION

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USPA NEWS - Paris is set to introduce cuts to traffic when pollution levels spike. Ecology Minister Ségolène Royal conceded that traffic bans should be put in the hands of city authorities. She had previously lobbied for bans to come after three consecutive days of particularly bad pollution levels...

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In September, Paris's 'day without cars' led to such a dramatic drop in both air and noise pollution that the mayor's office is now planning more vehicle-free days in the French capital.

The bans, which see alternate driving days for cars based on whether their registration plate ends with an odd or even number, will now be rolled out 'whenever the region and city authorities demand it', said Segolene Royal.

In a few weeks, world leaders will fly to Paris for what has been billed as the world's biggest ever climate change conference. COP21 will seek an international agreement on dramatic measures to keep global warming below 2C.

Airparif, an independent monitoring organisation, reports that Quai des Celestins broke the European hourly limit 11 times in 2014. Place de l'Opera broke the limit 17 times, and parts of the périphérique did so 67 times.

In its report for 2014, Airparif wrote: 'Despite meteorological conditions favourable to the quality of air in 2014, 2.3 million French people are still exposed to levels of pollution that do not respect the rules, particularly in the case of (lead) particles and nitrogen dioxide. Those living in the Paris region and near major roads are the most affected.'

Ruby BIRD

<http://www.portfolio.uspa24.com/>

Yasmina BEDDOU

<http://www.yasmina-beddou.uspa24.com/>

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V.i.S.d.P. & Sect. 6 MDSfV (German Interstate Media Services Agreement): Ruby BIRD & Yasmina BEDDOU (Journalists/Directors)

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BIRD & Yasmina BEDDOU (Journalists/Directors)

Editorial program service of General News Agency:

UPA United Press Agency LTD

483 Green Lanes

UK, London N13NV 4BS

contact (at) unitedpressagency.com

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