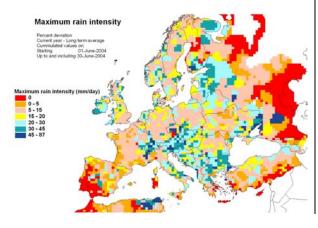


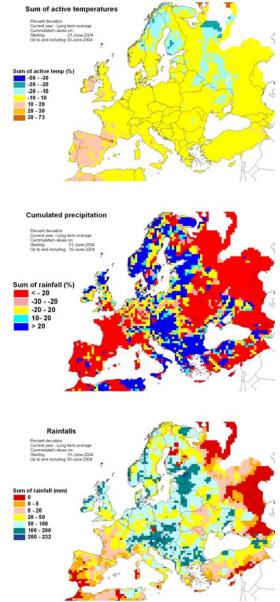
Dry conditions in the Iberian Peninsula and France. Rainy in Central Europe and the Balkans.

OBSERVED TEMPERATURE AND RAINFALL

The accumulation of active temperatures for June 2004 was close to normal with the exception of a western area which was about 10% warmer than the long term average and some colder areas in the north-western part of Europe (-10%). The warmer than usual area included western Ireland, western England, south-western France and Iberian peninsula (here maximum temperatures above 40°C occurred in the south-west of the peninsula in the last part of June). The colder than usual areas were located in the northern Scandinavian peninsula and around the Baltic Sea, parts of western Belarus, Ukraine and the European part of Russia.

Beneficial rain was recorded for Ireland (in some places the rain was too intensive), the northern part of England, most of continental Europe except the Iberian peninsula, France, central Germany, Poland and Romania. Most of Turkey, significant areas of northern Italy, Ukraine (except the eastern part) and Russia received fewer precipitations than usual. The dry conditions in Portugal and southern Spain became very acute during the second half of June. A similar threat is visible for most areas of France especially in the southern half of the country but the rain forecast for the next few days may alleviate the situation especially in northern areas. Intensive rain occurred in the Balkans, Austria, the Baltic area, northern Tunisia and eastern Ukraine.





WEATHER FORECASTS

Seasonal conditions are expected: warm and dry in the Mediterranean Basin, fresher and rain in northern areas.

In the upcoming days the **synoptic conditions** will be characterized by a low pressure based to the west of Ireland and a high pressure over Central Mediterranean Basin, determining a general air flux from south-west toward north-east. Moreover, a low pressure nucleus, pulled by the synoptic flux, will cross the European continent from Gibraltar to the Baltic Sea, bringing rain (in some cases characterized also by high intensity, e.g.: on France) along its path. The high pressure will move temporary eastward with its centre over the Balkans, but then progressively will affect again the whole continent.

Therefore, the western areas will experience a temporary reduction of temperatures and the **maximum** will remain below the 30°C; on the contrary during the 9th and 10th in the Balkans and Central Countries the temperatures will pass this threshold. In the following days the temperatures will return close to normal values.

At the beginning, the **rainfall** will interest a thin band crossing the Pyrenees, southern France, Alps, Austria and the Czech Republic. Then the low pressure lobe, during its eastward motion, will bring more rain mainly into France, Benelux, Southern England, Germany (where could assume also high intensity), Denmark, Poland and Sweden. In the following days, the entrance from the west of the high pressure will push the rain (diffused but light) above the 45° latitude.

