

CLIMATIC UPDATE

Situation between 1 - 15 May 2004
 Forecast until 25 May 2004

Date: 17/05/2004

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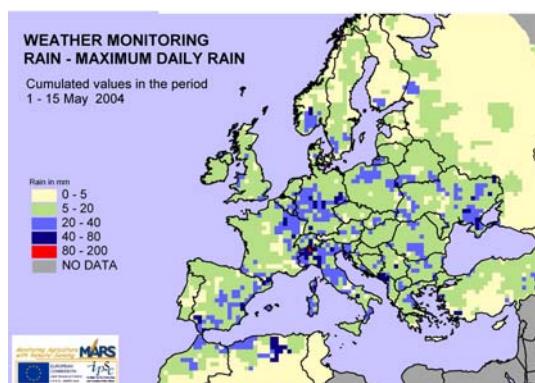
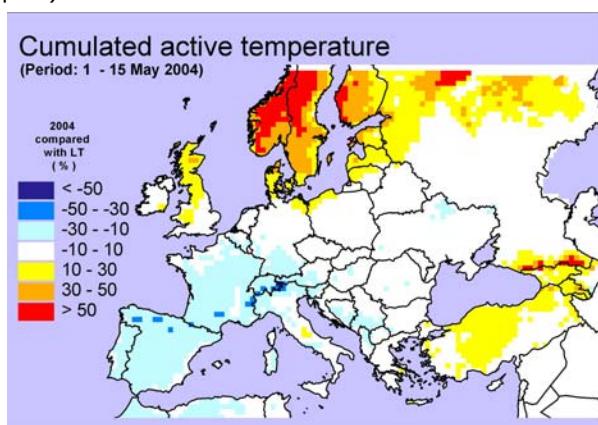
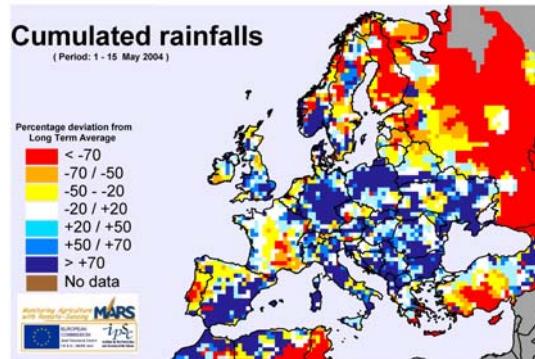
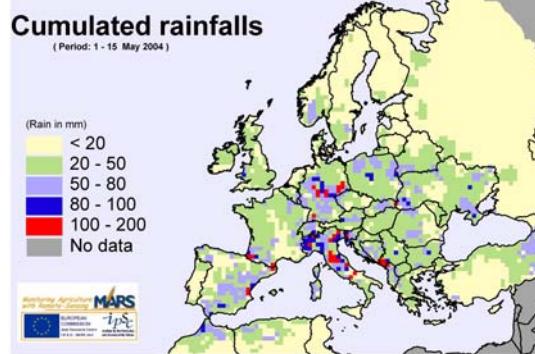
Rainy and cooler conditions in Spain and Italy. On the continent mild and dry conditions followed by some light rain are expected for the next days.

OBSERVED TEMPERATURE AND RAINFALL

For the first half of May, the Iberic peninsula, Morocco, France and Northern Italy were cooler than usual, meantime for Northern part of Great Britain, Denmark, Scandinavia (continuing the warming trend from April), Baltic countries, Northern Russia, Belarus and Turkey the accumulation of the temperatures above 0°C was higher than long term average (the average daily temperatures for some of these areas being up to 2°C higher). Rest of the European continent was close to normal conditions.

The cooler conditions were associated with increased rainfalls in South Eastern Spain (there the April rainfalls were also abundant), Maghreb, Northern/Central Italy. Rainfalls higher than long term average (>20%) were recorded for Eastern England, Northern Denmark, Sweden, Southern Belarus, Ukraine and Slovakia. Germany and Poland benefited from some rains improving the water balance deficit inherited from April. The rainy weather conditions from April continued in the first half of May for Central Italy (more than 100 mm), Hungary, Western Romania and North-West of Balkan area. Droughty weather from April continued in Portugal (especially in the Centre of the country).

Also Eastern France, Baltic States, Southern Turkey, Southern Romania and Bulgaria (except Southern part) received less than usual rainfalls.



ECMWF 10 DAYS WEATHER FORECASTS

True seasonal spring conditions are expected.

A very large and stable high pressure system, which is extending from Northern Atlantic to the whole the Mediterranean Basin, will determine **clean sky conditions and typical seasonal temperatures on the majority of the European Continent.**

In the next days the high pressure system will remain on Mediterranean while a lobe of a low pressure system centred on Norwegian Sea will marginally interest the most northern Countries with some likely rains.

Therefore, in the next days quite stable conditions are foreseen: practically absence of rain in the largest part of Europe (only in Greece and Bulgaria some light rain are foreseen for today and tomorrow) **until Friday 21 of May.** Possible rains are forecasted in Northern Africa and along a band connecting Galicia (Spain) with Southern Poland, across France, Germany, Austria and Check Republic.

In the following days the rainy front will spread more South-Eastward and will interest progressively the whole Iberian Peninsula, Italy, Tunisia, Balkans, Eastern and Central Countries.

Starting from west side of Europe, **the temperatures will increase**, especially in the maximum values, progressively eastward until the 21 of May and in some areas in France, Spain and Italy will pass 25°C.

From Friday 21 of May, a colder flux will invest the western part of the continent reducing the temperatures. On the contrary in the same time in the Eastern Countries (especially Ukraine, Turkey and Russia) a southern warm air flux will climb the maximum temperatures and the 24-25 of May could be close to 30°C

