

Date: 16/02/2006

Report Number: CU2006/02

## Drier than usual for most of Europe (except central area) A new frost spell hit eastern Europe.

### OBSERVED TEMPERATURE AND RAINFALL

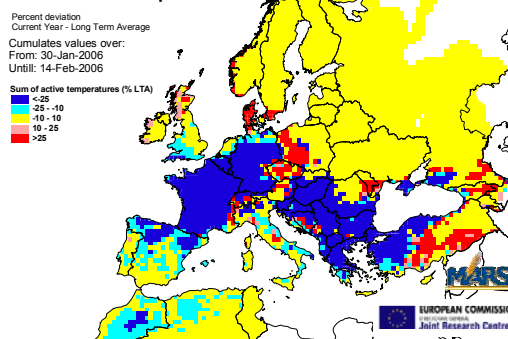
The sum of active temperature (above 0°C) was in the normal range in the North-eastern part of the Continent. However, **more than 5 days with minimum temperatures below -15°C or even < -25°C were recorded for Northern Ukraine, most of Belorussia and Russia.** A normal accumulation of active temperatures was reported also for Ireland, most of UK, large areas from western Mediterranean basin, Cyprus, Tunisia and Western Turkey. Higher than usual accumulation of thermal resources (but also reduction of frost hardening level) are observed for Denmark, Western Poland, part of Moldavia and Southern Turkey. The rest of the continent experienced lower than usual accumulation of the active temperatures (for France and Germany it was a continuation of the situation from the previous period meanwhile for Hungary and Balkans this cooler period occurred after a relatively warmer period).

The considered period was (again) clearly drier (-25%) than normal for most of the European Continent and there is an **increasing concern for the water balance status on the South-western areas** (Spain, France, Italy).

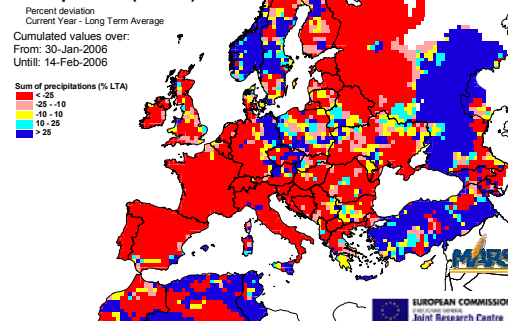
Higher than usual levels of cumulated precipitation were reported only for Scandinavian peninsula, Western Germany, Tunisia and Turkey.

In some areas exposed to very low temperatures, the thin snow cover was not able to protect crops from the impact of frost (Crimea, Balkans, Hungary, and Eastern Germany).

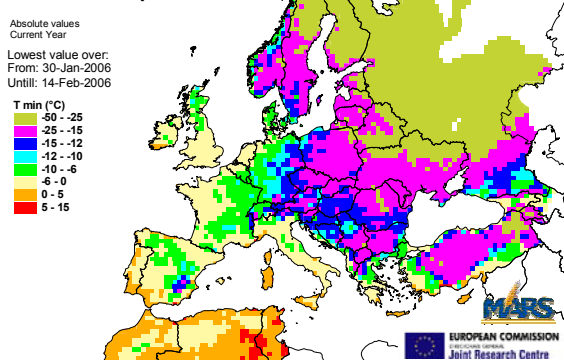
#### Sum of active temperatures



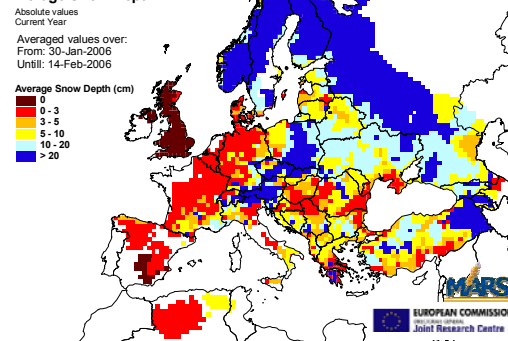
#### Precipitation (% LTA)



#### Minimum temperature



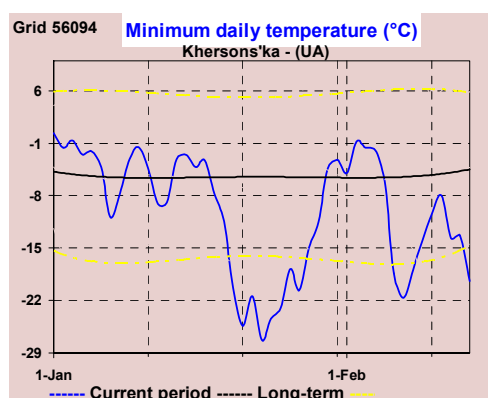
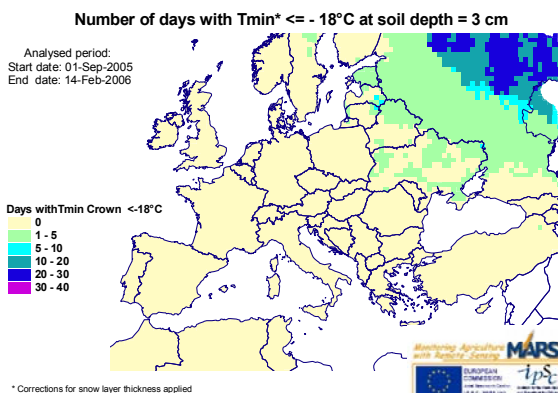
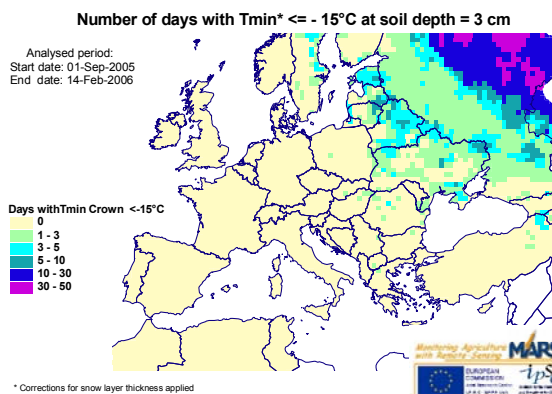
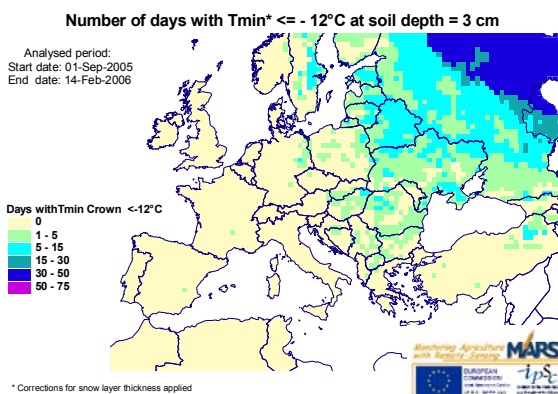
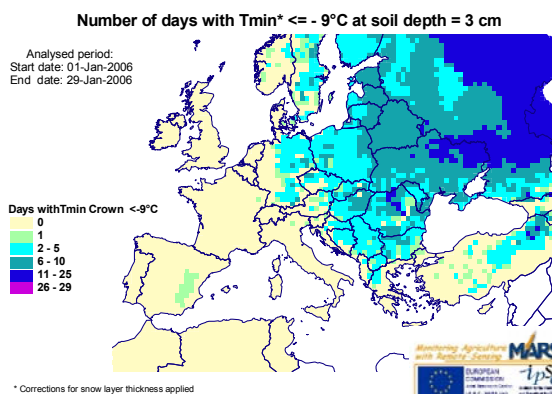
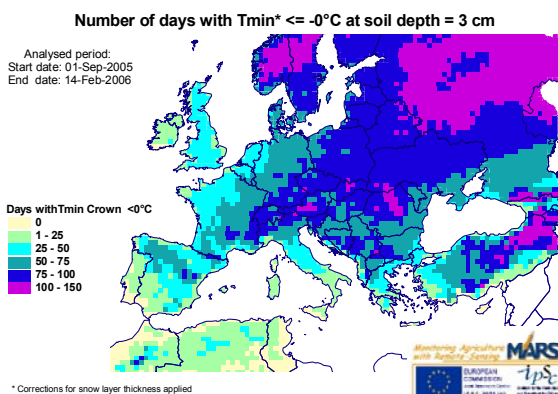
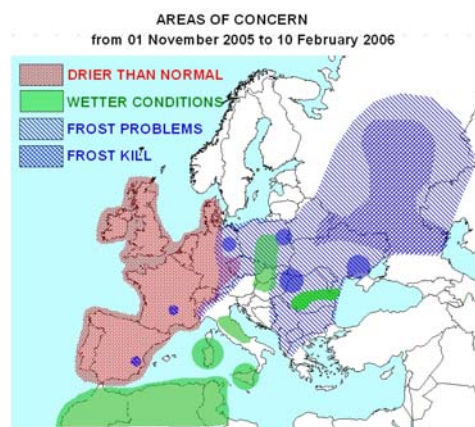
#### Average Snow Depth



A cold wave started in the previous period in south-eastern ES (air minimum temperatures  $< -12^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) continued up to 30 January. CZ and AT experienced also  $-12$  to  $-16^{\circ}\text{C}$  temperatures for several days. At crown level the temperature drop was reduced by the snow cover (however limited areas with winter barley could be affected).

A new frost wave (air minimum temperatures  $< -12^{\circ}\text{C}$  on 5-7 February) was recorded over large areas on PL, SK, HU, RO, BG (some of these areas were already affected by frost).

Russia and Ukraine (especially north-eastern and southern) were again affected by the extreme temperatures ( $> -20^{\circ}\text{C}$ ).





## NEXT DAYS' SITUATION

(ECMWF 10-day weather forecasts – Feb. 15 - 26)

**Beneficial wet spell is expected on France, Iberian peninsula and Maghreb. Relatively dry conditions persist over Ireland, Great Britain and Germany. Still some cold spells.**

France, Spain, Maghreb should benefit from significant precipitations in the 10 coming days. This wet spell will replenish partially the low soil moisture. Some intense precipitation could occur in North-western Iberian peninsula, Central and South-eastern France.

Central Europe should also receive rainfall extending the on-going wet period.

On the contrary Ireland, northern Great Britain and Germany should remain within dry conditions which are below the seasonal expectations.

Maximum temperature are expected to increase regularly eastward while, on the opposite, the minimum will decrease westward particularly from the 19<sup>th</sup> of February

Cold anomalies are expected in Turkey for the coming days then a new cold spell should affect Maghreb and France from the 21<sup>st</sup> of February.

