

Situation between 25 February – 14 March 2007
Forecast until 24 March 2007

Date: 15/03/2007

Report Number: CU2007/03

"Warmer and wetter" for most of Europe, drier in Mediterranean area. A winter tail with snow and high risk of frost kill due to dehardening

OBSERVED TEMPERATURE AND RAINFALL

During the considered period the thermal conditions were warmer than usual for most of Europe (>+35% from LTA). This conclusion remained valid even when the beginning of the year was chosen as starting day of the analysis. The warmer than usual situation was less intense in the case of central and southern part of the Atlantic flank of the continent: Ireland, UK, western France, northern Spain (about +20% from LTA). The sum of active temperatures (base temperature = 0°C) for Portugal, south-eastern Spain and Maghreb was close to normal. Minimum temperatures in the range of -12° to -14°C occurred only along the eastern edge of the area of interest (Lithuania and eastern parts of Belarus, Ukraine, and Turkey). Only in Russia and a small area in eastern Ukraine, the minimum temperature dropped below -15°C. This warm period intensified the growth of the winter crops but also increased the vulnerability due to the physiological loss of frost resistance (dehardening). The flowering fruit trees are also very vulnerable.

Most of the Mediterranean basin was drier than usual (<-30% from LTA), except the wetter areas from northern Tunisia and Sicily (more than 50 mm), some areas around Mediterranean Basin (especially southern Spain, northern Italy and Balkans), western Hungary, northern Ukraine and most of Belarus. The warmer than usual areas not mentioned above as drier experienced a wetter than usual period (>+30% from LTA).

TEMPERATURE SUM

Base Temp = 0.001°C, Cumulated values

from : 26 February 2007
to : 12 March 2007

Deviation:
Current year - LTA

Units: %



MINIMUM DAILY TEMPERATURE

Lowest values

from : 26 February 2007
to : 12 March 2007

Current year

Units: Degrees Celsius



PRECIPITATION

Cumulated values

from : 26 February 2007
to : 12 March 2007

Deviation:
Current year - LTA

Units: %



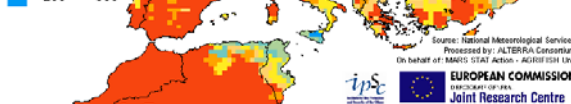
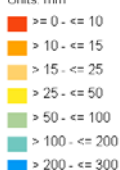
PRECIPITATION

Cumulated values

from : 26 February 2007
to : 12 March 2007

Current year

Units: mm



NEXT DAYS' SITUATION

(ECMWF 10-day weather forecasts: March 15 – 24)

Since the 18th a cold arctic air mass will erupt on the continent determining typical winter conditions: frost, snow and heavy rain. High risk of frost damages for winter and permanent crops.

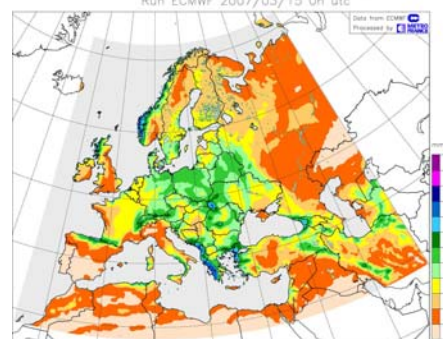
In the next days a high pressure system centred on northern Atlantic will direct arctic air mass southward from Northern Sea toward central Mediterranean basin.

Typical winter weather conditions will be present on the EU countries. Namely, the **temperatures** (both minimum and maximum values) **will drop significantly** (even 8-10°C) as compared to the current levels: in west France, Belgium, Germany, Czech Rep., Slovakia and Central Italy the minimum temperatures will be several degrees below zero, with **high risk of frost damages** on winter crops (e.g.: cereals, rape seed) and permanent crops in very sensitive stage (sprouting, blooming). Rain will interest gradually the continent from northern latitudes till Northern Africa, with progressive intensity increase during its southward shift (**intense events** are forecasted in Balkans, Greece, Slovenia and Romania). Between the 19th and 24th the Alps will block in their northern slope the **snowy events**, which will occur mainly in eastern France, southern Germany, Poland, Austria, Czech Rep., Slovakia, Slovenia, Balkans and also in northern Spain. Although light, the **snow cover should, at least partially, protect the winter crops by the frost effect**.

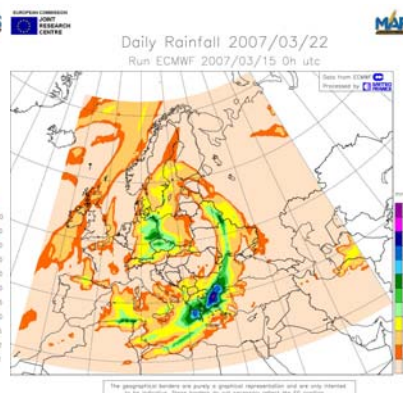
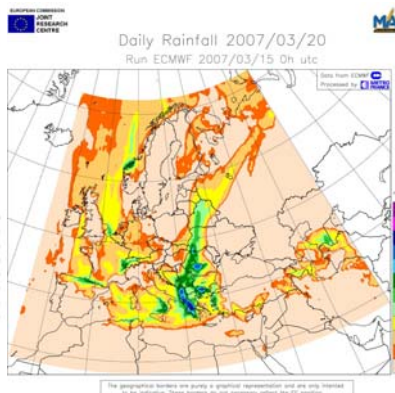
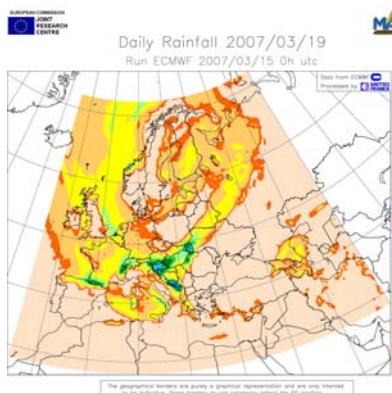
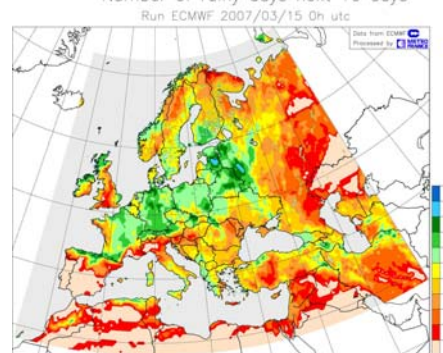
Opposite conditions are forecasted in the eastern part of Europe and Russia: a warm anomalies will occur with increase of temperatures and dry conditions

As general tendency, more seasonal conditions should be restored in the next weeks.

Cumulated Rainfall next 10 days
Run ECMWF 2007/03/15 0h utc

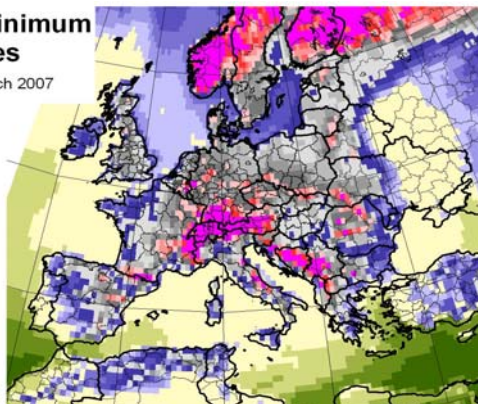
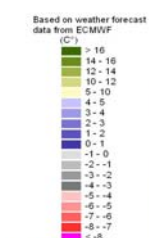


Number of rainy days next 10 days
Run ECMWF 2007/03/15 0h utc



Absolute minimum temperatures

Period: 15 - 24 March 2007



Proba Warm Anomalies 2007/03/22
Run ECMWF 2007/03/15 0h utc

