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From the business traveller's perspective

In September 2006 Dutch Environment Secretary Van Geel was called on by the Socialist Party to answer parliamentary questions on the inter-urban helicopter service that Helinet and Connexion wish to operate. Question no. 3 concerned the environmental performance of helicopter transport compared with more conventional modes. CE Delft was called on by the environment ministry to assist in answering the question: How do emissions from helicopter transport compare with those of other forms of transport like car, train and aircraft on a trip from Amsterdam to Brussels? The question was addressed from the perspective of a business traveller going from Amsterdam to Brussels, i.e. considering the means of transport currently available to such travellers. For each of these, ranges were estimated for CO₂ and NO_x emissions. These depend on the following factors:

- fuel conversion efficiency;
- detour factor;

- upstream and downstream transport links.

The conclusions were as follows:

- Helicopter emissions exceed those of other modes of transport.
- Compared with the journey by diesel car, emissions are about a factor 3 to 5 higher. There is less difference compared with air travel, but more compared with rail.
- Occupancy levels are a significant factor, particularly when it comes to smaller vehicles like cars and helicopters.

 [Report \(https://www.cedelft.eu/en/publications/download/436\)](https://www.cedelft.eu/en/publications/download/436)

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Delft, October 2006

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