

Date: 16/01/2007

Report Number: CU2007/01

Warmer and/or drier than usual for most of Europe. No significant frost events occurred in the period. Cooler temperatures expected after the 21st.

OBSERVED TEMPERATURE: unseasonably warm

The **sum of active temperatures** for the considered period was **higher** than average (>25%) for **most of the European continent**, with few exceptions in the Iberian peninsula and Turkey. The averages of daily minimum temperature for Denmark, Baltic States, north-eastern Poland, Belarus, and northern Ukraine were about +7°C above the long term average. In the surrounding areas (including Germany, Czech Republic, Slovakia, northern Romania and most of Poland and Ukraine) the average of minimum daily temperatures was about 5°C above normal. The temperatures above 10°C increased the dehardening process in many areas. A potential risk of frost impact may be expected in the areas where the temperature will continue to increase for several days followed by a sudden frosty period without the protection a snow cover.

OBSERVED RAINFALL: unseasonably dry

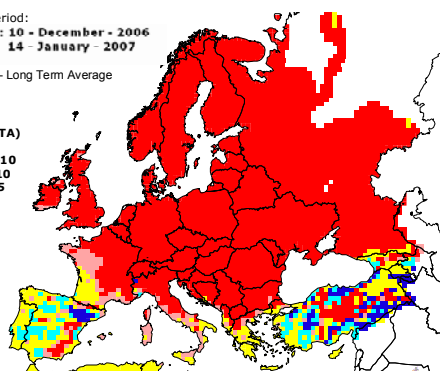
Most of the Europe was also **drier than usual** (<-25%). Some of these dryer areas were subject of a previous drier period: for most of Italy and Aegean basin the precipitation cumulated since 1st of November 2006 till mid January 2007 were with more than 100 mm below normal. Wetter than usual were North-eastern UK, and the areas around the Baltic basin and lower Danube basin.

SUM OF ACTIVE TEMPERATURES* (°C day)

Analysed period:
Start date: 10 - December - 2006
End date: 14 - January - 2007

Current year - Long Term Average

Tsum (% LTA)
 < -25
 -25 - -10
 -10 - 10
 10 - 25
 > 25

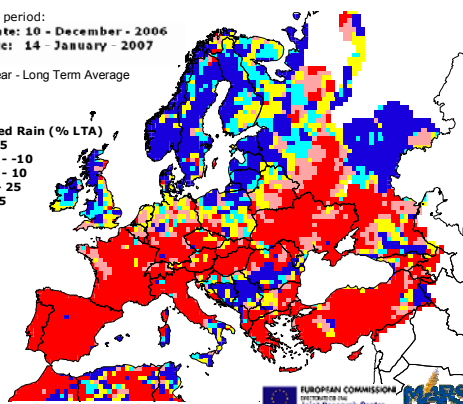


CUMULATED RAIN (% LTA)

Analysed period:
Start date: 10 - December - 2006
End date: 14 - January - 2007

Current year - Long Term Average

Cumulated Rain (% LTA)
 < -25
 -25 - -10
 -10 - 10
 10 - 25
 > 25

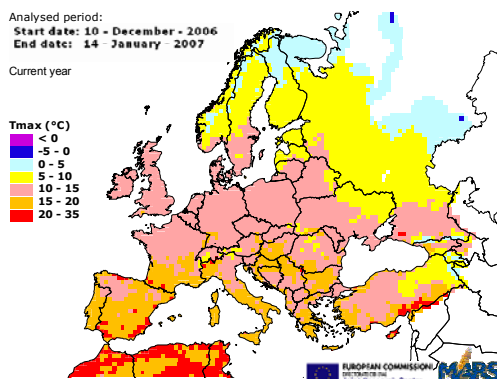


MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE (°C)

Analysed period:
Start date: 10 - December - 2006
End date: 14 - January - 2007

Current year

Tmax (°C)
 < 0
 -5 - 0
 0 - 5
 5 - 10
 10 - 15
 15 - 20
 20 - 35

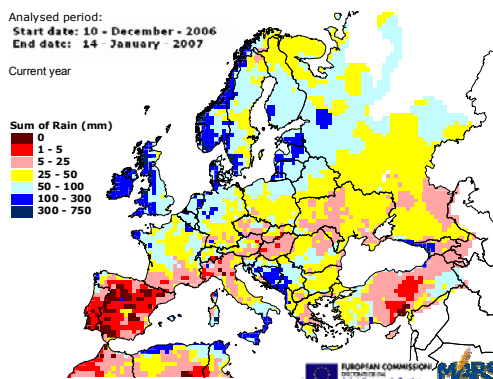


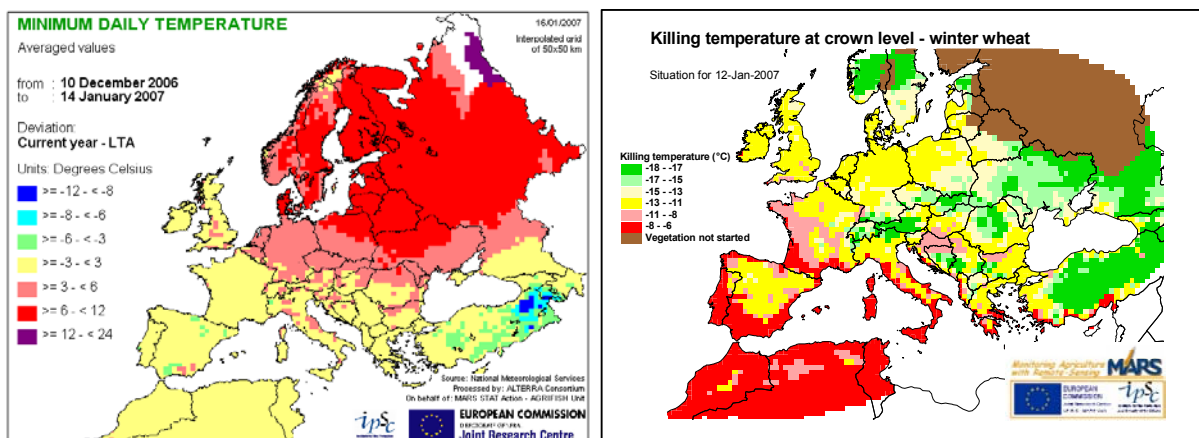
CUMULATED RAIN (mm)

Analysed period:
Start date: 10 - December - 2006
End date: 14 - January - 2007

Current year

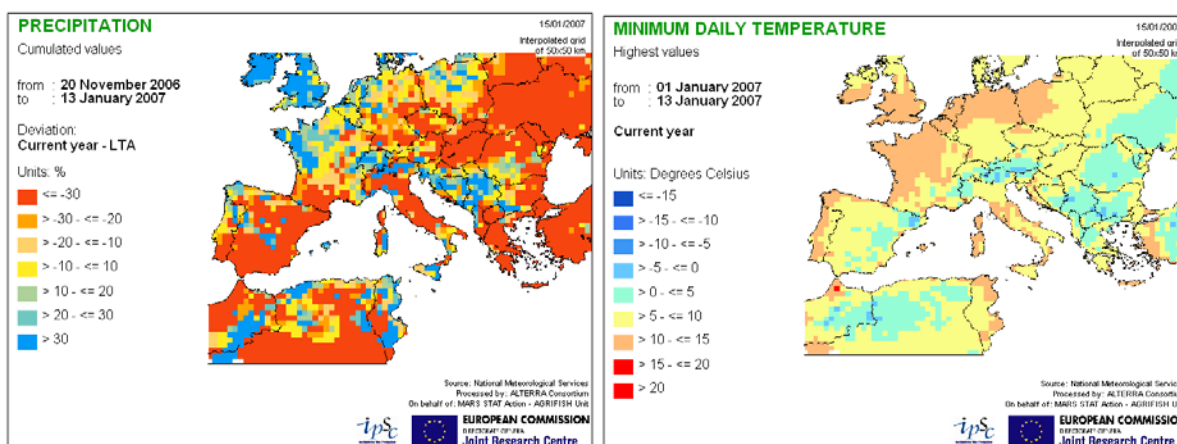
Sum of Rain (mm)
 0
 1 - 5
 5 - 25
 25 - 50
 50 - 100
 100 - 300
 300 - 750





Mediterranean basin: Below average rain

Rainfall has been significantly below average since mid November 2006 in most of Spain, southern Portugal and Western Morocco, progressively worsening as the season proceeded. Cumulate rainfall in these areas did not exceed 30 mm, with a maximum deficit of over 50 mm on the long term average on the Atlantic coast of Morocco. The same conditions were observed over most the Italian Peninsula, Greece and on the Aegean coast of Turkey. There was a more favourable trend in the central Mediterranean, specifically in Algeria and Tunisia as well as in the Italian Islands of Sardinia and Sicily. In these areas the cumulated rainfall from December to present exceeded 100 mm. Minimum temperatures remained significantly above 5° Celsius in most of the coastal areas of the Mediterranean in December and into January. In the Maghreb, autumn rains in October and early November coupled to mild weather, had favoured germination, emergence and tillering of winter wheat, especially for late sowings. The continued dry and mild weather may, at this point, delay the hardening process making the crops more susceptible to cold spells. This is an overall danger for most of the areas with similar climatic conditions. Sicily and Sardinia as well as Tunisia should be free from this danger, having experienced, until present a normal development of winter cereals.



NEXT DAYS' SITUATION

(ECMWF 10-day weather forecasts: January 16 – 25)

Up to the 20th, still unseasonable warm condition in west EU and Mediterranean. Then a drastic drop will occur with significant frost events. Dry in the extreme west and east EU, very abundant and positive rain in northern Italy. Persistent drought in Greece.

Still for the next 3-4 days, the very large high pressure system set on the Mediterranean basin, which has been characterizing the current winter, will persist. Therefore, the temperatures will remain largely above the seasonal average and in the west EU, likely will even more increase until the 19th and 20th: in northern Italy, southern Spain and France the **maximum temperatures** will be **above the 20°C threshold**.

From the 21st a drastic and rapid temperatures decrease is forecasted and in the areas between Spain and Baltic's States the **minimum temperatures** will drop several degrees below 0°C. In the same period frost events will be more frequent in the eastern EU. However, according to the "hardening" reached up to now by the winter cereals, those frost events will not affect them. The frost should be absent in Italy and Greece.

The **rain** will be concentrated mainly in UK, France, Benelux, Denmark, western Germany and northern Italy. In this last area, suffering due to a very dry autumn and winter, the rainy events will be particularly intense and concentrated between the 23rd and 24th. The water supply will be beneficial and will permit to refill the soil reservoirs and the irrigation basins.

Unfortunately, Greece and western Turkey, affected by a persistent water deficit since the last November, very likely will not receive significant water supply in the next 10 days.

