



## **CO<sub>2</sub> isotope analysis of air samples in the upper troposphere-lowermost stratosphere region, the project CARIBIC**

S.S. Assonov (1,\*), C.A.M. Brenninkmeijer (2), C. Koeppel (2), T. Schuck (2), A. Zahn (3), and P. Taylor (1)

(1) Joint Research Centre of European Commission, Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements (JRC-IRMM), Geel, Belgium, (2) Max Planck Institute for Chemistry, Mainz, Germany, carlb@mpch-mainz.mpg.de, (3) Forschungszentrum Karlsruhe, Germany, (\*) temporarily at Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements (JRC-IRMM), Geel, Belgium; e-mail: assonov\_s@yahoo.com

The project CARIBIC (<http://caribic-atmospheric.com>), aims to study atmospheric chemistry and composition by measuring many compounds and species in the upper troposphere-lowermost stratosphere (UT/LMS) around the globe by using a commercial aircraft. CARIBIC has two phases, CARIBIC-1 and CARIBIC-2 (CARIBIC-LUFTHANSA). During CARIBIC-1 (flights from Germany to mainly India, South Africa and the Caribbean), CO<sub>2</sub> isotope composition was measured on cryogenic extracts from large air samples of 250 l STP. CO<sub>2</sub> isotope analysis in the UT/LMS and free troposphere is continued by CARIBIC-LUFTHANSA. The new instrument container of CARIBIC-LUFTHANSA operates onboard a Lufthansa A340-600 (Frankfurt, Germany) with monthly flights from Frankfurt to remote destinations, collecting 28 air samples for laboratory analyses. A new CO<sub>2</sub> extraction line was installed at JRC-IRMM (Geel, Belgium) and high quality isotope measurements started in June 2007. Particular focus is on traceable calibration to the VPDB-CO<sub>2</sub> scale as well as on the quality of δ<sup>18</sup>O(CO<sub>2</sub>) data, which give important information about CO<sub>2</sub> exchange with oceans, soils and biosphere. δ<sup>18</sup>O(CO<sub>2</sub>) is discussed to be a long-term indicator of global changes in the CO<sub>2</sub> cycle as well as oceans' feedback. About 500 air samples analysed from June 2007 to January 2009 give a reliable data set for free troposphere and the UT/LMS region. New data obtained, trends and tracer-tracer correlations will be presented at the meeting.