

Date: 16/04/2004
Report Number: CU2004/03

Generally favourable thermal conditions. Unusual observed rainfall distribution (wetter and drier areas). Beneficial rains expected in the next days

OBSERVED CONDITIONS

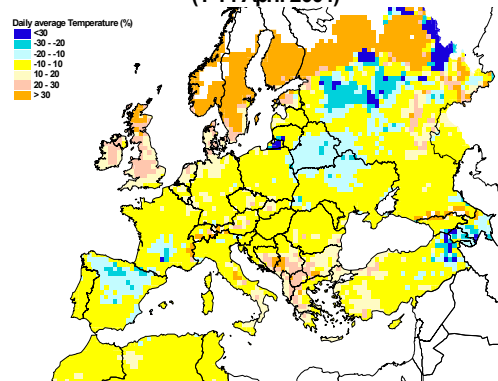
TEMPERATURE AND RAINFALL

As a whole, for the first two weeks of April, the accumulation of the temperatures above 0°C was close to normal except for some cooler areas in Northern Spain, Central France, Belarus, Northern Ukraine, Central part of European side of Russia. In the meantime, large areas of the Balkans, England, Scandinavia and Northern Russia were hotter than usual. The Eastern part of Europe faced minimal temperatures below -4°C but the direct damage to crops occurred in this period is estimated to be insignificant compared with the previous year.

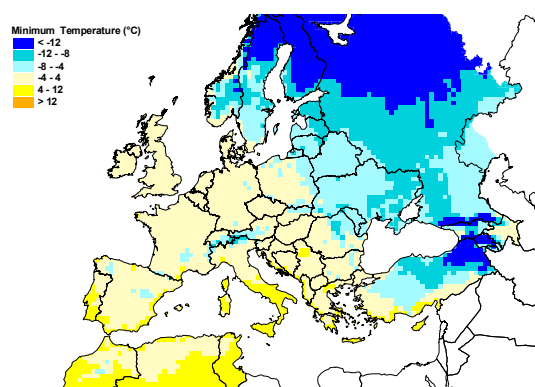
Intense rainfalls were recorded for the North-Western Balkan area, Southern Hungary and large part of Romania (except South-East). In these areas the maximum daily rainfalls were above 20 mm and in some cases exceeded 50 mm. Precipitations above the long term average occurred also in the sea-shore area from the Southern Spain and Maghreb, as well as in Northern Ireland, England, Basse-Normandie (France), Eastern Poland, Northern Netherlands and Western Germany.

At the same time, the climatic water balance was in deficit for southern Portugal, Sicily, southern Turkey, most parts of Spain, Czech Republic, the Balkan zone, Ukraine and large parts of European Russia.

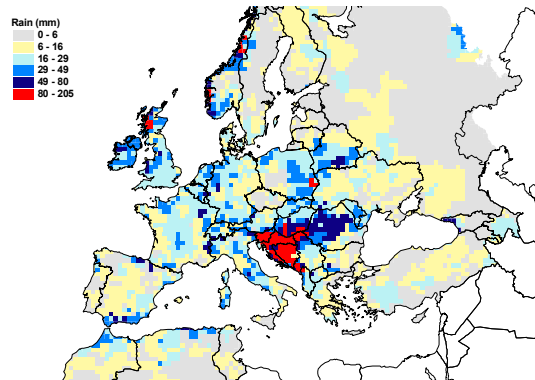
Percent deviation for daily average temperature (Tbase = 0°C)
(1-14 April 2004)



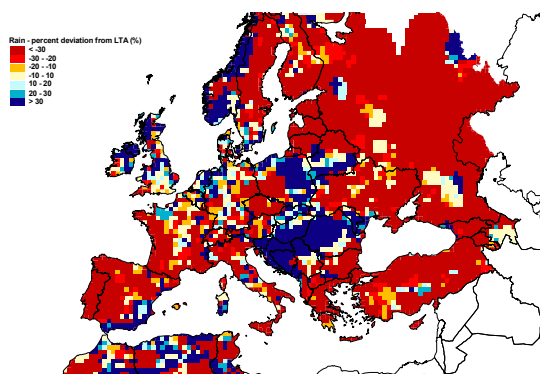
Minimum temperature (1-14 April 2004)



Rainfalls (1-14 April 2004)



Rainfalls (1-14 April 2004)



NEXT DAYS SITUATION (ECMWF 10 DAYS WEATHER FORECASTS)

Several rainy fronts are expected over the European continent.

In the next few days several fronts coming both from southern and northern regions will pass over the European continent bringing dispersed rain. In the Mediterranean areas these rains will be beneficial for crops in the vegetative phase (e.g.: durum wheat)

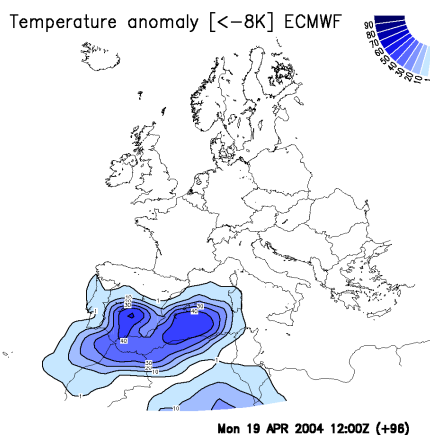
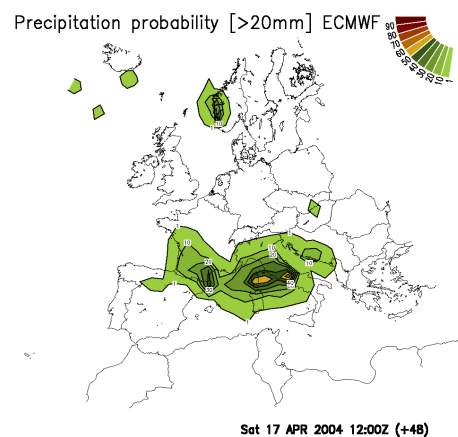
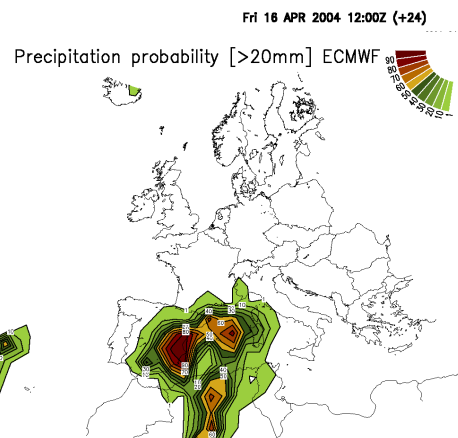
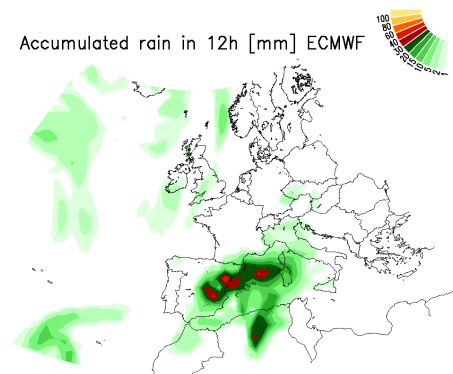
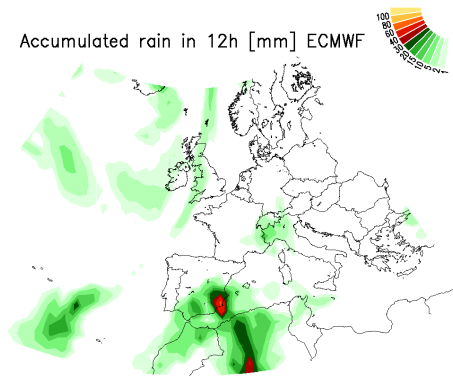
For 15th and 16th of April are also forecasted intense showers on Algeria, Balearic Islands, Southern and Eastern Spain (especially along the sea coastline), Southern France and Corsica, Sardinia and Central-Northern Italy. On the main Mediterranean Island there will also be strong winds (from the south/south-east).

This front will proceed eastwards obstructed by a high-pressure system over Bulgaria, losing its power over Italy and Adriatic Balkans.

Relatively higher than seasonal temperatures will be on Benelux; on the contrary reduction in temperature will be experienced in the Mediterranean areas (mainly in Spain).

From Sunday 18th, a very large low-pressure system based to the south of Iceland, will determine a new wave of rain coming from the north Atlantic. This front will affect initially the northern European areas (mainly Ireland, England, Normandy and Galicia), then will affect the whole European continent and the Central Mediterranean (especially southern Italy).

From 20th a second front coming from Africa will converge on the Mediterranean and the rain will be extended over Italy, Greece and Turkey (where abundant and intense rains are likely). At the same time a new northern rainy front will affect again England, Ireland, France and Spain and progressively the whole continent **until the end of the forecasted period**.



Note: the maps refer only to the most significant events