

## Highlights

**Generally lower seasonal temperatures. No risk of frost damages. Relatively dry in Northern EU-15 Countries, Turkey and Eastern Countries; wet in Spain, Mediterranean costal areas, Central Countries and Sweden.**

## RAIN AND CLIMATIC WATER BALANCE

As a whole, the month was characterized from one side by a **moderate rain supply** in the majority of the Northern countries (the whole German territory, Belgium, Netherlands, Southern England, the majority of France) and also in North and Central Italy, Portugal, Algeria, Greece, Turkey, Bulgaria, Ukraine and Russia; on the other side from **abundant and beneficial rains** in Spain, Tunisia, Southern Italy, Balkans, Romania, Hungary, Poland, Batiks, Sweden.

Southern France (where the rains were practically absent for the whole month), Central Portugal, Algeria, Turkey, Ukraine and Russia experienced **the highest rainfalls deficit (< -70%)**. But despite this, considering the relative early stage of developments of the winter crops, the present soil water reservoirs should be guaranteed an adequate water supply.

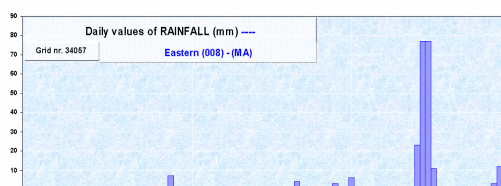
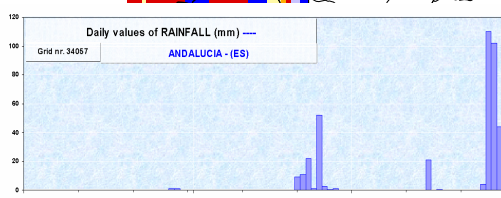
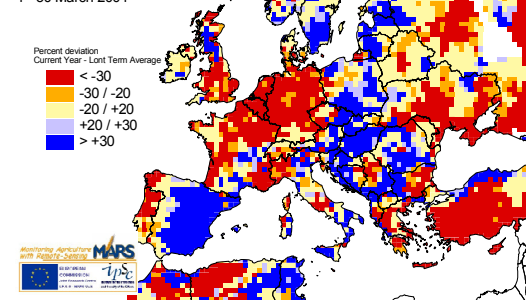
The more abundant than normal rains recorded in the Mediterranean countries (that were experiencing limited water soils content) were particular beneficial because of increased the soil water reservoirs in prospective of the next and crucial reproductive stage. Similar conditions were reported in the last campaign.

Some **extreme intense showers** were recorded during the second part of the month in Andalucia (Spain), where happened two consecutive days with more than 100 mm, and in Northern Morocco. Others intense showers (40-50 mm) were reported also in Northern Portugal, Cataluna, Rhones-Alpes, Sicily and long the Eastern Adriatic coasts.

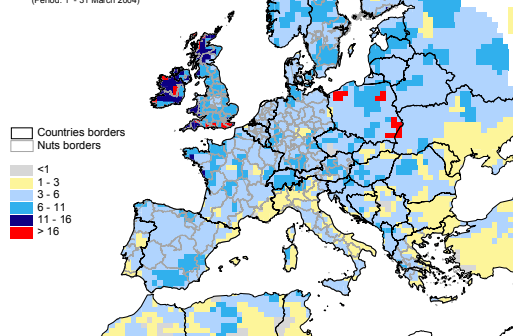
In general the rains were distributed in 5-10 rainy days, only in Ireland, North and South England and some areas in Poland received more than 20 rainy days.

### WEATHER MONITORING RAIN

Cumulated values in the period  
1 - 30 March 2004



### Number of rainy days (Period: 1 - 31 March 2004)



## TEMPERATURE: No frost risk and much warmer in Central and Eastern

Few days with temperature below -8°C were recorded during the whole month and when low temperature occurred they were associated with a snow cover protection.

### 01-10 March-2004

For the most parts of Europe the daily mean temperatures above 0°C cumulated for the first decade of March were with -30% below the long time average. For Spain, south of Greece, Sardinia and Corsica the difference was about -15%. Thermal conditions for Scandinavian Peninsula, Baltic States and a large part of European Russia were close to normal. The southern part of European Russia and Belarus, Ukraine and south and center of Turkey were with 30% hotter than long term average.

### 10-20 March 2004

Central parts of Turkey were with -30% below the long term average. Most of the Eastern part of France, Benelux, Denmark, Germany, Central and Eastern European countries were with +30% hotter than normal.

### 20- 31 March 2004

Western part of the continent England, Italy and Northern part of Germany was colder than long term average meanwhile the Eastern Europe was subject to a warmer period.

In the Eastern, the warmer condition boosted the plant development that reached an advanced stage.

