

Warmer and generally drier for most of Europe. Rain alleviated drought conditions in Portugal. Possible spring frost damage in eastern Ukraine.

OBSERVED TEMPERATURE AND RAINFALL

For the period under consideration the sum of active temperatures was **higher** than usual for all major agricultural areas of EU and CC, except the eastern edge of this area (eastern Poland, and central Turkey) where temperatures were in the normal range and the Baltic States where the sum of active temperatures was lower than long term average.

Low values for minimum temperatures (below **-16°C**) were recorded only for Baltic states, Russia, and limited areas of eastern Turkey. A protective snow cover was generally present in these areas and the extent of direct frost damage is considered to be in the normal range. In **south-eastern Ukraine**, moderate low temperatures (-8 till -10°C) alternating with de-hardening temperatures combined with poor snow cover (0-3 cm) were close to the damaging limit for winter crops. A rough estimation could be that areas affected by this **spring frost** are about 10-15% of the surfaces usually cultivated with wheat in Ukraine.

The considered period was **drier than usual** (-25%) for the most of the continent. Areas with precipitation higher than normal may be observed in the attached maps for western Iberian Peninsula, Ireland, UK, central France, the Balkans and Russia. Persisting drought conditions from **Portugal** (especially in the north) were alleviated after some **rainy** days (60 to 90 mm cumulated during the last half of March).

