

Use of ECMWF products at Météo-France

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Deputy Head of General Forecast Department

Thanks to Bruno Gillet-Chaulet, Nicole Girardot,
Fabrice Guillemot, Thierry Dupont ...



Outline

Use of ECMWF products at Météo-France :

- Severe weather forecast for D+2 and D+3
- Medium and extended range forecast
- Feedback on ecCharts
- Tropical cyclone forecast

Outline

Use of ECMWF products at Météo-France :

- **Severe weather forecast for D+2 and D+3**
- Medium and extended range forecast
- Feedback on ecCharts
- Tropical cyclone forecast

Thanks to Bruno Gillet-Chaulet, Nicole Girardot and
Fabrice Guillemot

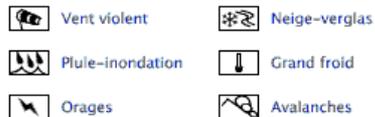
Severe weather forecast for D / D+1

- The French « Vigilancia » watch map
 - 4 watch levels (colours), for 8 dangerous phenomena, for each administrative unit (department)
 - Operational since 2001, this system is well known (89% in 2010) and has proved generally successful

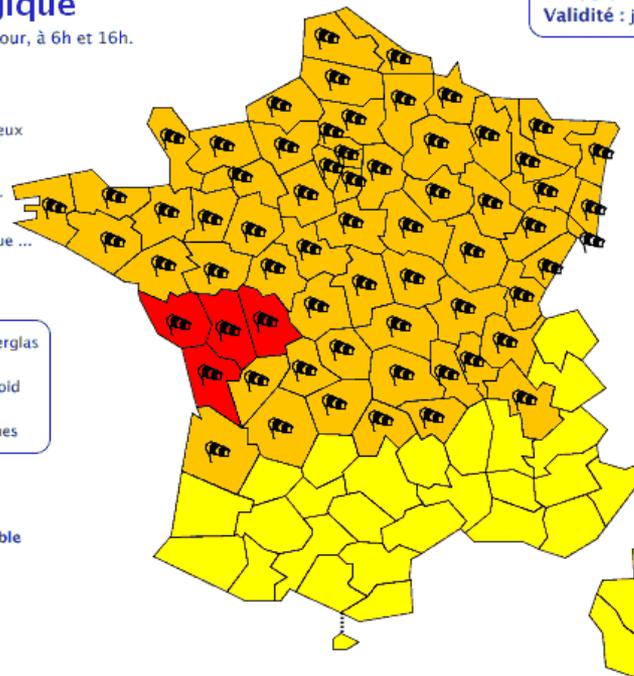
Vigilancia météorologique

La carte est actualisée au moins 2 fois par jour, à 6h et 16h.

- **Une vigilance absolue s'impose** des phénomènes météorologiques dangereux d'intensité exceptionnelle sont prévus ...
- **Soyez très vigilant**, des phénomènes météorologiques dangereux sont prévus ...
- **Soyez attentif** si vous pratiquez des activités sensibles au risque météorologique ...
- **Pas de vigilance particulière.**



La vigilance pluie-inondation est élaborée avec le réseau de prévision des crues du Ministère du Développement durable



Diffusion : le samedi 27 février 2010 à 16h00
Validité : jusqu'au dimanche 28 février 2010 à 16h00

Consultez le [bulletin national](#)

Une très forte tempête traversera le pays dimanche. Les vents seront violents sur le centre-ouest. Débordements prévisibles de cours d'eau atlantique (voir vigilance crue).

Cliquez sur la carte pour lire les [bulletins régionaux](#)

Conseils des pouvoirs publics :

Vent/Rouge et orange – Restez chez vous et évitez toute activité extérieure (en rouge) limitez les déplacements (en orange).– Si vous devez vous déplacer, soyez très prudents. Empruntez les grands axes de circulation.– Prenez les précautions qui s'imposent face aux conséquences d'un vent violent et n'intervenez surtout pas sur les toitures. Crues/Orange – Renseignez-vous avant d'entreprendre un déplacement ou activité extérieure.– Evitez les abords des cours d'eau.– Soyez prudents face au risque d'inondations et prenez les précautions adaptées.– Ne vous engagez en aucun cas sur une voie immergée ou à proximité d'un cours d'eau

- **Watch map as a routine production :**
 - Published twice a day,
 - **Exceptional production may be initiated outside these hours**
- **A process involving national and regional levels**
- **In case of an orange or red level on at least one department, follow-up bulletins until the end of event**
- **MF Management « on call » 7d/24h**

Severe weather forecast for D+2/D+3

- Estimation of the risk of severe weather :

- Which would imply an orange or red level at 24 hours range
- 4 dangerous phenomena :

 - Violent winds,

 - Heavy rain*, and not flood (hydrological services)

 - Violent thunderstorms,

 - Snow/ice.

- For each day (D+2, D+3), at the scale of administrative regions (more significant than departments)

- For each zone and phenomenon, the forecaster chooses a risk index from :

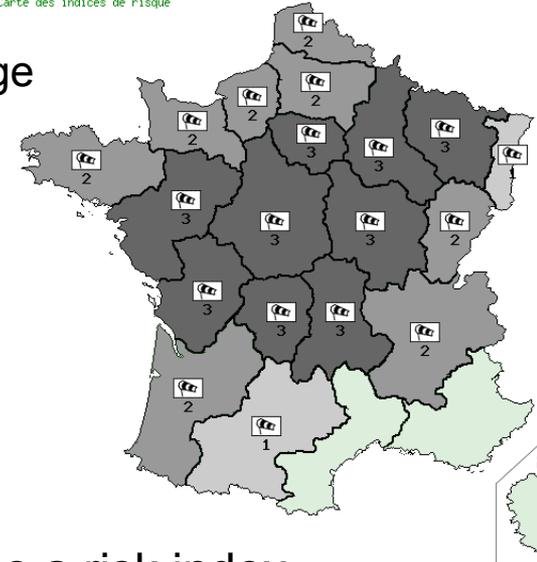
- 0 : no risk
- 1 : unlikely
- 2 : likely
- 3 : certain

Internal production since November 2007,
modified in 2010 (scale and colors)

- => **Quantify the risk** => **Calibrated risk**

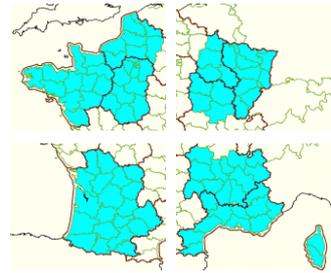
- Percentage of forecasts for each index which actually correspond to severe weather events

Pour : Dim 28/02/2010 (J2)
Carte des indices de risque



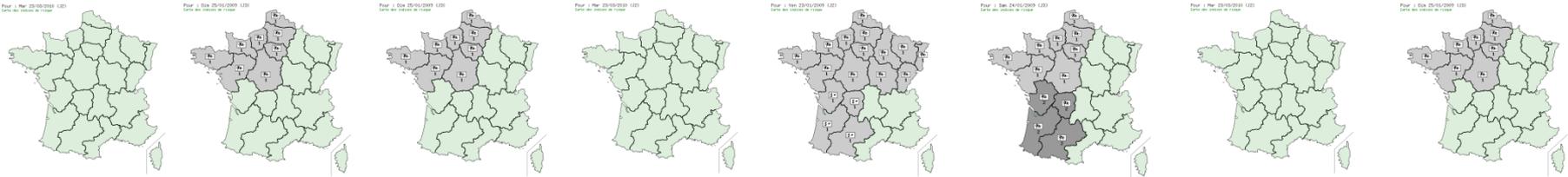
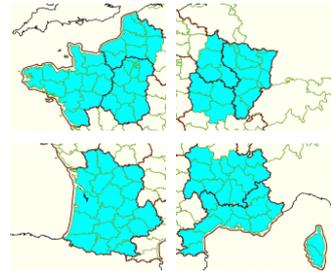
Principle of the calibrated risk

- Use of past forecasts, (since Dec. 2004 over ¼ of France).
- Comparison to a reference (vigilance level, FA, missed events)
- Example : how much is a weak risk,
 - Over the *northwestern* regions,
 - For the *violent wind* parameter,
 - At range *D+2* ?



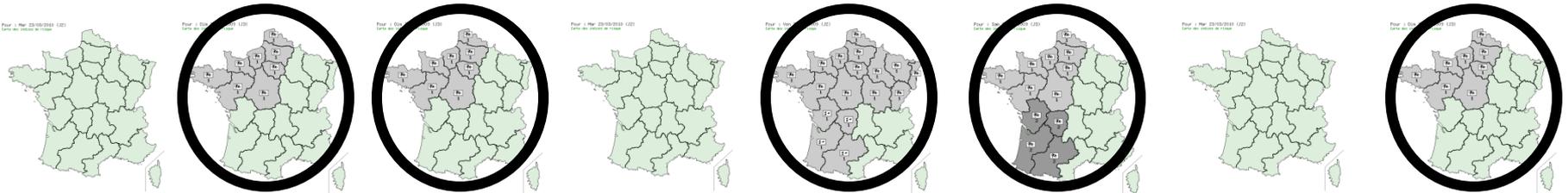
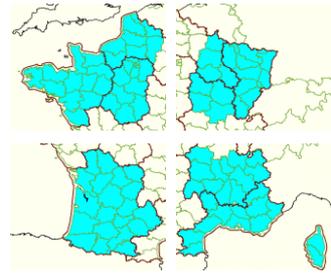
Principle of the calibrated risk

- Use of past forecasts, (since Dec. 2004 over ¼ of France).
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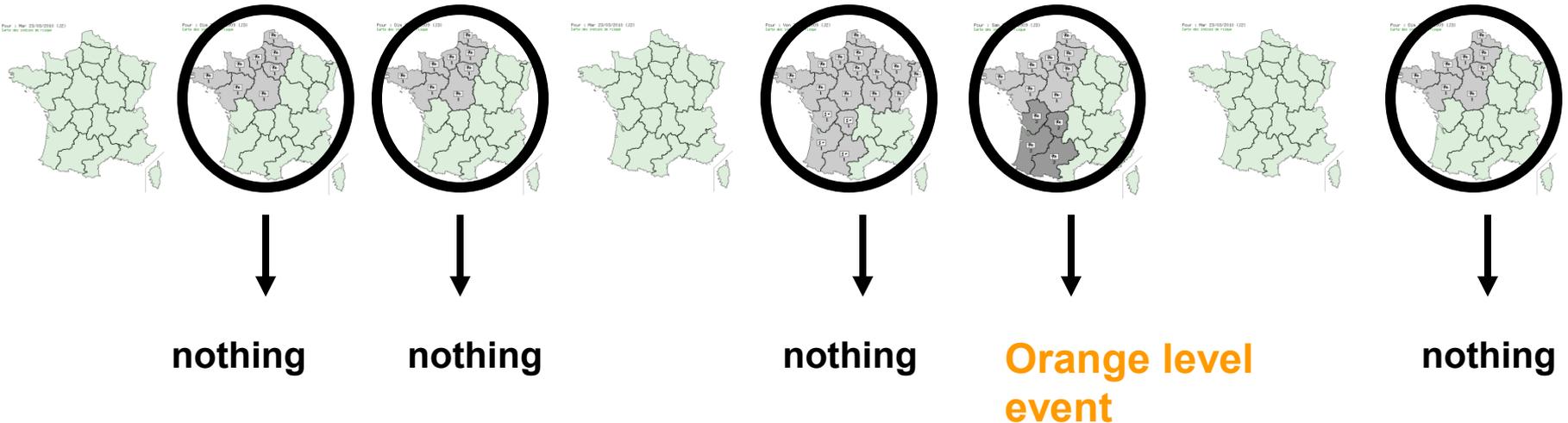
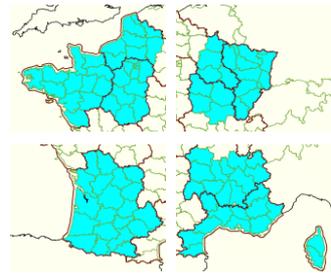
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Principle of the calibrated risk

- Use of past forecasts, (since Dec. 2004 over ¼ of France).
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- Example : how much is a weak risk,
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=> 20 %

Results and feedback

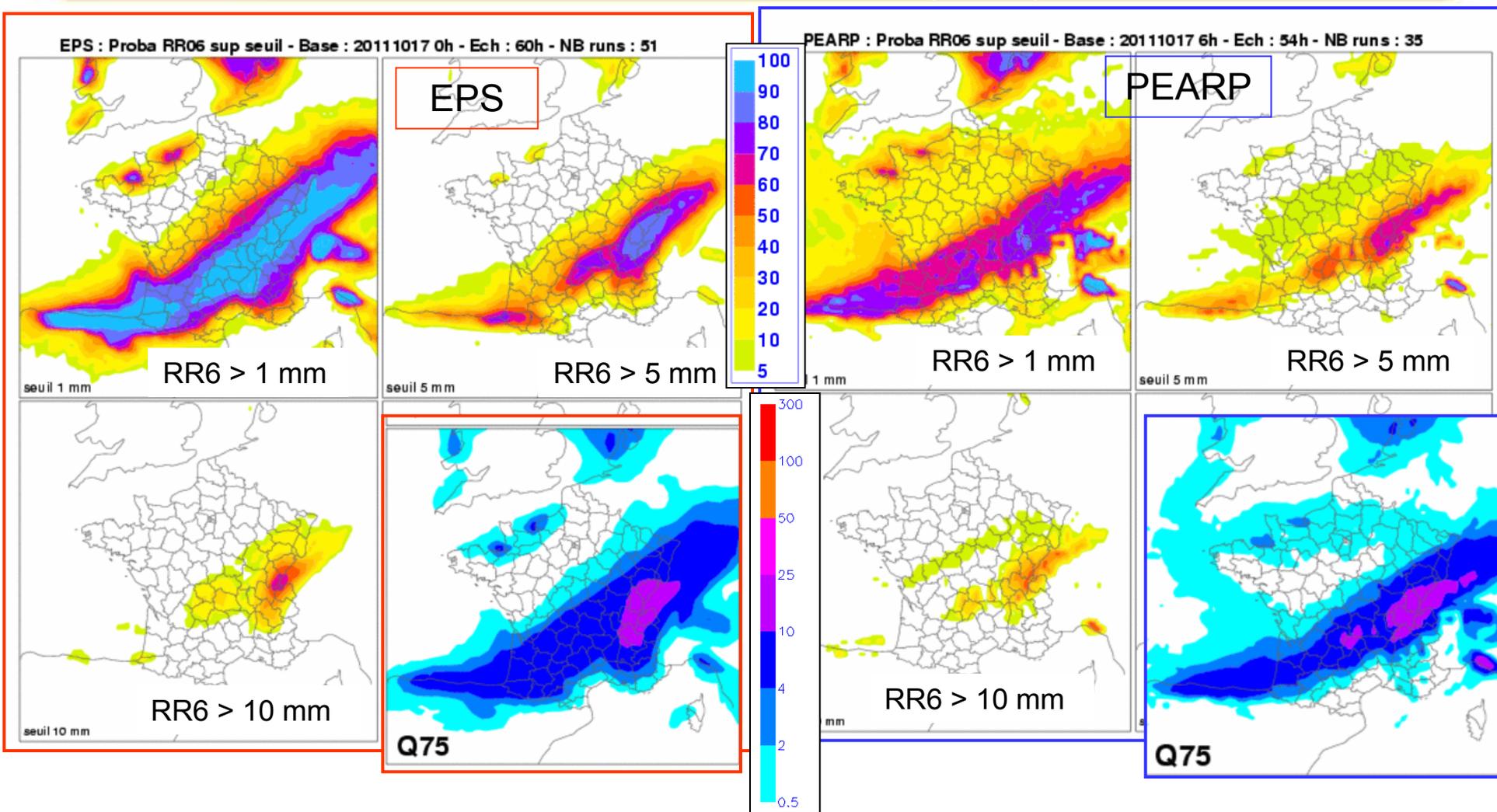
- Results
 - Capacity to produce relevant information about severe weather events more than 24 hours ahead
 - The forecast reliability is established and will obviously improve day by day
 - The scale of administrative regions seems to be relevant at this range
- Feedback from partners
 - A test production has been held since March 2010 with a few governmental services in order to evaluate the potential usefulness of this type of forecast
 - The national hydrological service is very interested : relevant, useful, interest of confirmation of the risk from D+3 to D+2, interest of no risk
 - The civil protection services don't know how do use this information in their operational work which is focused on the next 24 hours
 - The test is still going on, with other services (CMVOA).

Good results for the main severe weather events in 2010

An internal Website for forecasters

- National forecasters use more and more ensemble products :
 - In addition to deterministic products (multi-model approach)
 - To evaluate the uncertainty of forecast
 - Especially to evaluate **the risk of severe weather events**
- They compare ensemble products from different sources
 - Météo-France (PEARP)
 - ECMWF (EPS)
 - NCEP
 - CMC
- Products are available on an internal Website « Prévisibilité » (*Foreseeability*)
 - Probabilities
 - Percentiles
 - Spaghetti diagrams
 - Postage stamp maps

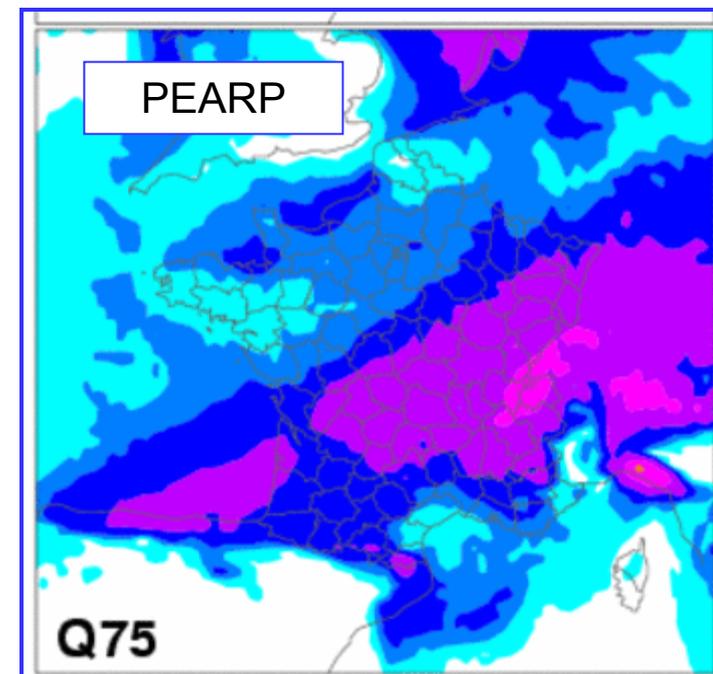
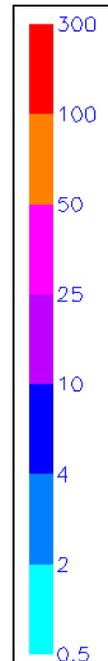
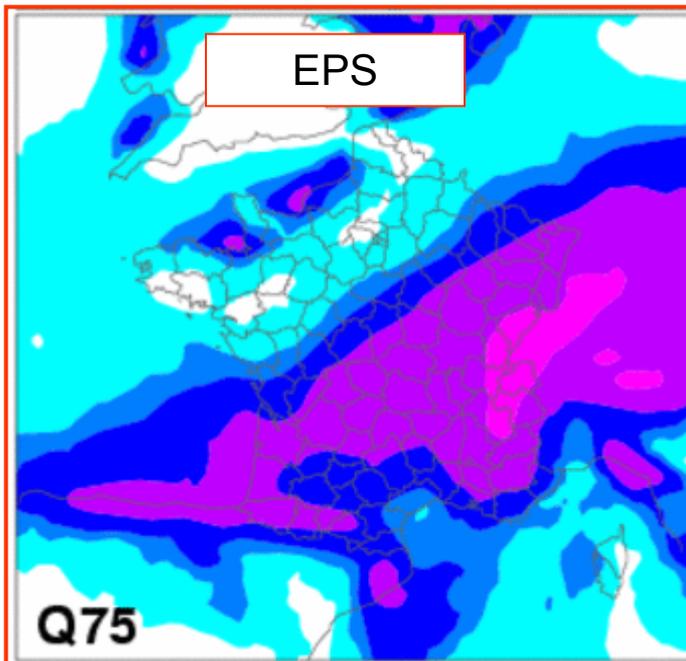
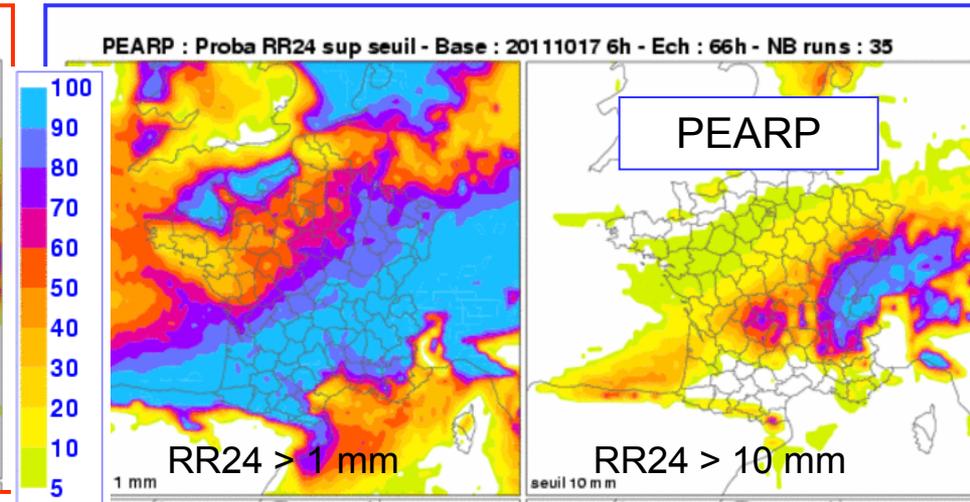
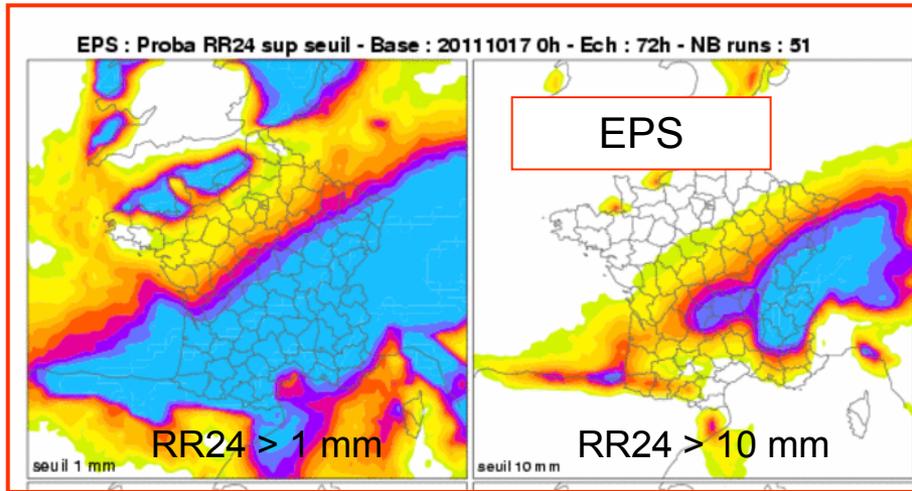
Case 1 : Probabilities and percentiles of RR6 for 19 October 12h (D+2)



- Probabilities and percentiles are complementary products
- Some differences between EPS and PEARP forecasts



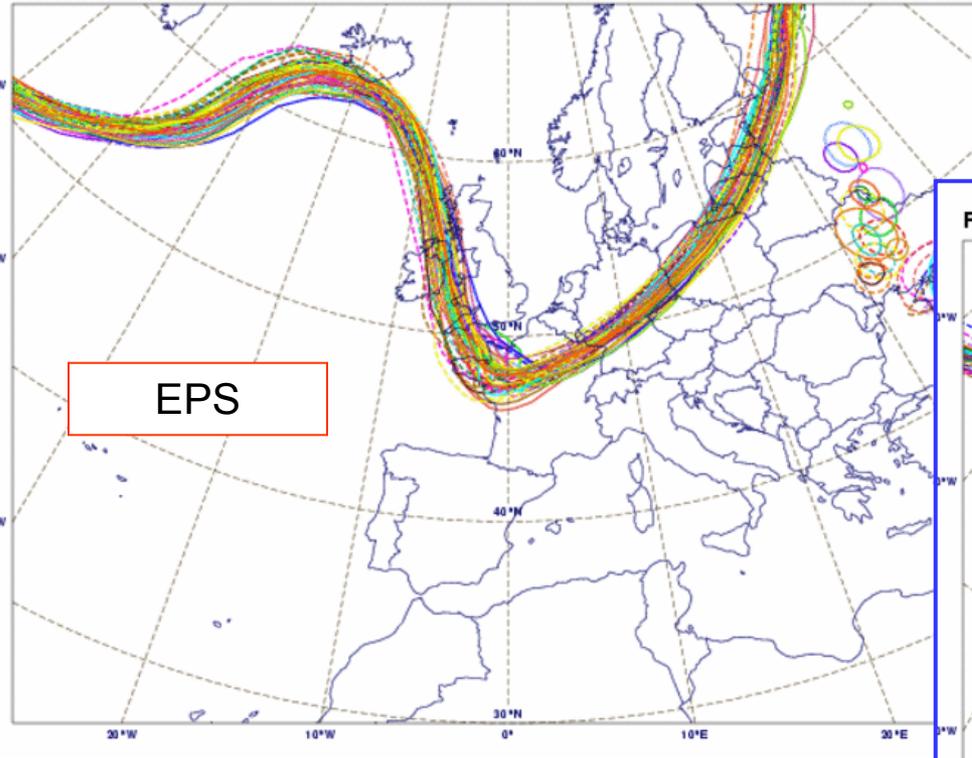
Case 1 : Probabilities and percentiles of RR24 for 20 October 0h (D+2/D+3)



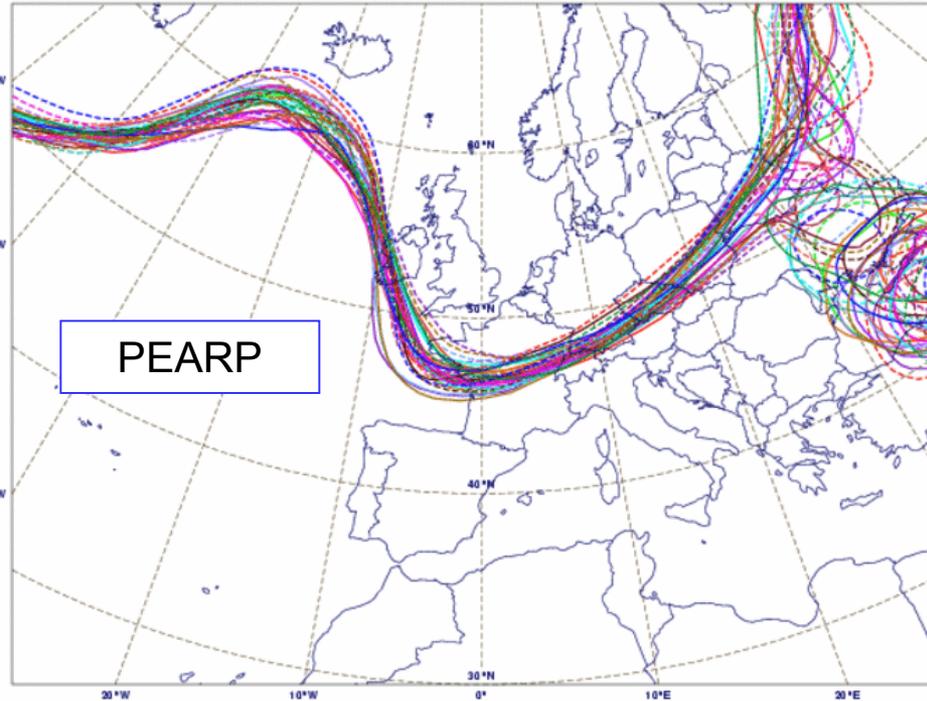
Case 1 : Spaghetti diagrams Z500 for 19 October 12h

Spaghettis Z500 give a good estimation of the spread of each ensemble model

EPS : Z500 isoligne 552damgp - Base : 20111017 0h - Ech : 60h - NB runs : 51

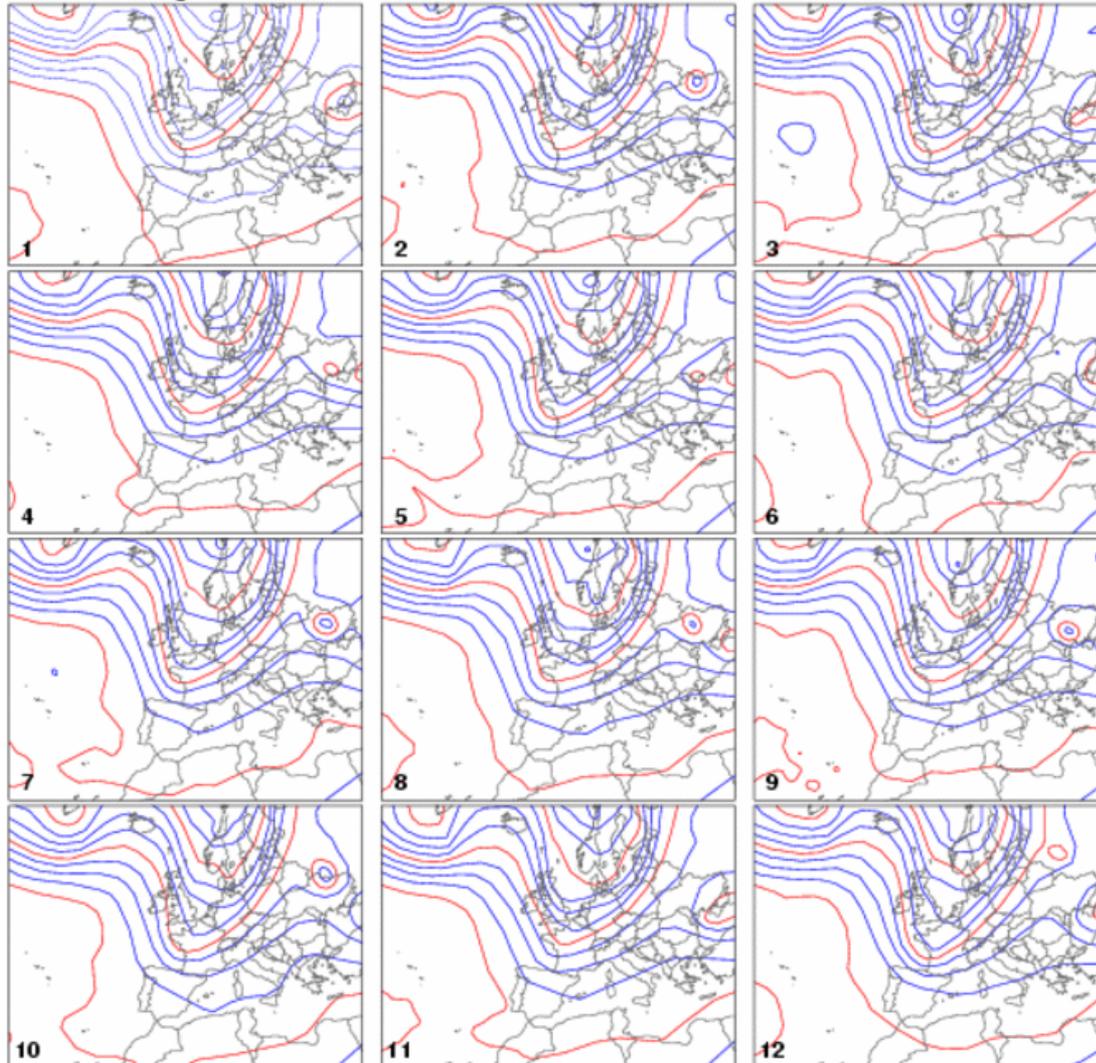


PEARP : Z500 Isoligne 560damgp - Base : 20111017 6h - Ech : 54h - NB runs : 35



Case 1 : Postage stamp maps for 19 October 12h

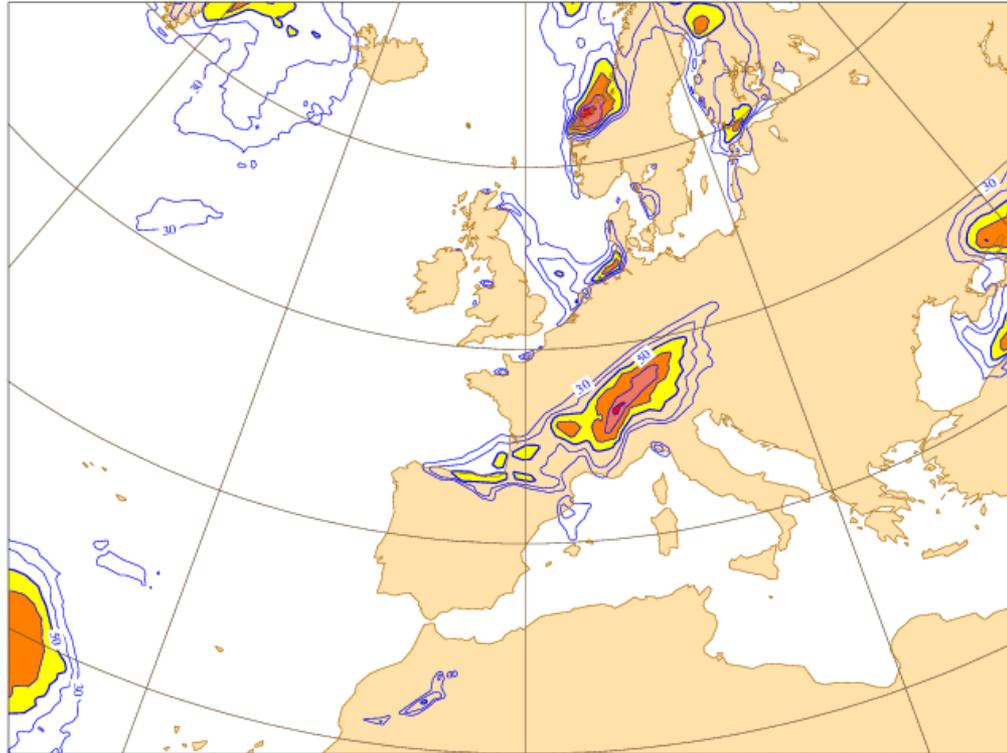
EPS : Vignettes Z500 - Base : 20111017 0h - Ech : 60h - NB runs total : 51



- Quick look on the EPS members
- Can help to see alternative scenarios

Case 1 : EFI for 19 October

EFI date modele 20111017 0h echeance 48_72 parametre tp



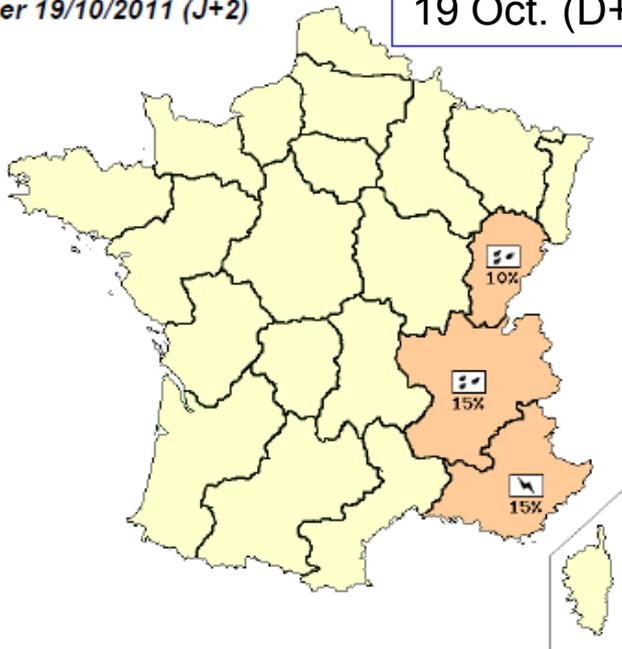
- EFI must draw the attention
- EFI doesn't give absolute values, nor probabilities
- It is necessary to validate with other plots

Case 1 : Severe weather forecast for D+2

► *Prévision anticipée des phénomènes remarquables élaborée le Lun 17/10/2011 :*

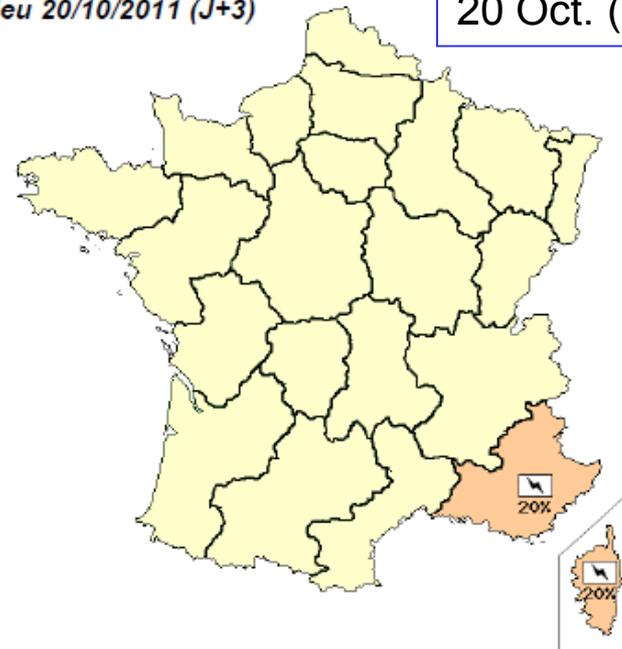
Pour le :
Mer 19/10/2011 (J+2)

Forecast for
19 Oct. (D+2)



Pour le :
Jeu 20/10/2011 (J+3)

Forecast for
20 Oct. (D+3)



Commentaires :

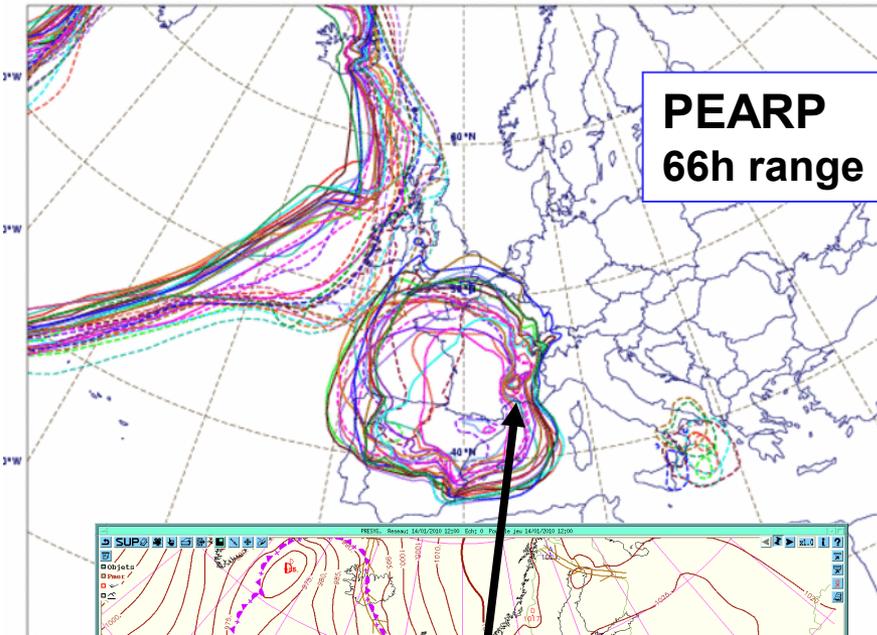
Passage d'une perturbation assez active sur le pays mercredi, pouvant donner de bons cumuls de pluie sur le centre-est.

A surveiller aussi le risque orageux sur le sud-est dans la nuit de mercredi à jeudi.

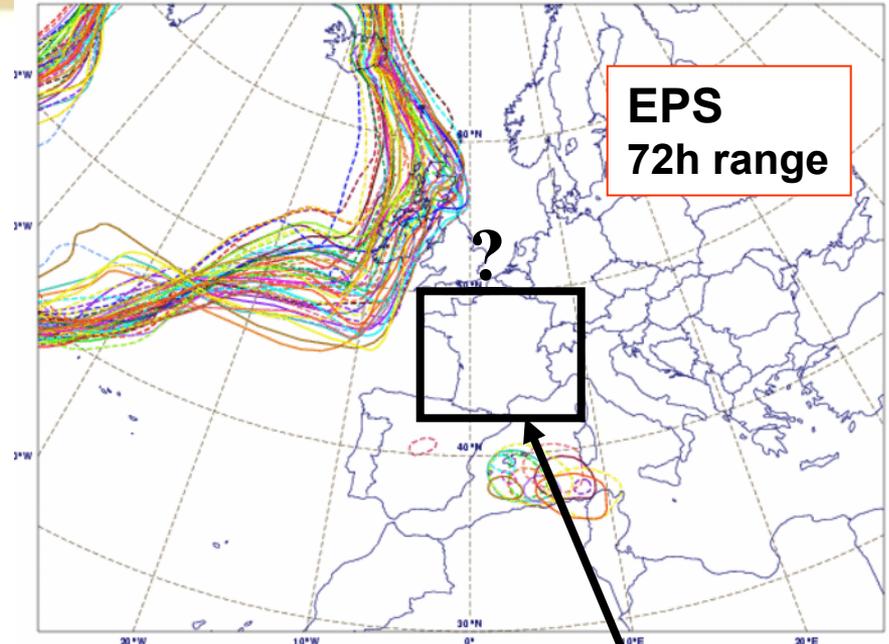
Pour l'instant, les valeurs prévues sont toutefois peu préoccupantes dans les 2 secteurs.

Case 2 : Spaghetti diagrams MSLP

PMER isoligne 1000hPa - Base : 20100111 18h - Ech : 66h - NB runs : 35



PMER isoligne 1000hPa - Base : 20100111 12h - Ech : 72h - NB runs : 51



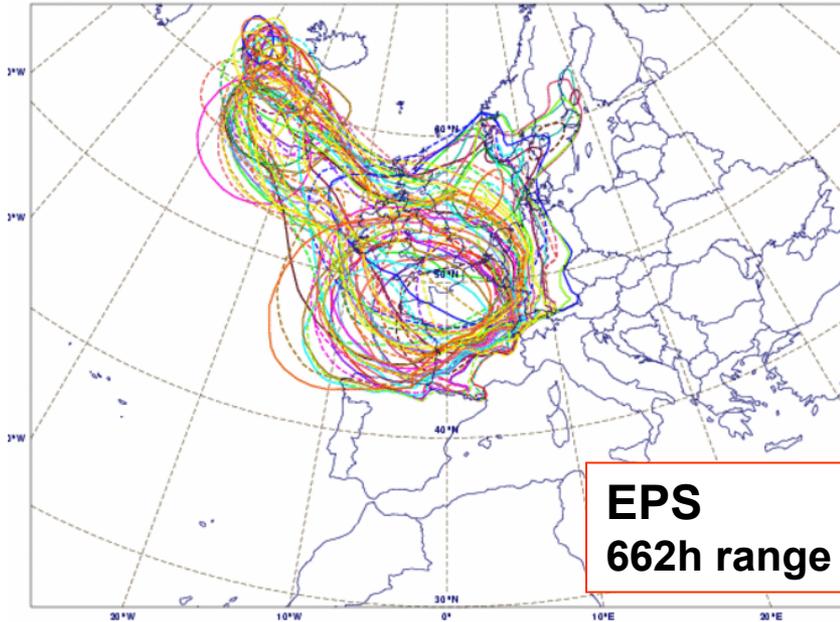
- Bad information in EPS at D+2 : depression not forecasted by any of the 51 runs
- Good information in PEARP

Importance of a human expertise to compare the multi-ensemble products and choose the most likely scenario

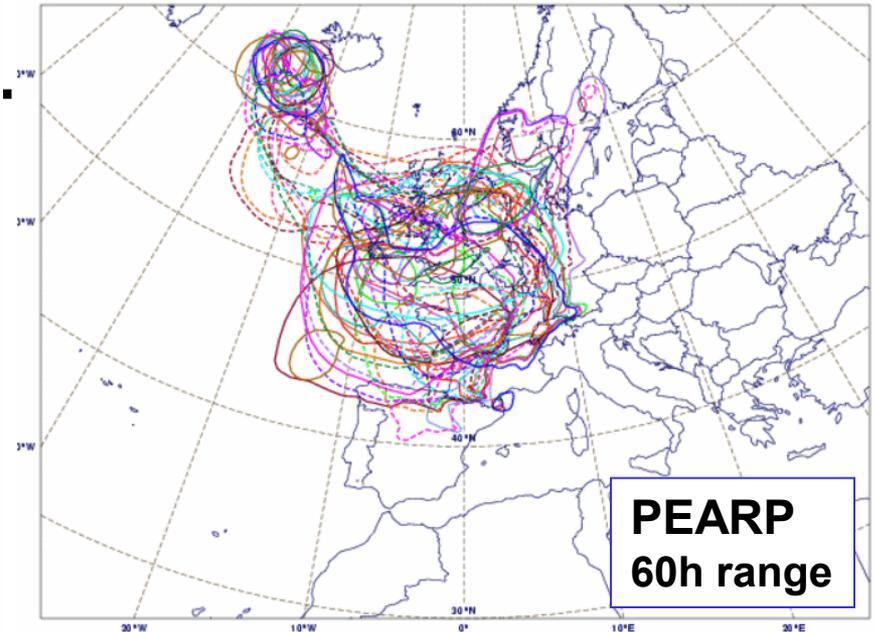
Case 3 : Spaghettis MSLP for 28 February 2010

Storm *Xynthia*

PMER isoligne 990hPa - Base : 20100225 12h - Ech : 66h - NB runs : 51

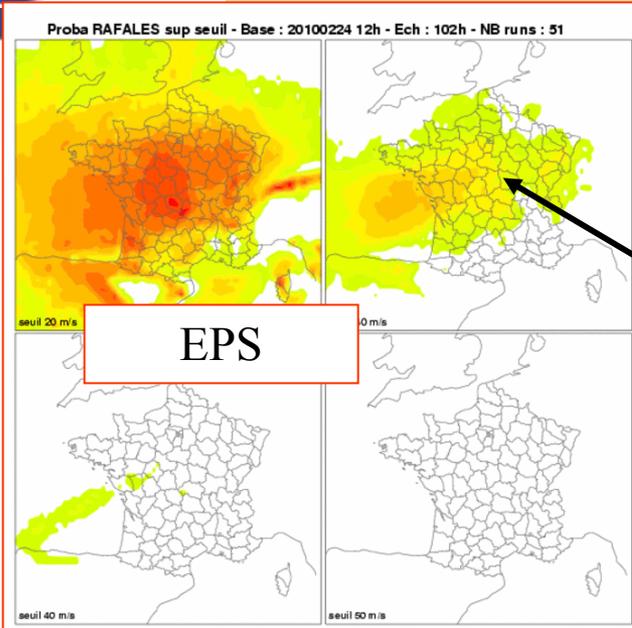


PMER isoligne 990hPa - Base : 20100225 18h - Ech : 60h - NB runs : 35



66h range with EPS, 60h range with PEARP, D+2 :
A little more spread with PEARP, but both models in
agreement for location of the depression

Case 3 : Good forecast at D+3



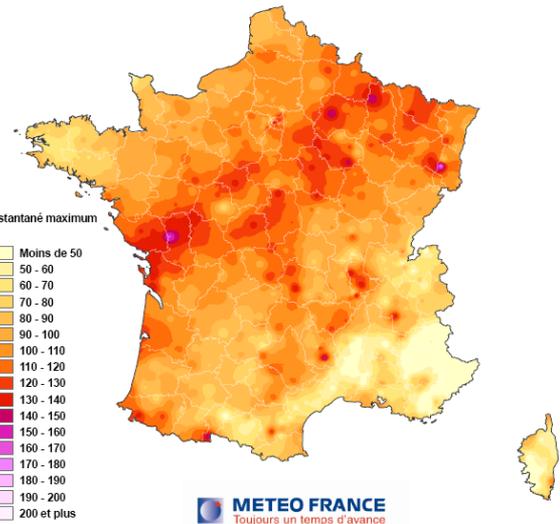
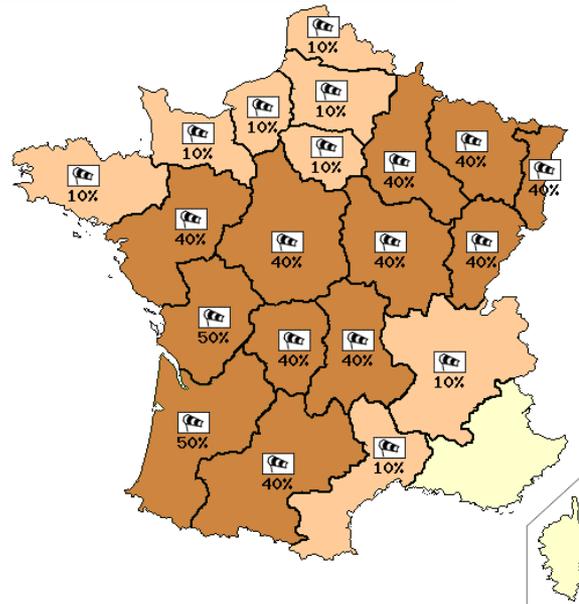
EPS

Signal at D+3

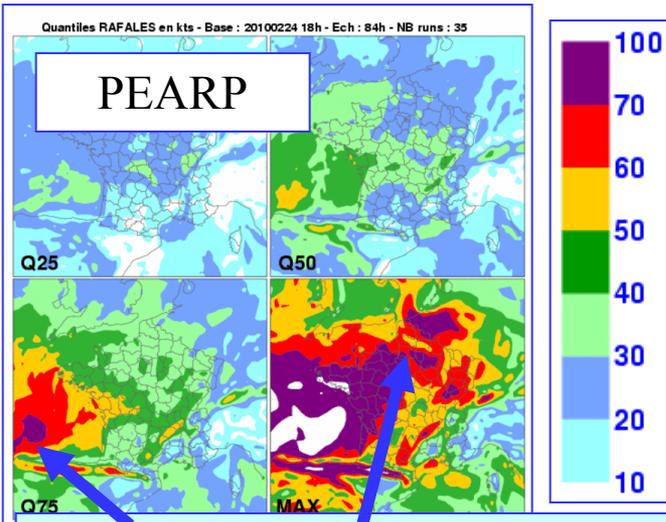
Around 40% risk of wind gusts reaching 30 m/s (110 km/h) in EPS

Severe weather forecast map for D+3

Tempête des 27 et 28 février 2010
Vent instantané
Valeurs maximales observées entre le 27 février à 12 UTC et le 28 février à 18 UTC
Carte tracée uniquement à partir des postes d'altitude inférieure à 1200 mètres



METEO FRANCE
Toujours un temps d'avance



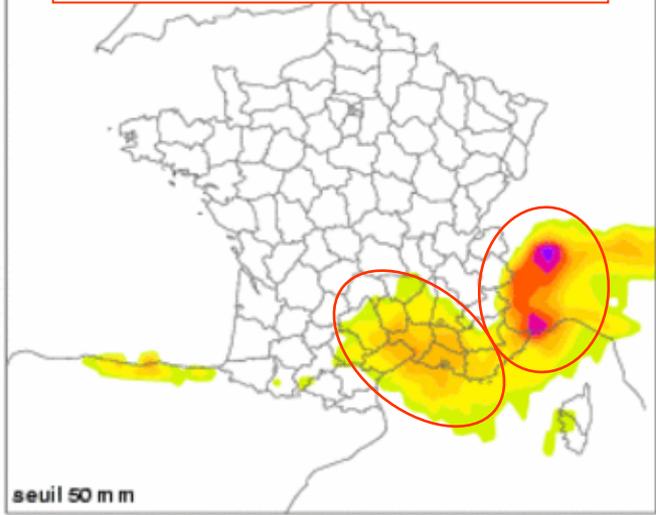
PEARP

Q75 around 60 kt (110 km/h) with PEARP, not so clear with EPS ;
Qmax > 70 kt (130 km/h), excessive but « informative ».

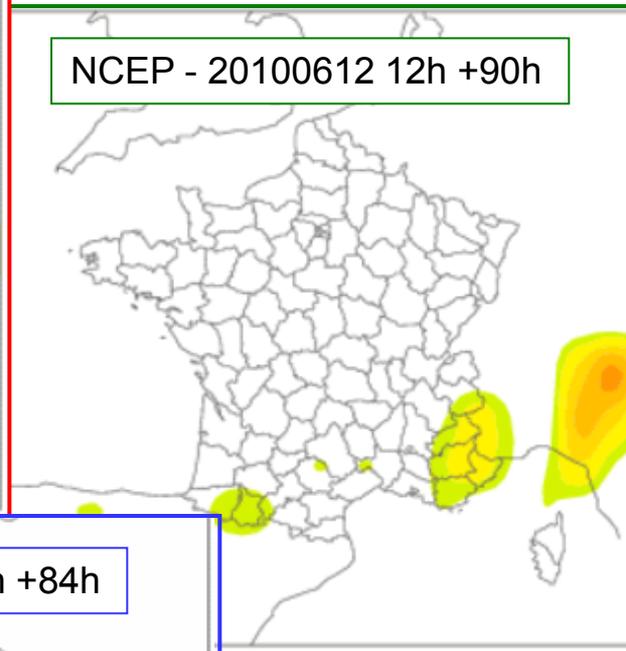
Case 4 – Rain event, 15 June 2010 (1)

Probabilities of RR24 > 50mm for 15/06 6h to 16/06 6h

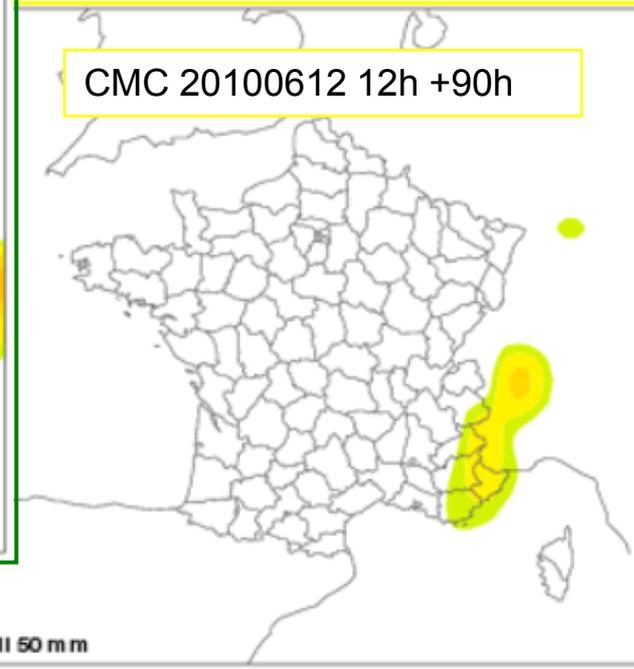
EPS - 20100612 12h +90h



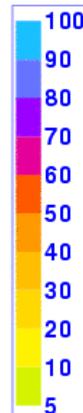
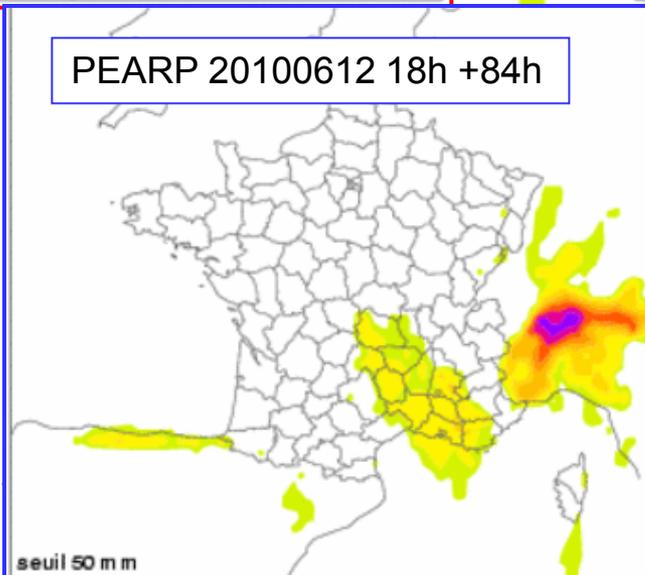
NCEP - 20100612 12h +90h



CMC 20100612 12h +90h



PEARP 20100612 18h +84h



Oct 20

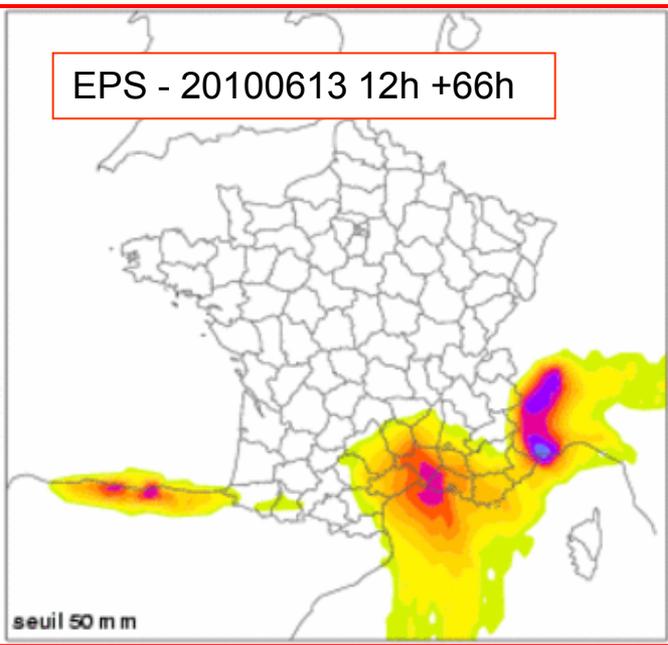


METEO FRANCE
Toujours un temps d'avance

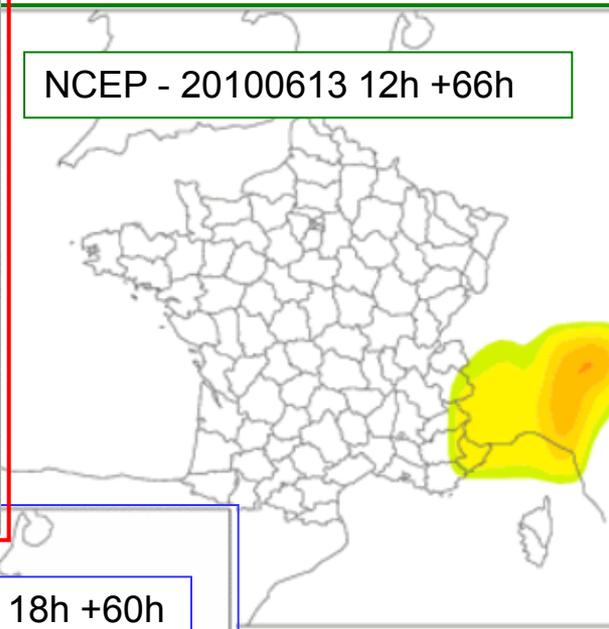
Case 4 : Rain event, 15 June 2010 (2)

Probabilities of RR24 > 50mm for 15/06 6h to 16/06 6h

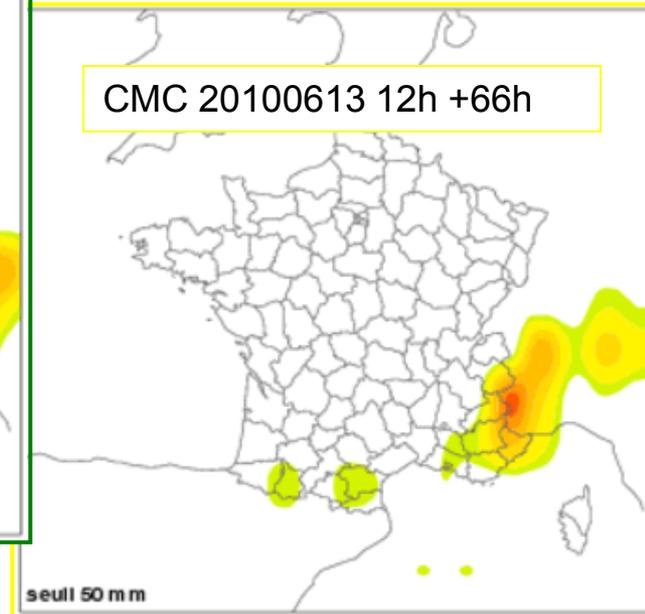
EPS - 20100613 12h +66h



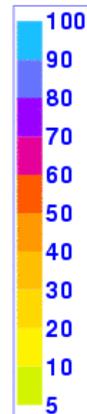
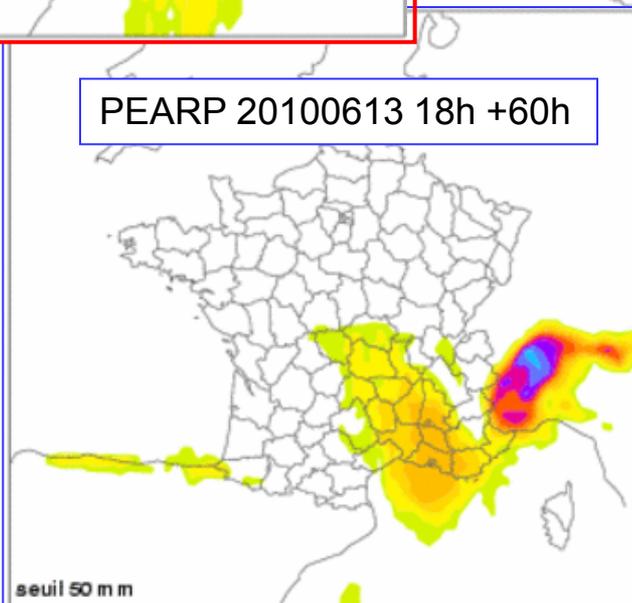
NCEP - 20100613 12h +66h



CMC 20100613 12h +66h



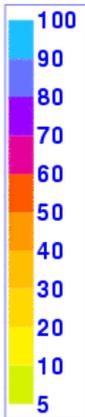
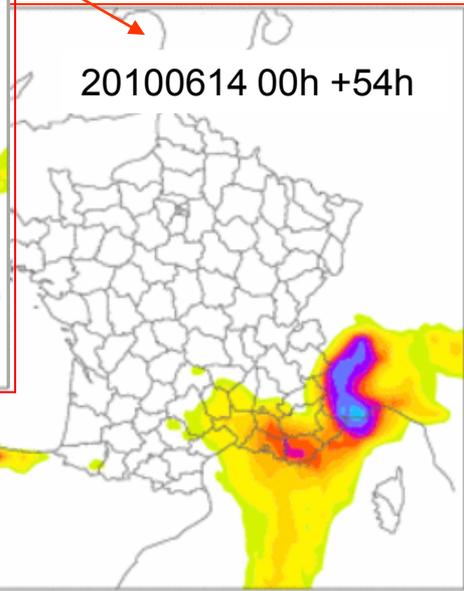
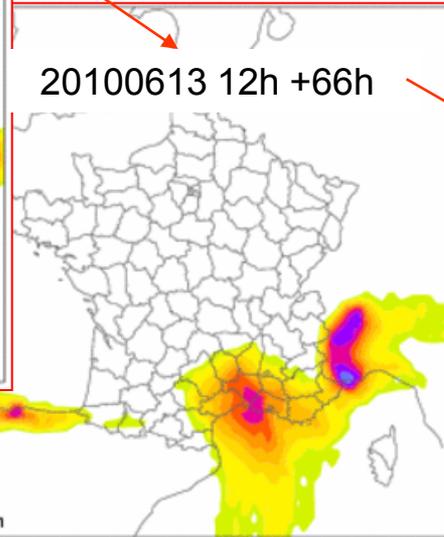
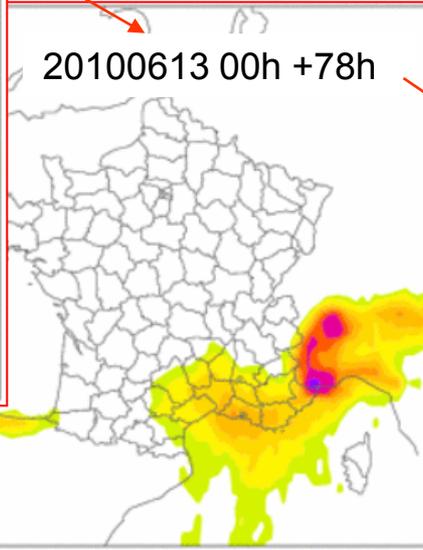
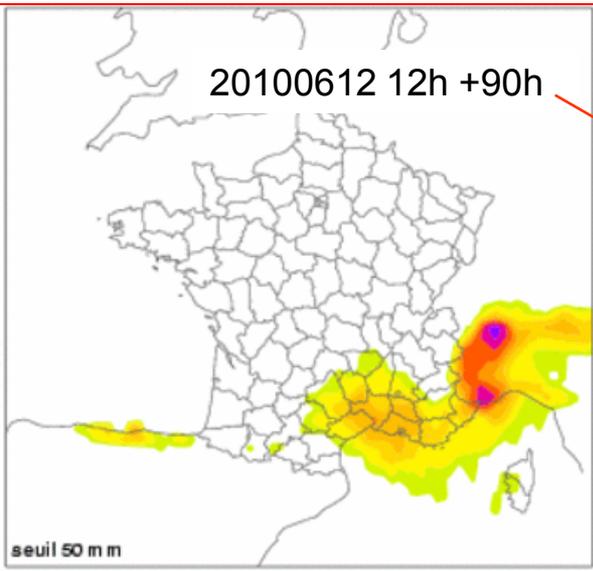
PEARP 20100613 18h +60h



Oct 2011

Probabilities – Rain event, 15 June 2010 (3)

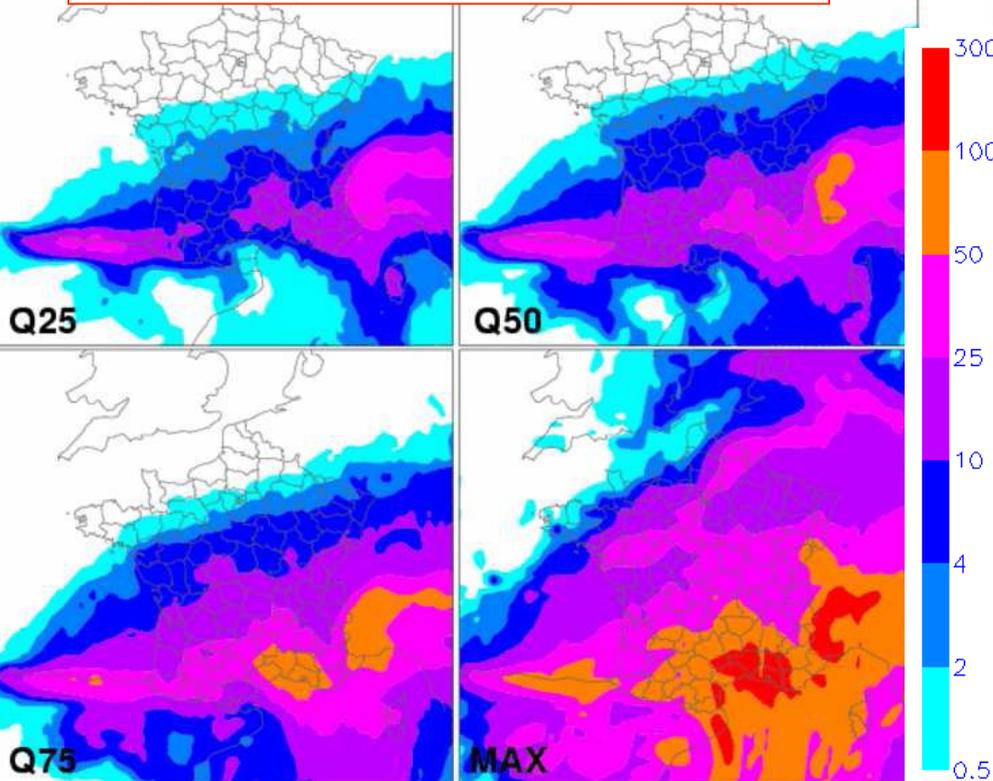
Probabilities of RR24 > 50mm for 15/06 6h to 16/06 6h Successive runs of EPS



Percentiles – Rain event, 15 June 2010 (1)

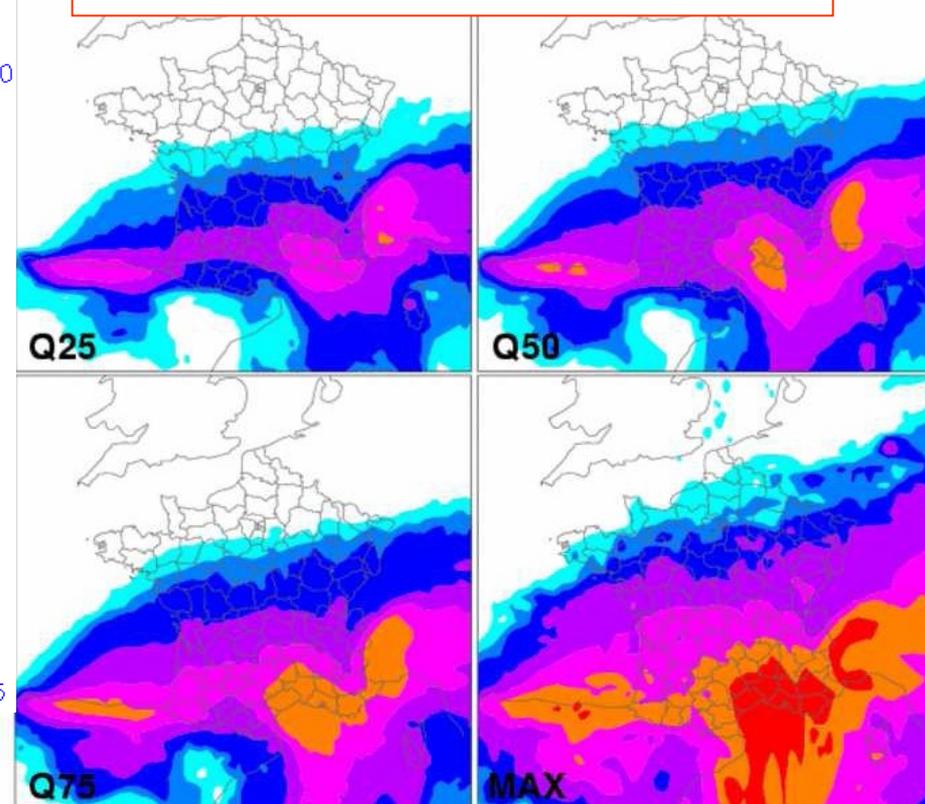
EPS : Quantiles RR24 en mm - Base : 20100612 12h - Ech : 90h - NB runs : 51

EPS – Quantiles 20100612 12h +90h



EPS : Quantiles RR24 en mm - Base : 20100613 12h - Ech : 66h - NB runs : 51

EPS – Quantiles 20100613 12h +66h



- Q75 charts are often used for severe weather forecast
- In this case, no value > 100 mm in EPS Q75 (better than PEARP)



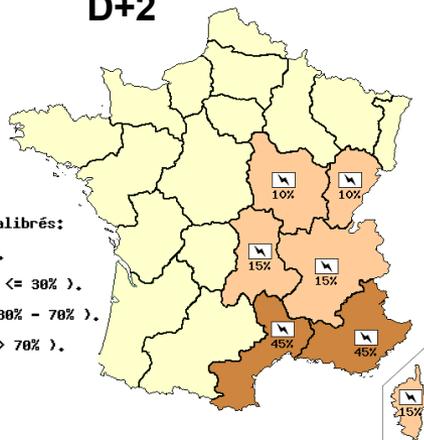
METEO FRANCE
Toujours un temps d'avance

Extreme rain event on Var, 15 June 2010

D+3

For 2010/06/15

D+2



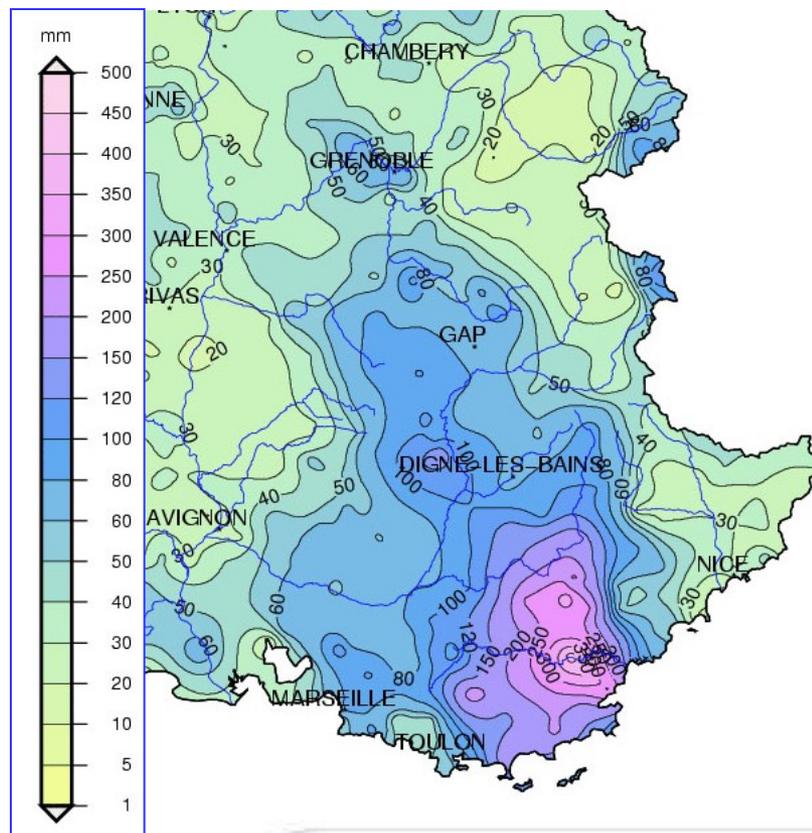
Echelle des risques calibrés:

- Risque quasi nul.
- Risque faible. ($\leq 30\%$).
- Risque moyen. ($30\% - 70\%$).
- Risque élevé. ($> 70\%$).

3 days before

2 days before

Total amount of rain over 2 days from 14 June 6h to 17 June 6h



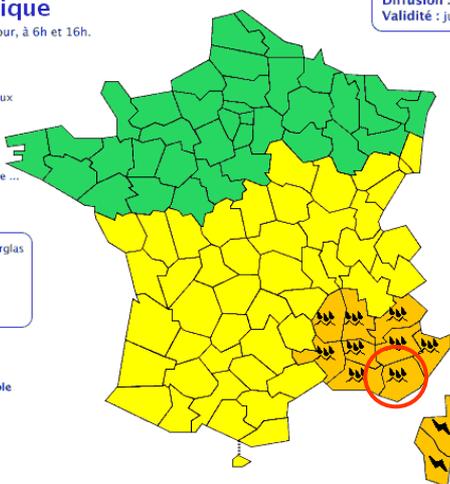
Vigilance météorologique

La carte est actualisée au moins 2 fois par jour, à 6h et 16h.

- Une vigilance absolue s'impose des phénomènes météorologiques dangereux d'intensité exceptionnelle sont prévus ...
- Soyez très vigilant, des phénomènes météorologiques dangereux sont prévus ...
- Soyez attentif si vous pratiquez des activités sensibles au risque météorologique ...
- Pas de vigilance particulière.

- Vent violent
- Neige-verglas
- Pluie-inondation
- Canicule
- Orages

La vigilance pluie-inondation est élaborée avec le réseau de prévision des crues du Ministère du Développement durable



Diffusion : le mardi 15 juin 2010 à 06h00
Validité : jusqu'au mercredi 16 juin 2010 à 06h00

Consultez le [bulletin national](#)

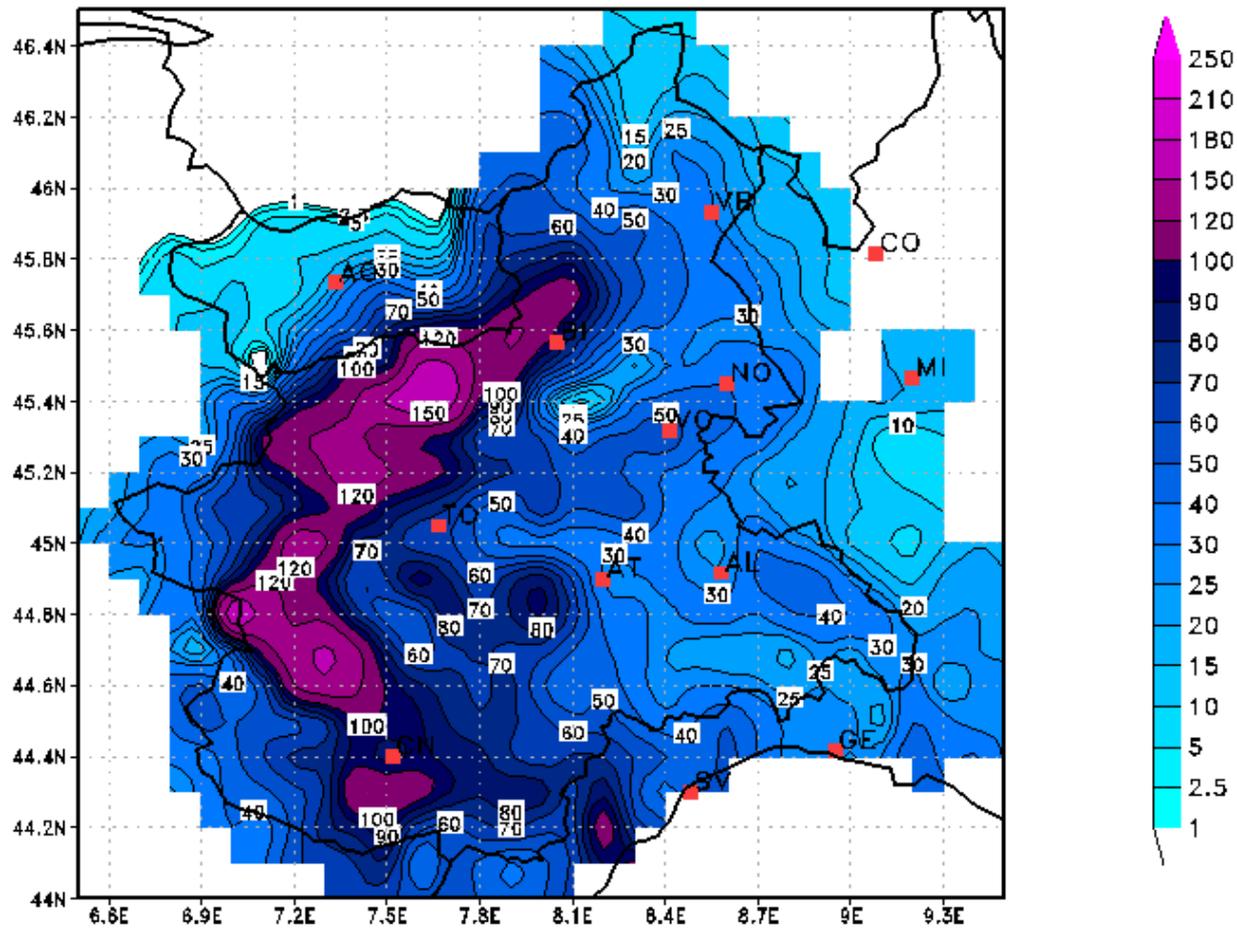
Sur la Corse, PACA, le Gard, la Drôme et l'Ardèche, épisode de pluies orageuses s'intensifiant progressivement en journée d'aujourd'hui mardi.

Cliquez sur la carte pour lire les bulletins régionaux

Conseils des pouvoirs publics :
Précipitations/Orage - Renseignez-vous avant d'entreprendre un déplacement et soyez vigilants. Évitez le réseau routier secondaire. - Soyez prudents face aux conditions de circulation pouvant être difficiles. - Si vous habitez en zone habituellement inondable, prenez les précautions d'usage. Orages/Orage - Soyez prudents, en particulier dans vos déplacements et vos activités de loisir. - Évitez d'utiliser le téléphone et les appareils électriques. - A l'approche d'un orage, mettez en sécurité vos biens et abritez-vous hors des zones boisées.

Extreme rain event on Italy, 15 June 2010

Precipitation (mm/24hr) at Wed 16JUN2010 12:00 UTC



Total amount of rain
from 15 June 12h
to 16 June 12h

Source : Massimo Milelli,
ARPA Piemonte

Outline

Use of ECMWF products at Météo-France :

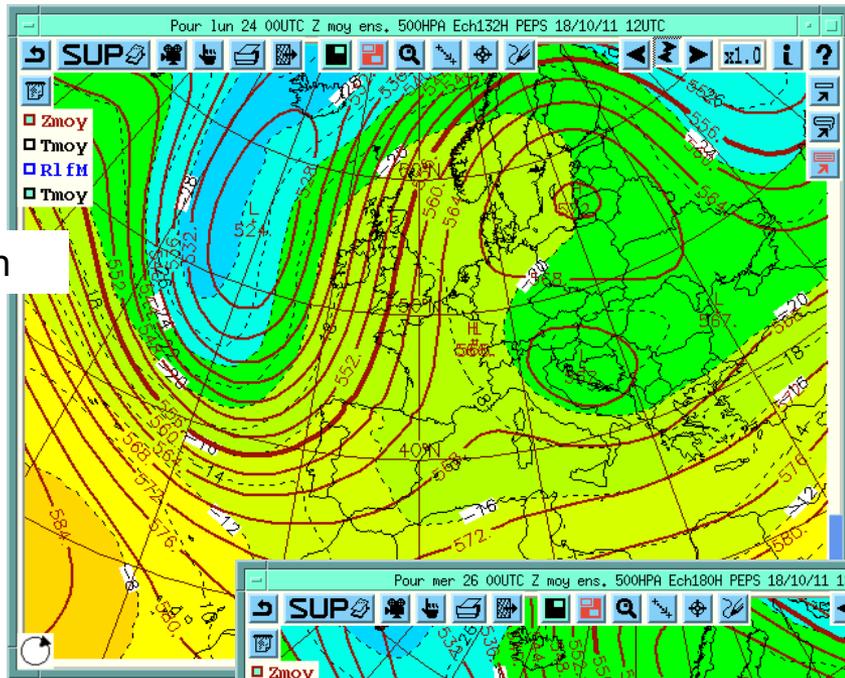
- Severe weather forecast for D+2 and D+3
- **Medium and extended range forecast**
- Feedback on ecCharts
- Tropical cyclone forecast

Thanks to Nicole Girardot, Fabrice Guillemot and
Bruno Mornet

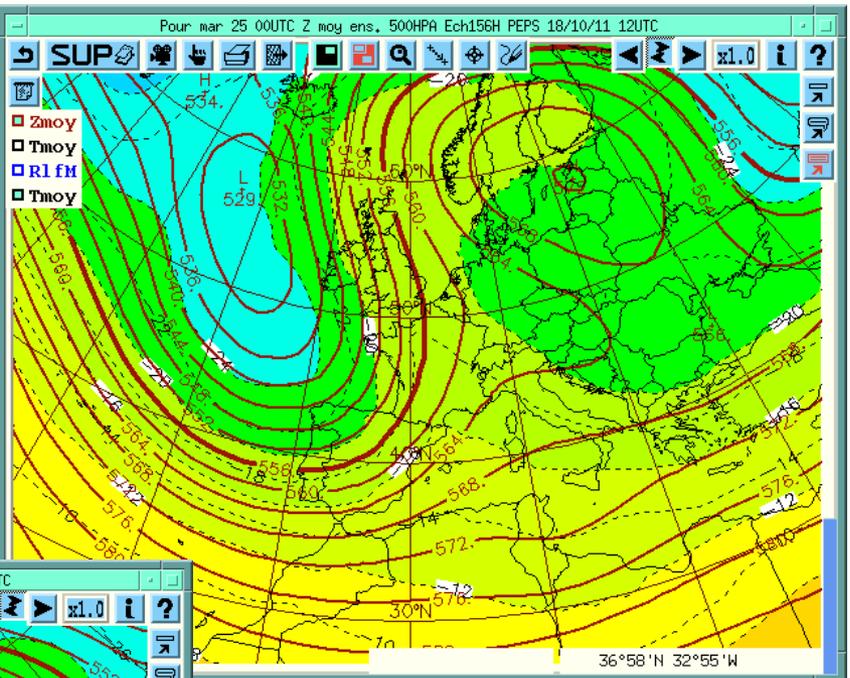
Medium range forecast for D+4 to D+9

- Synoptic elements are unpredictable at medium range => Forecast at supra-synoptic scale
- Medium range forecast is based mainly on EPS products :
 - Ensemble mean, probabilities (precip, wind, humidity...) —> to define the most likely scenario
 - Spaghetti diagrams Z500 —> spread (uncertainty)
 - EFI charts —> risk of severe weather for D+4
 - Other products : EPSplumes and EPSgrams (local products)
- Comparison between different models & runs :
 - EPS 12 & EPS 00
 - IFS for D+4 and D+5
 - EPS monthly forecast
 - NCEP 12 & NCEP 00
- Mixing different kind of information, with the experience of the forecaster
 - => synthesis of the most likely scenario and confidence
 - => use of weather symbols, risk symbols and confidence index.

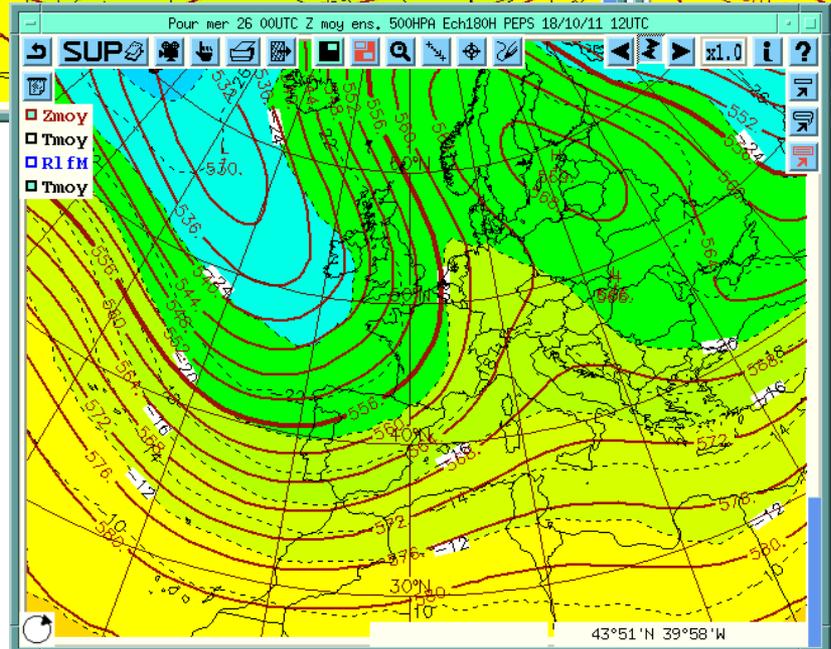
Use of ensemble mean Z&T500 at D+4/D+5



132h



156h



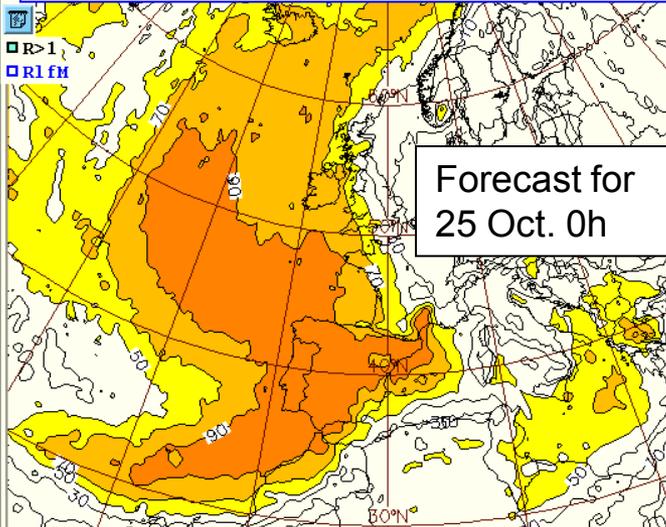
180h

Oct 2011

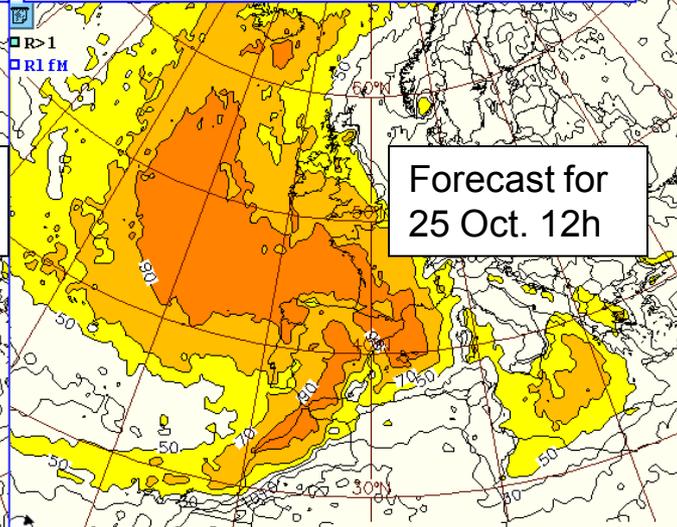
Products available on Synergie workstations

Use of probabilistic products

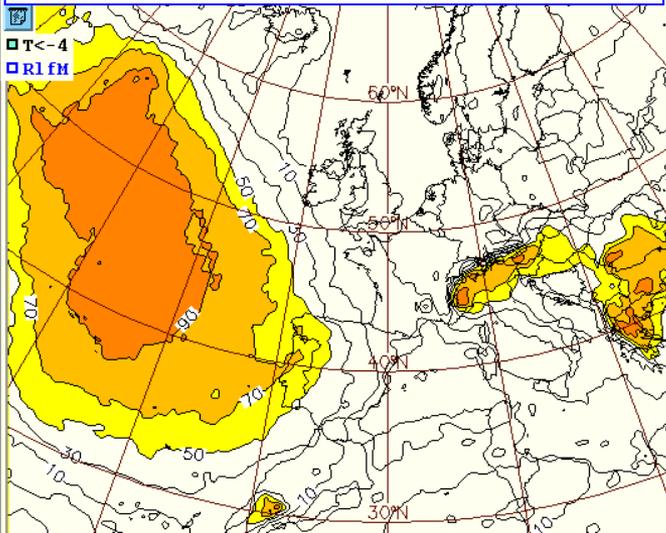
Probability of RR>1mm at 156 h



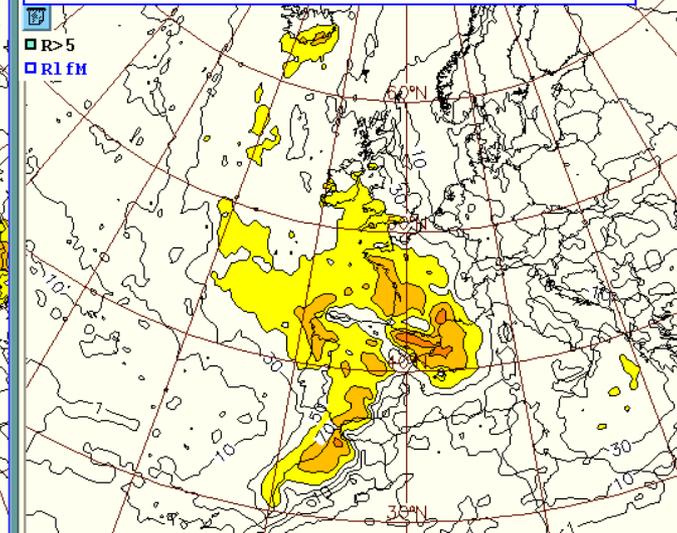
Probability of RR>1mm at 168 h



Probability of T850<-4 C at 156h



Probability of RR>5mm at 168 h



The activity of weather disturbances can be estimated by probabilistic products of rain risk

Raw probabilities are calculated as follow :
$$\text{Proba 24h (precip.>1mm)} = \frac{\text{nb members (precip.>1mm)}}{\text{total nb members}}$$

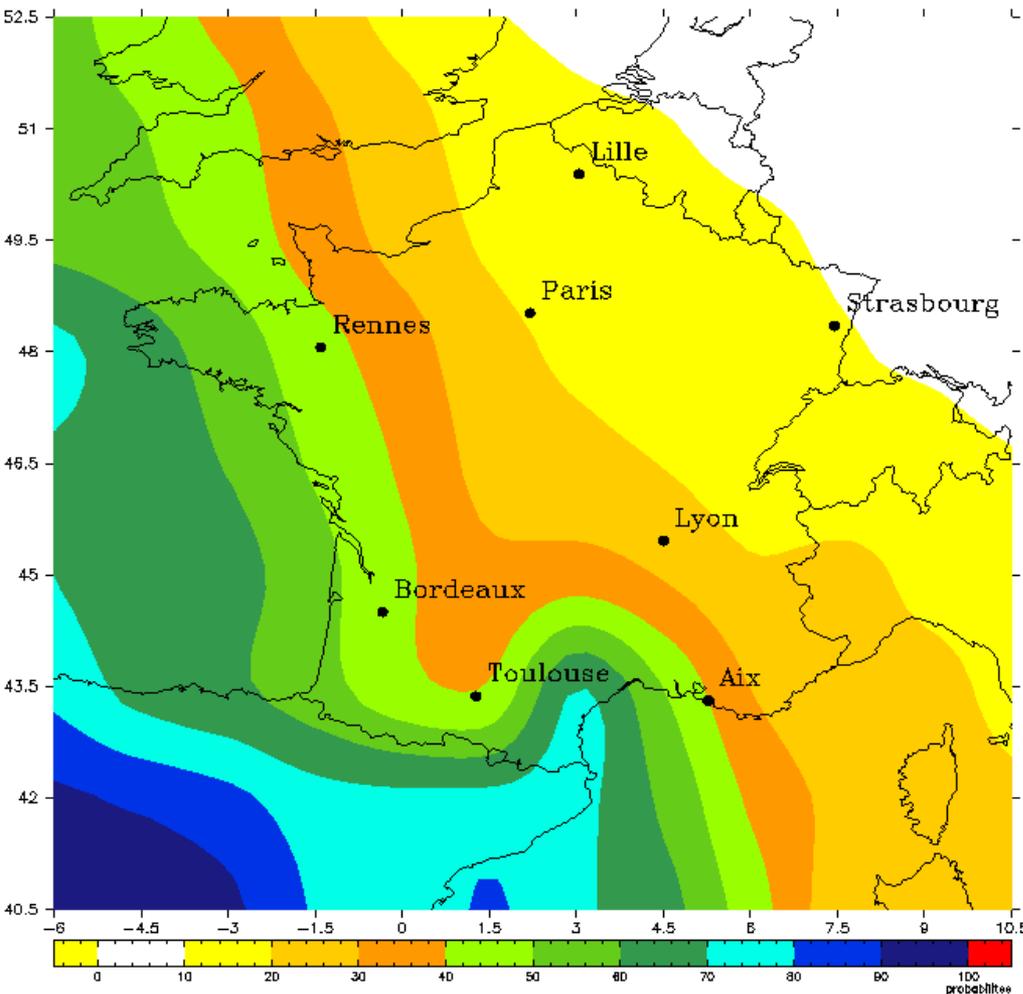
Products available on Synergie workstations



Use of calibrated probabilistic products (1)

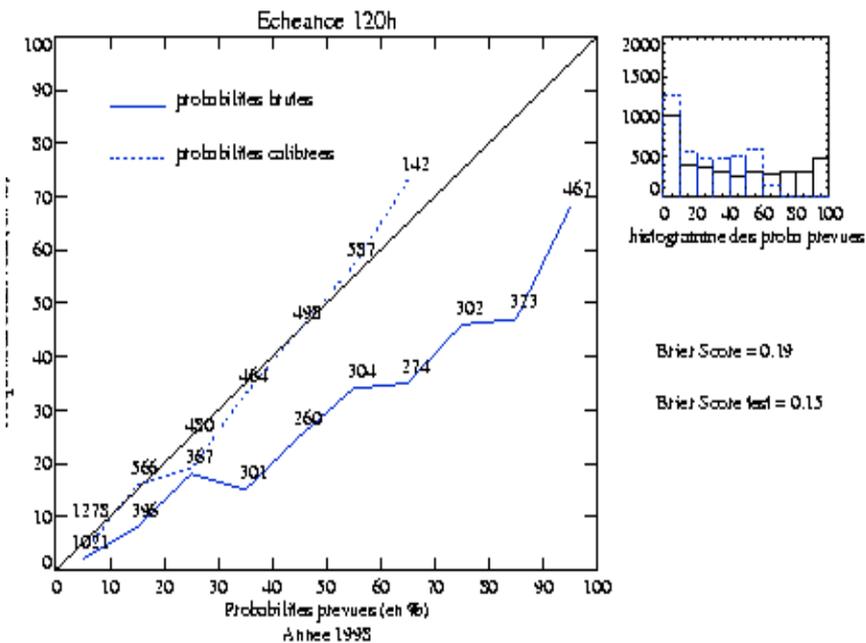
Example of calibrated probabilities of RR24>1mm for 156h

modele du 18/10/2011 valide : 24/10/2011



- Calibrated probabilities : related to the observations
- Interactive probabilities : choice of the threshold
- Products available on the internal Website

PROBABILITES RR24 > 1mm - TEST DE CALIBRATION

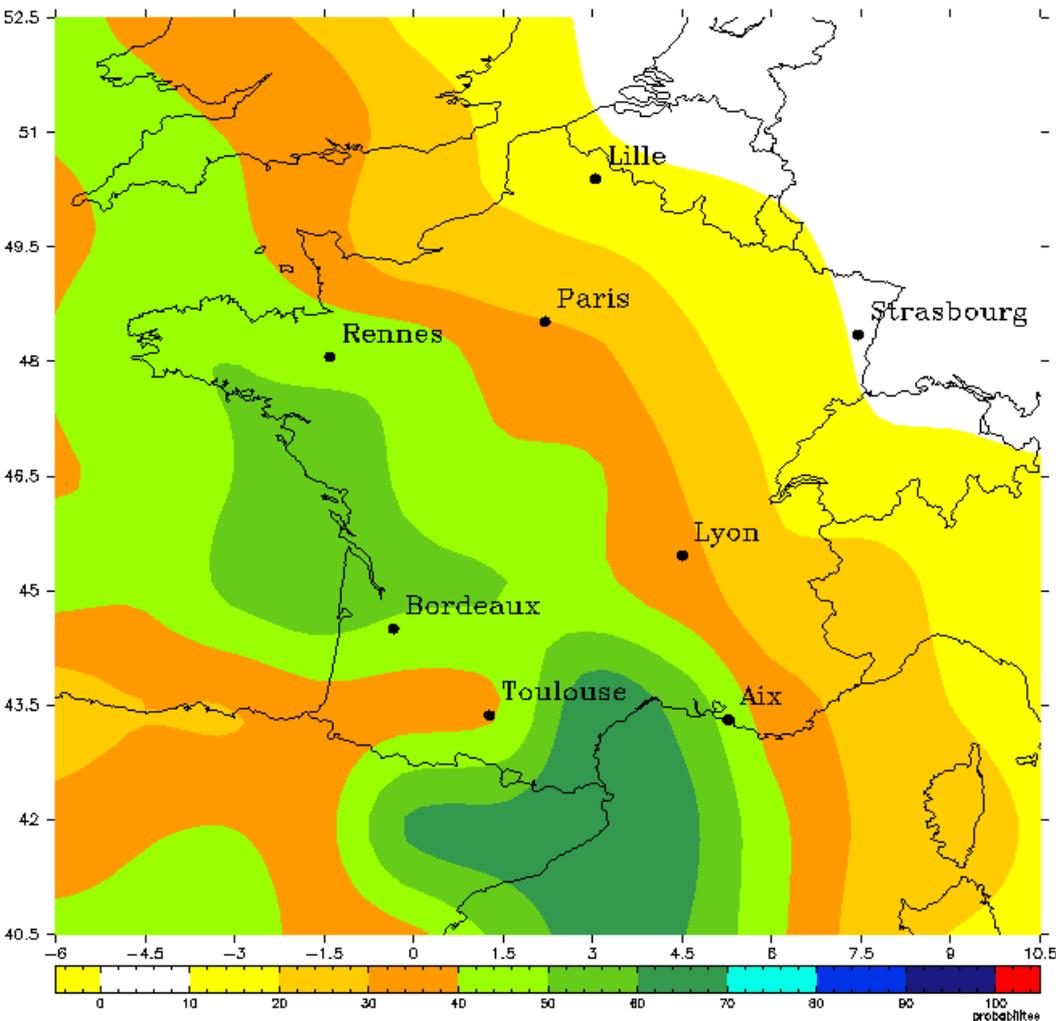


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Use of calibrated probabilistic products (2)

Example of calibrated probabilities of RR24>5mm for 168h

modele du 18/10/2011 valide : 25/10/2011



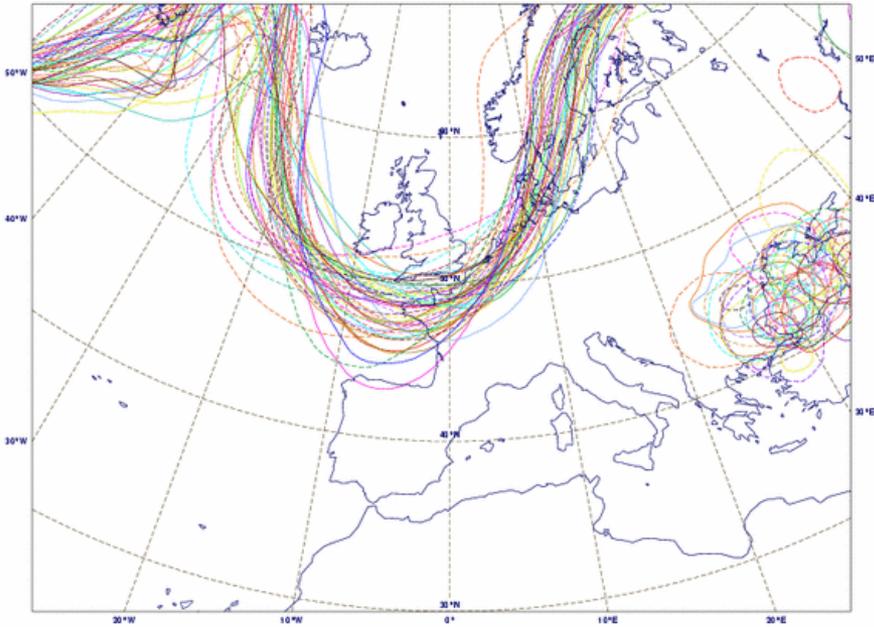
- Calibrated probabilities : related to the observations
- Interactive probabilities : choice of the threshold
- Products available on the internal Website

Spread and confidence index

- The spread indicates the « uncertainty » (« envelope of solutions »):
 - Low spread : great confidence, small error
 - High spread : weak confidence, but not necessary large error !
 - Spread can depend on the parameter
 - The uncertainty increases generally with the range, but not always
- EPS products used to analyse spread :
 - Spaghetti diagrams Z500 (geopotential)
 - EPSplumes, EPSgrams (local products)
- Confidence index used for D+4, D+5 and D+6/D+7 :
 - Global index for general public : a subjective measure of “uncertainty”
 - Scale from 1 (very weak confidence) to 5 (very strong confidence)
 - First, the index is obtained by analysing objectively the spread and the stability concerning the supra-synoptic scenario, and also the uncertainty of the weather forecast (ex : uncertainty with warm blocks in altitude concerning low level clouds)
 - Second, subjective adjustments taking account of the range (comparison with the average confidence index for this range).

EPS spaghetti Z500 (1)

Z500 - echeance : 108 h - isoligne 552 damgp - modele du 14/10/2011
Prevision J+4 pour le 18/10/2011

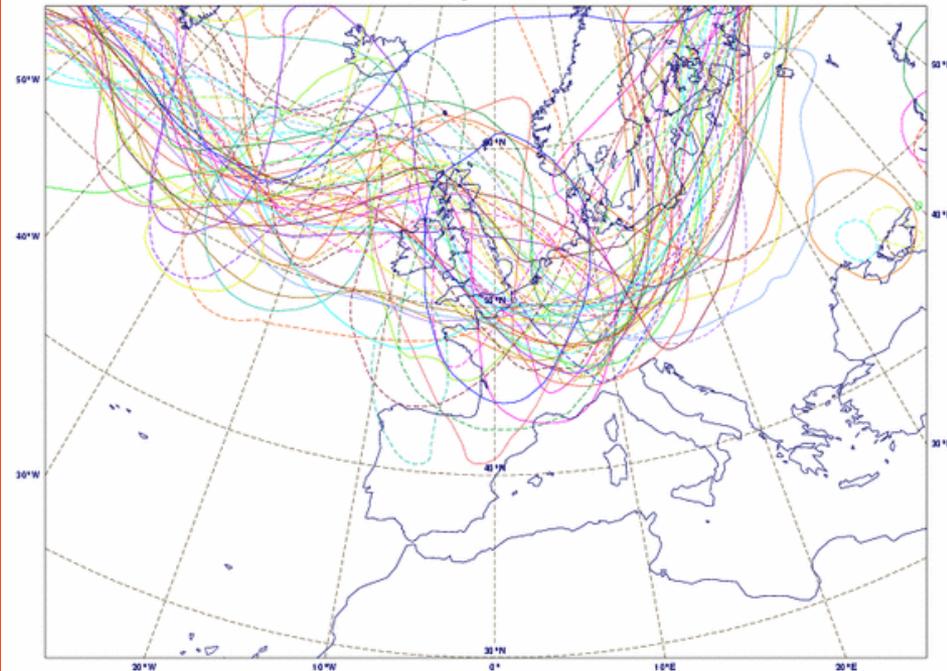


The spaghetti Z500 give a good estimation of the spread

Example of high spread for D+6



Z500 - echeance : 156 h - isoligne 552 damgp - modele du 14/10/2011
Prevision J+6 pour le 20/10/2011

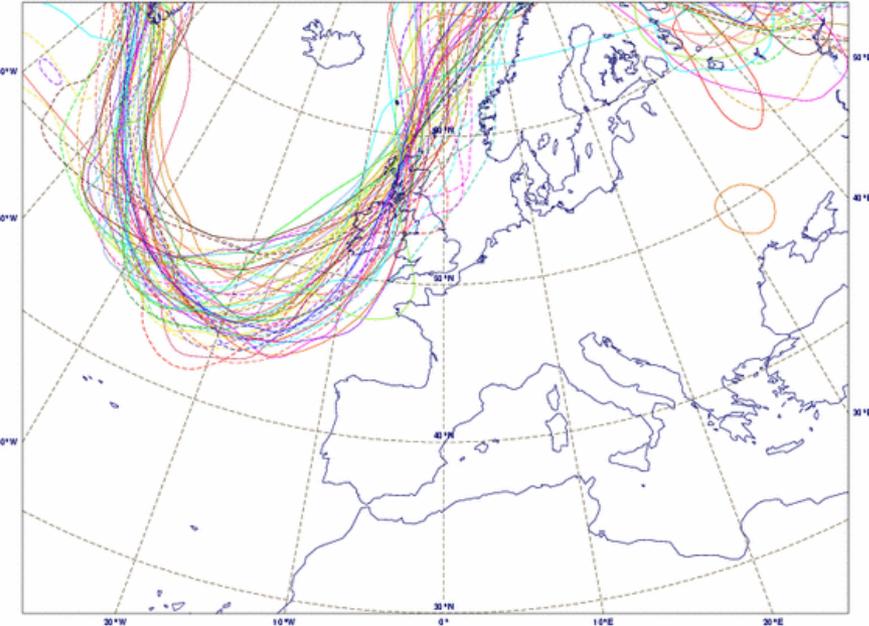


Example of low spread for D+4

**Products available on
the internal Website**

EPS spaghetti Z500 (2)

Z500 - echeance : 132 h - isoligne 544 damgp - modele du 18/10/2011
Prevision J+5 pour le 23/10/2011

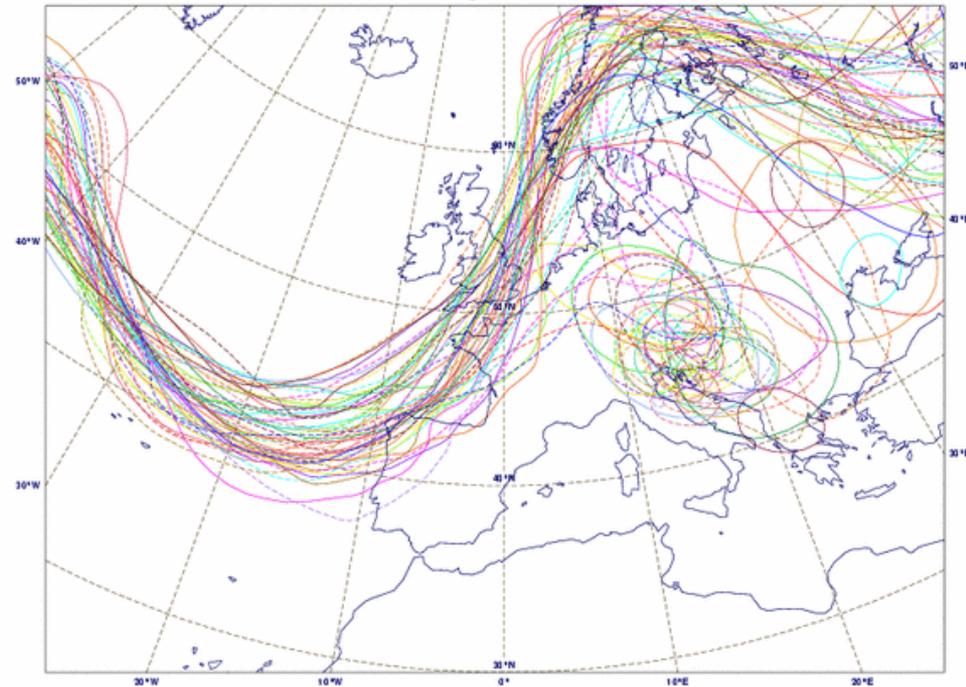


Isoline 544

Isoline 560

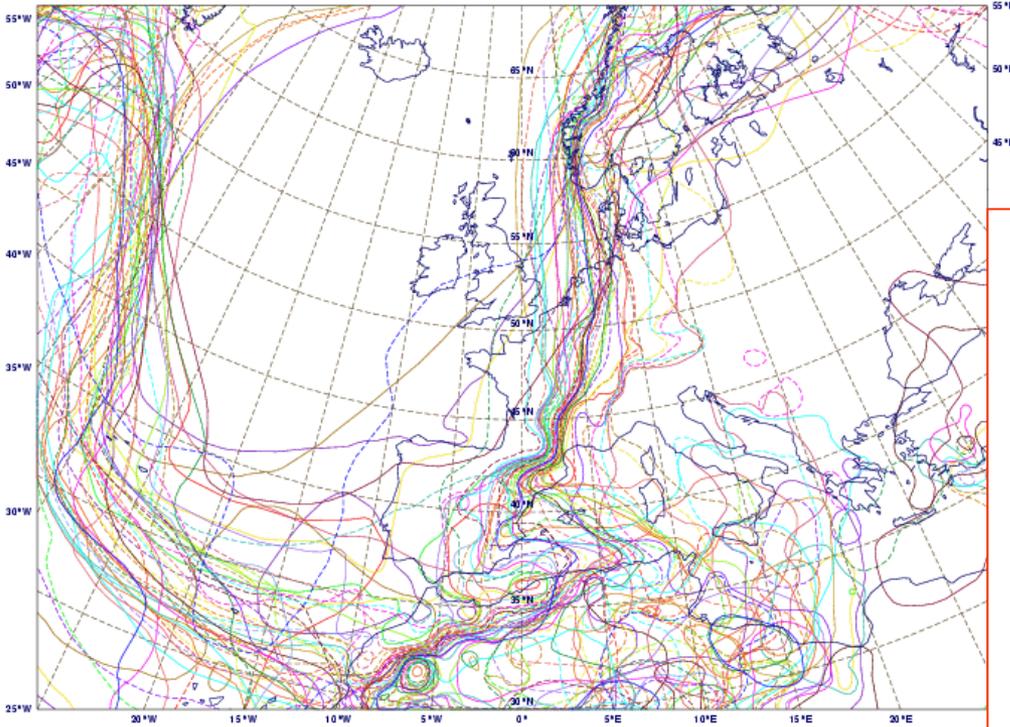
Interactive spaghetti : choice
of the isoline to display

Z500 - echeance : 132 h - isoligne 560 damgp - modele du 18/10/2011
Prevision J+5 pour le 23/10/2011



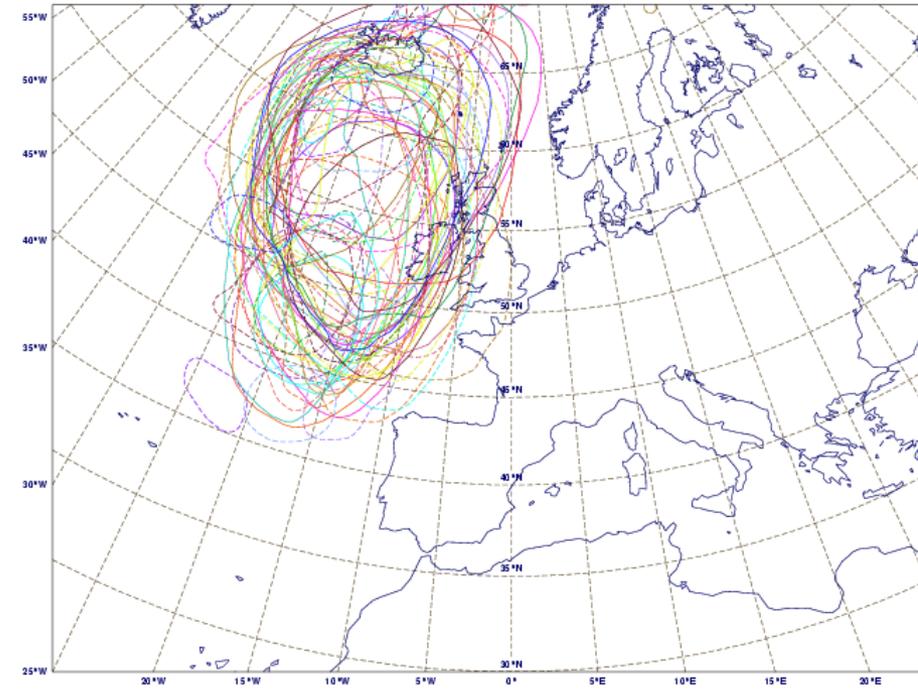
EPS spaghetti MSLP

Pmer - isoligne 1015 hPa
modele du 17/10/2011 12h echeance 144h valide le 23/10/2011 12h



Interactive spaghetti : choice of the isoline to display

Pmer - isoligne 990 hPa
modele du 17/10/2011 12h echeance 144h valide le 23/10/2011 12h



Isoline 1015 hPa

Isoline 990 hPa

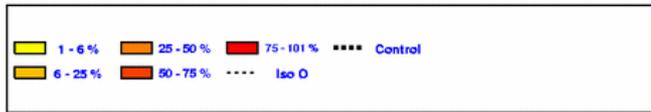
**Products available on
the internal Website**

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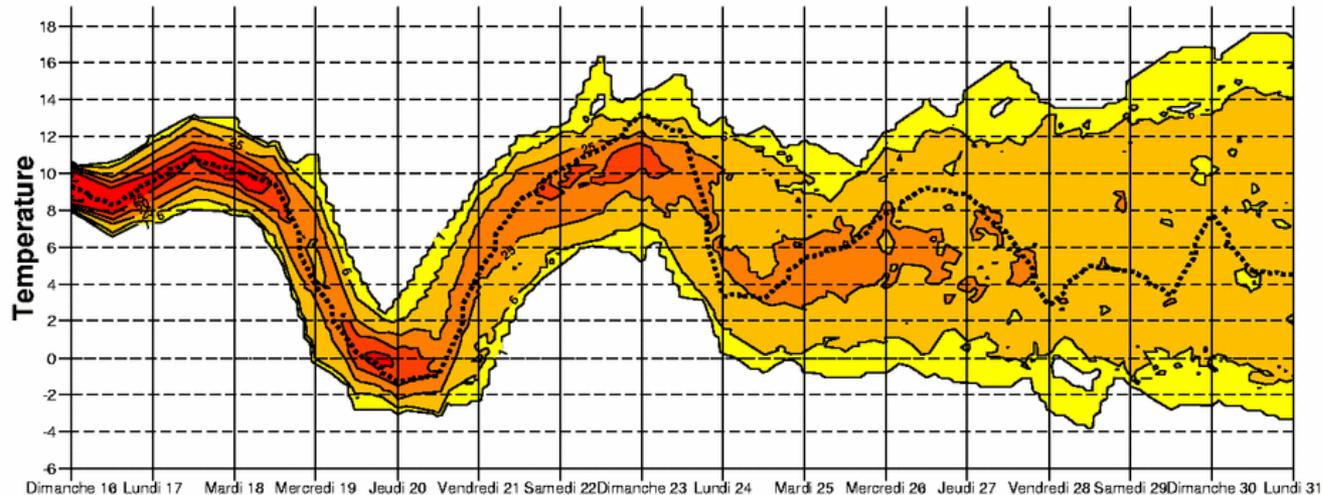
EPSplumes : local products



Panache T a 850 hPa (Toulouse)
Base : 16 / 10 / 2011

Time evolution of probabilities : on one point, Toulouse on this example

Products available on the internal Website



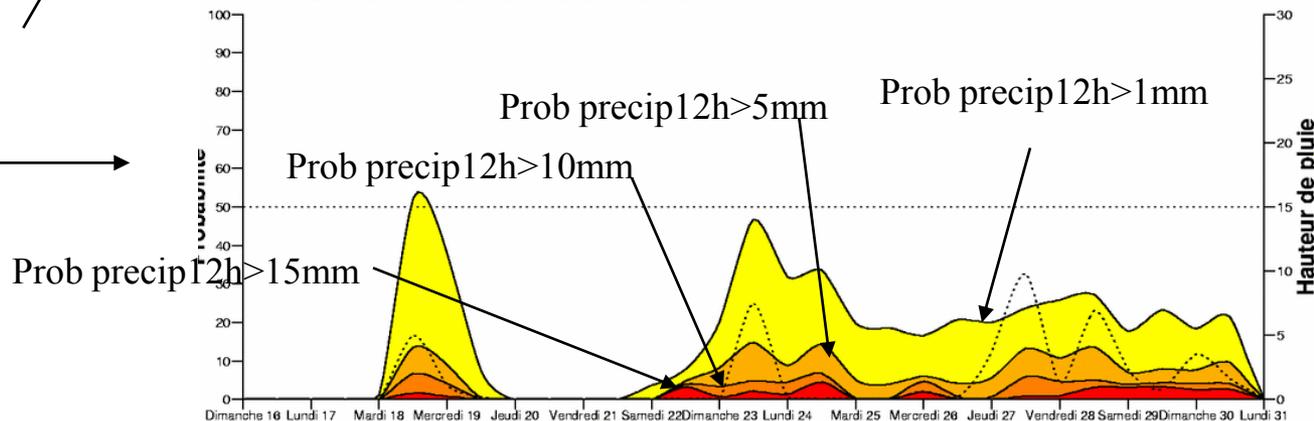
Probabilities of 850 hPa temperatures

Calibrated probabilities of precipitations

Oct 2011

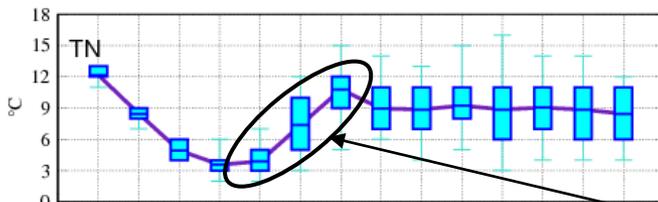


Probabilités de pluie calibrees (Toulouse)
Cumul sur 12heures
Base : 16 / 10 / 2011



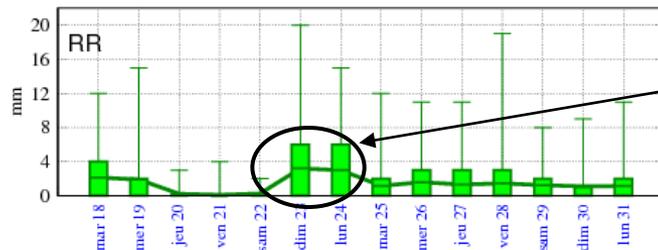
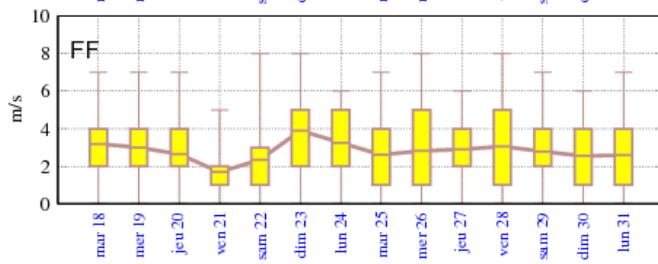
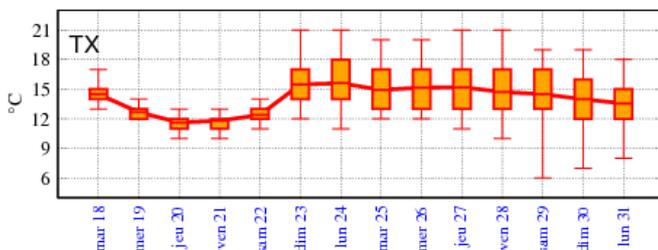
EPSgrams : local products

EPSgramme EPS (Base 2011101700)
PARIS-14E (75114001)



Products available on the internal Website

Increase of temperatures, especially the minimum



High reliability in precipitation occurrence

2 m minimum temperature
(statistical adaptation)

2 m maximum temperature
(statistical adaptation)

10 m Wind Speed
(statistical adaptation and calibration)

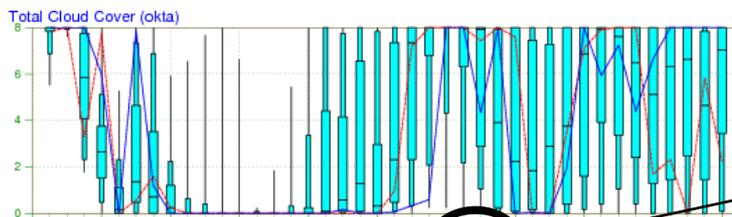
Total precipitations
(calibrated)

Oct 2011

EPSgrams : local products

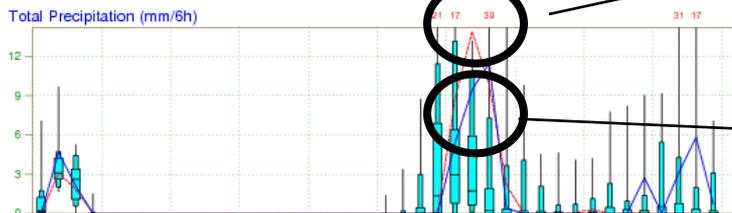
EPS Meteogram
Toulouse 43.7°N 1.5°E (EPS land point) 140 m
Deterministic Forecast and EPS Distribution Wednesday 19 October 2011 00 UTC

Total Cloud Cover



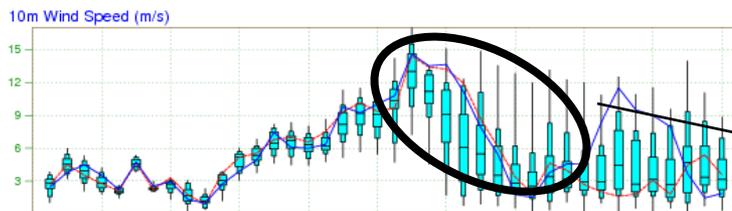
risk of heavy rain

Total precipitations



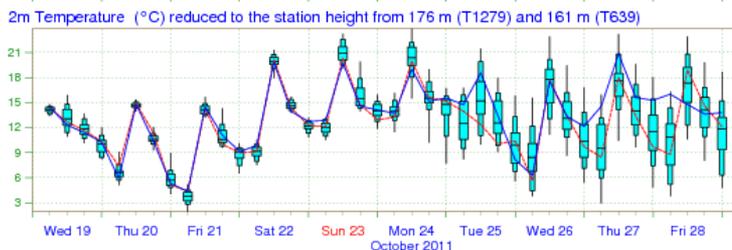
high reliability in precipitation occurrence

10 m Wind Speed



decrease of wind speed

2m Temperature



**Products available on
ECMWF Website**



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Magic++ 2.0.1

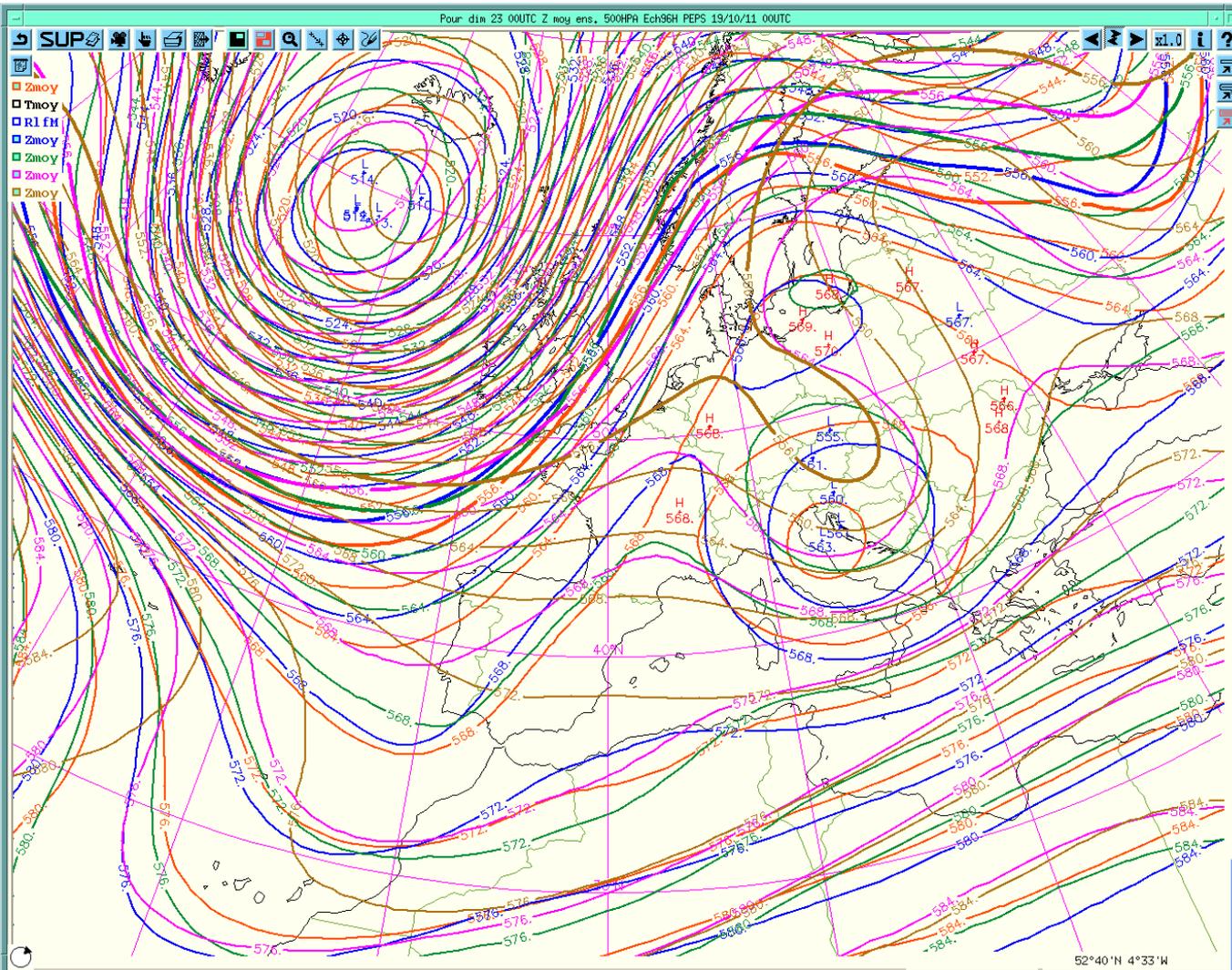
ECMWF



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Stability of EPS runs

Example of 5 successive runs of EPS for Z 500 (Synergie workstations)



- Comparison of successive EPS runs for a defined field : ensemble mean ZT500, T850, MSLP
- A good stability indicates a good confidence
- A low stability generally indicates a low predictability
- But a significative change on the last run can indicate a relevant change in forecast.



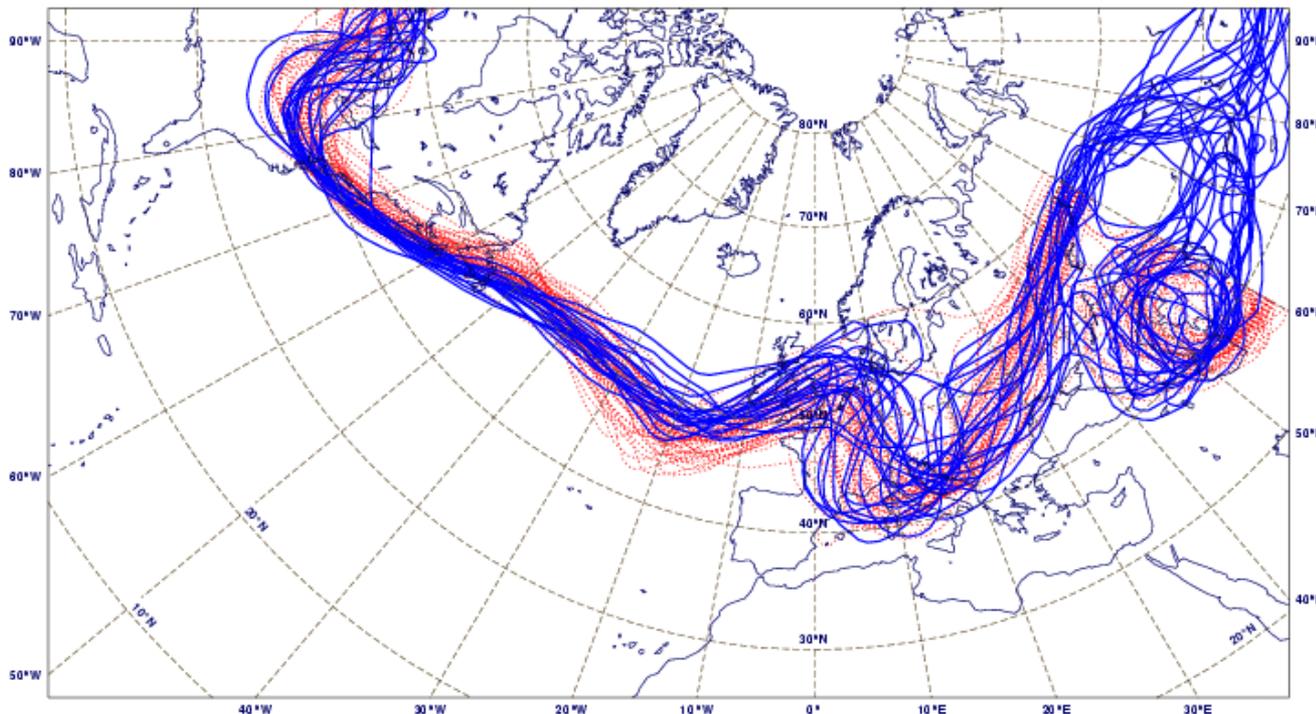
Coherence between EPS and NCEP

Blue : NCEP

Red : ECMWF

**Product available on
the internal Website**

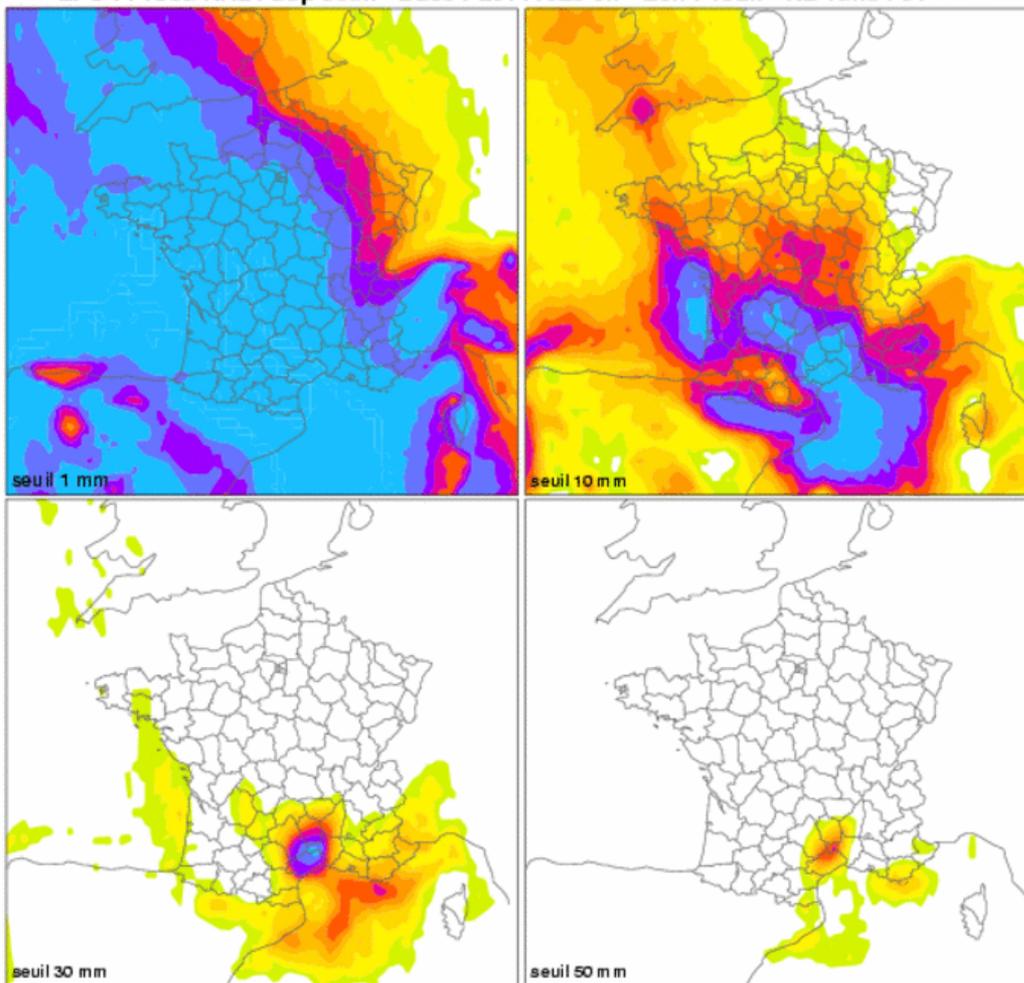
Z500 - echeance : 120h - isoligne 564 damgp - modele du 16/10/2011 12h
BLEU=NCEP (21 runs) - ROUGE=CEPMMT (51 runs)



- Comparison between EPS and NCEP spaghetti Z500
- Coherence between both spaghetti can confirm the analysis of the EPS spread.

Forecast for 24-25 October 2011

EPS : Proba RR24 sup seuil - Base : 20111020 0h - Ech : 132h - NB runs : 51



Proba RR24 for
25 at 12hUTC

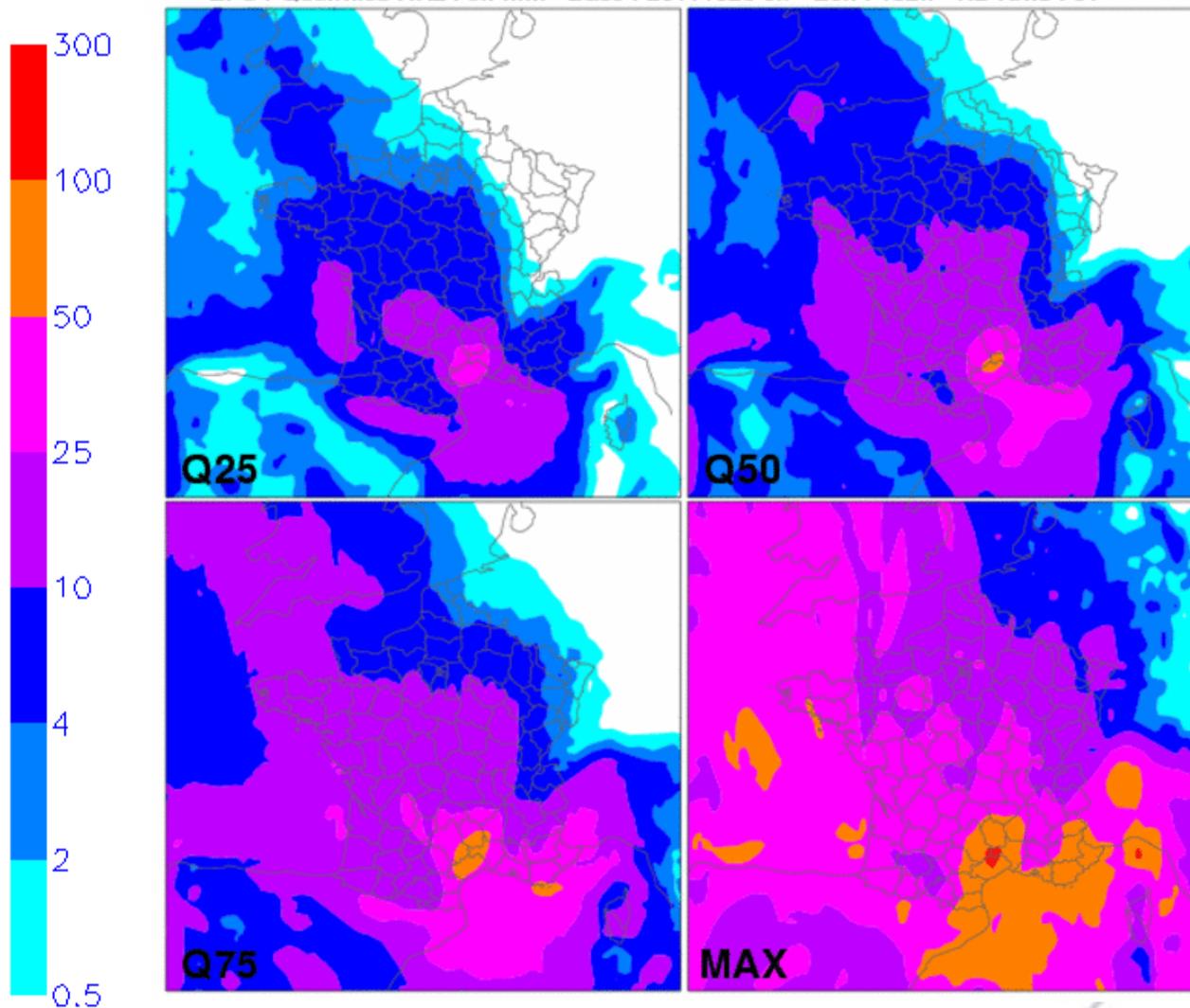
Base 20 0h

D+4/D+5

**Products available on
the internal Website**

Forecast for 24-25 October 2011

EPS : Quantiles RR24 en mm - Base : 20111020 0h - Ech : 132h - NB runs : 51



Quantiles RR24
for 25 at 12hUTC

Base 20 0h

D+4/D+5

Products available on
the internal Website



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Symbols used for D+4 to D+7

Weather symbols

	Mainly sunny, clear or slightly cloudy sky (summer)
	Still weather with some haze or fog in the morning
	Mainly foggy, thick low clouds (winter)
	Unsettled weather without rain
	Mainly cloudy sky
	Mainly cloudy sky with some rain
	Unsettled weather with sparse showers
	Unsettled weather with showers
	Mainly rainy weather
	Heavy rainfall

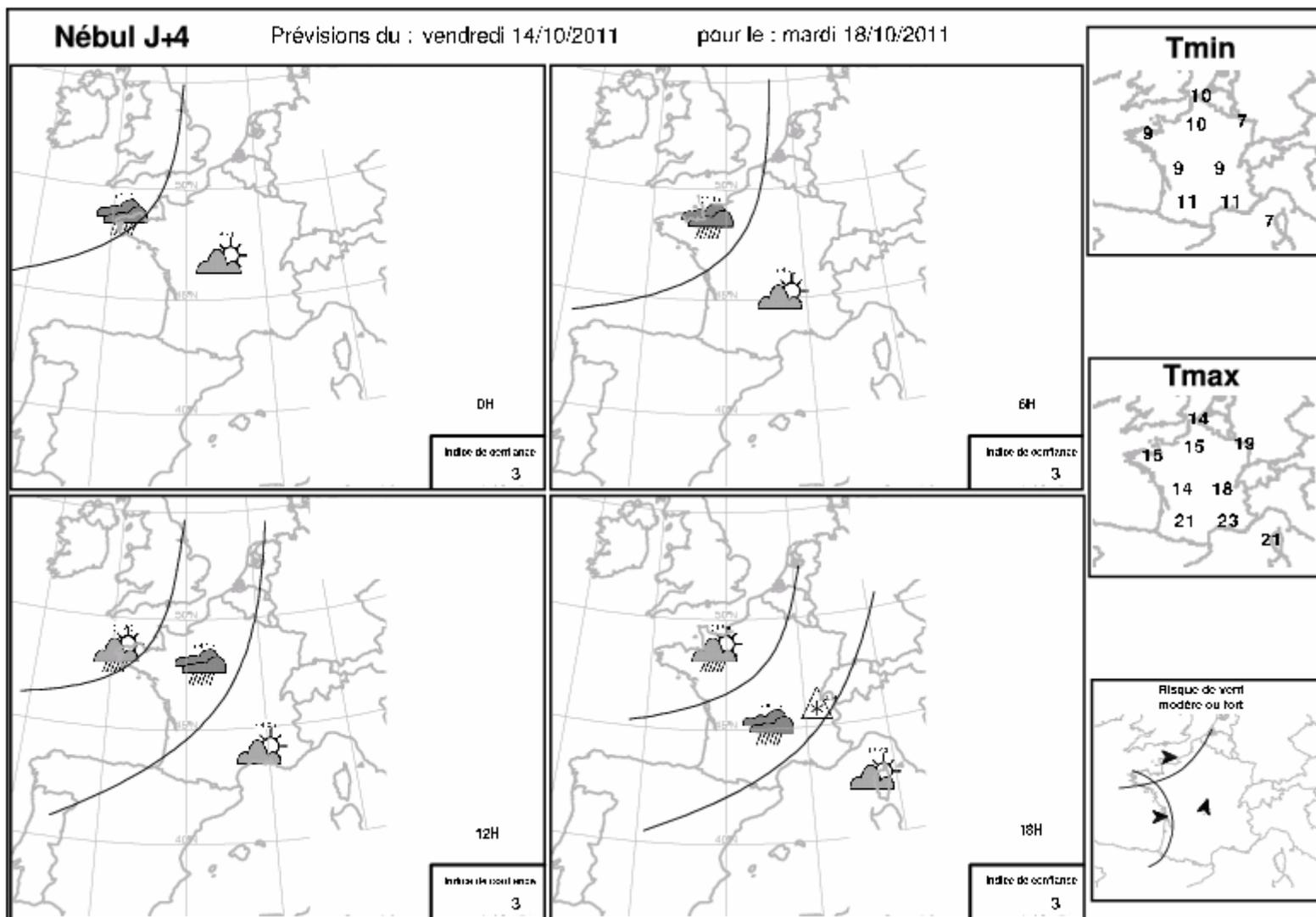
Risk symbols

	High risk of thunderstorms (generalized)
	Local risk of thunderstorms
	Risk of thunderstorms on mountain
	Risk of snow on plain
	Risk of snow on mountain

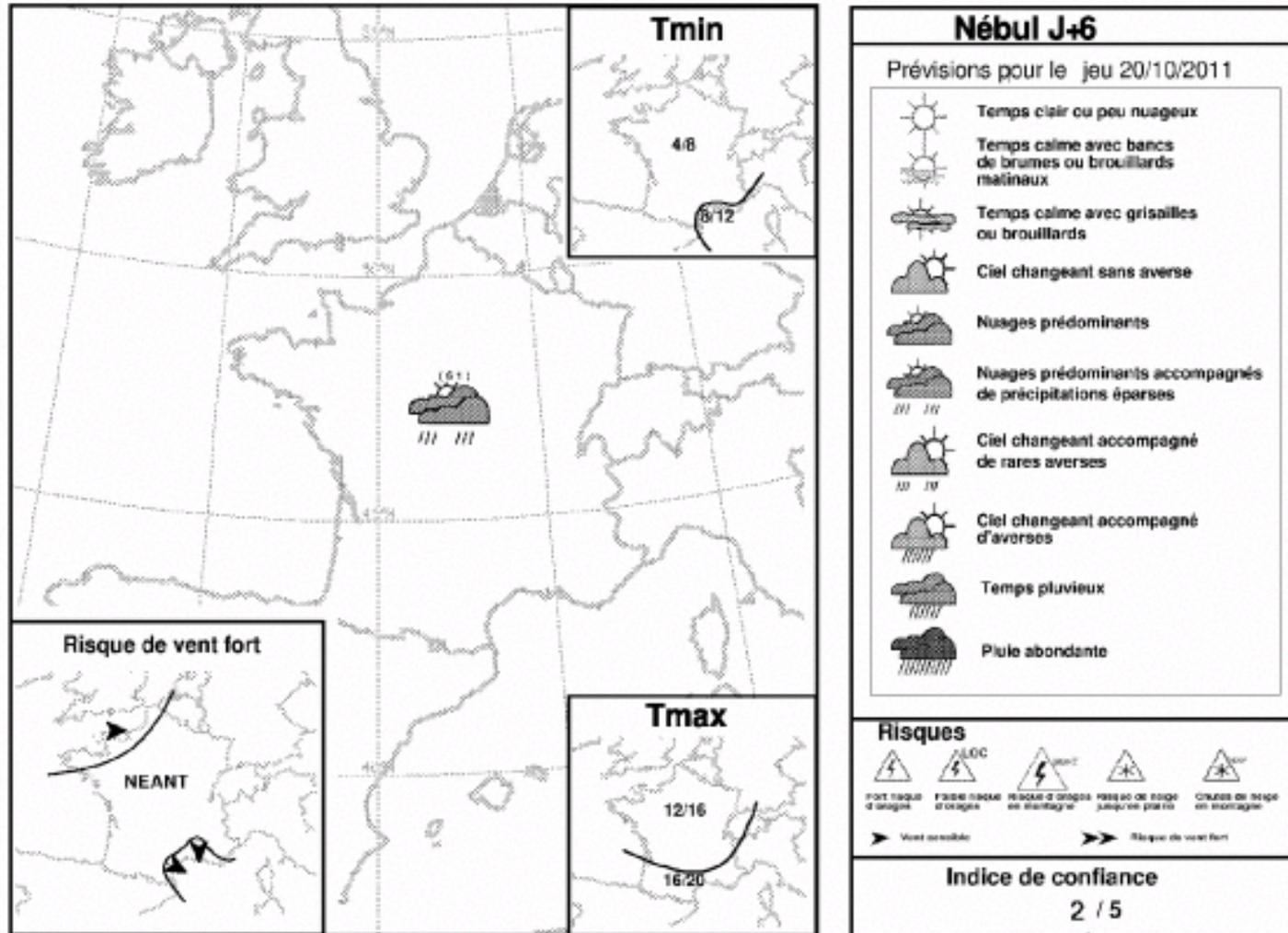
Wind symbols

	Moderate wind (gusts <35-40 kt) For D4 and D5
	Strong wind (gusts >=40 kt)

Example of internal production for D+4

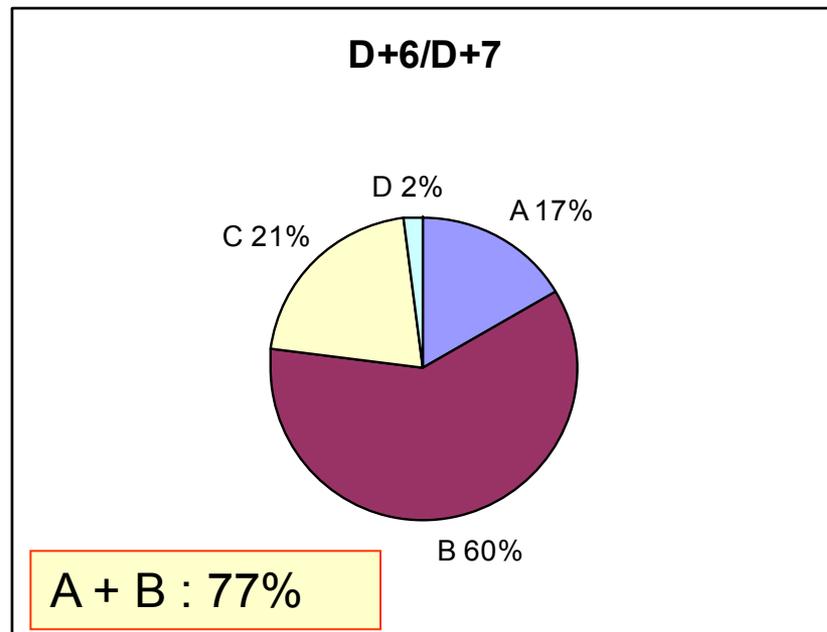
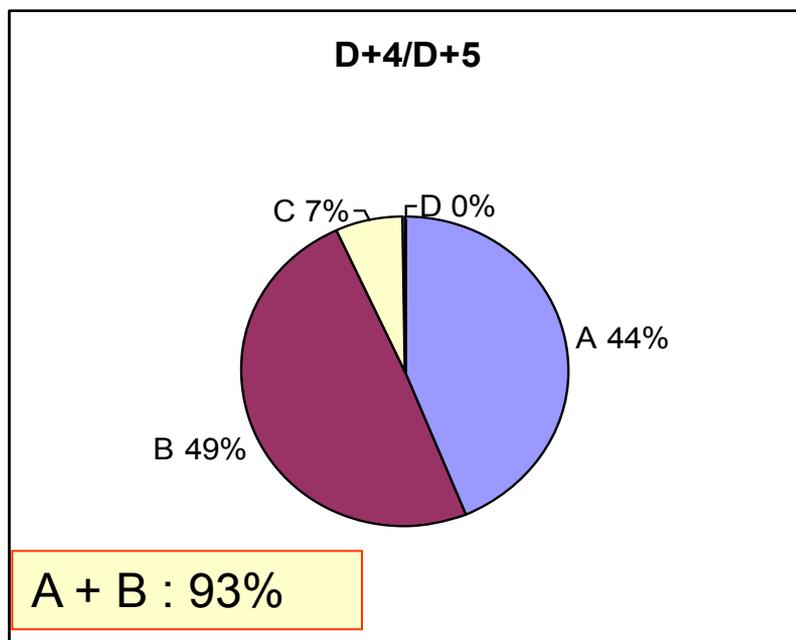


Example of D+6



EPS medium range forecast verification

Subjective verification of EPS ensemble mean (Z500 and MSLP) over the period Oct 2010 / Sept 2011 (last year) :



Supra-synoptic mark given by forecasters (forecast/analysis) :

A : Very good

B : Good

C : Bad

D : Very bad

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Automatic forecast verification for D+6/D+7

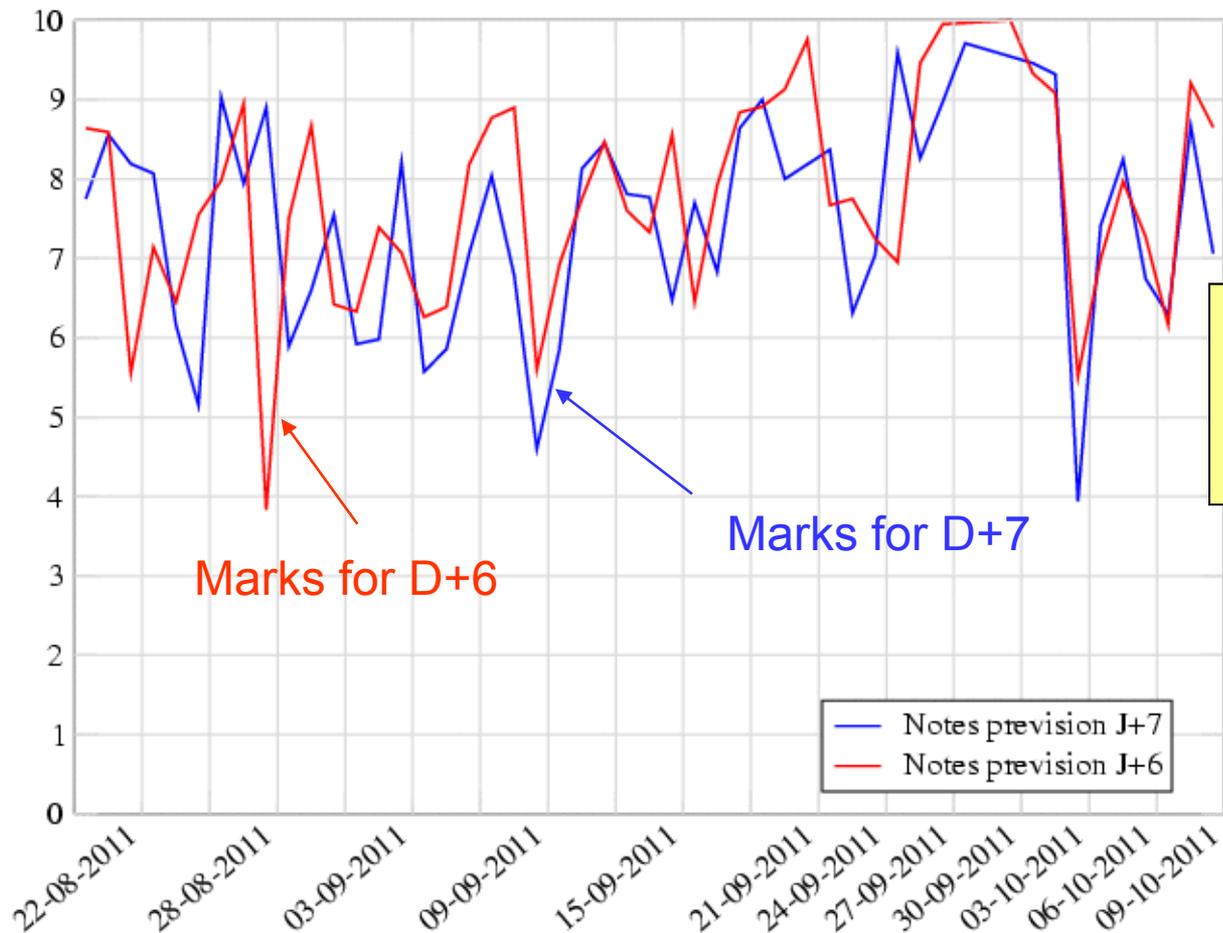
Automatic verification of weather charts issued for D+6/D+7, compared to analysed weather charts

- Analysis for each area of weather forecast :
 - Average of 2 marks : one for cloudiness, one for precipitations
 - Malus (negative) for snow, thunderstorms, nature of precipitations, frequency of greyness
 - Final mark for the area
- Medium range mark over France :
 - Average of all marks, taking account of the number of departments in each area
 - Malus (negative) for wind if necessary
- Rules for giving marks :
 - Marks are given between 0 (failed forecast) and 10 (perfect forecast)
 - An error in cloudiness forecast is less strictly marked than an error in precipitations forecast
 - The mark given for a non-detection is as strict as for a false alert.

Automatic forecast verification for D+6/D+7 (from 22 Aug.2011 to 11 Oct. 2011)

Controle de la prevision moyenne echeance du CNP

Evolution temporelle des notes (sur 10), du 20110822 au 20111011



Forecasts issued by the National Forecast Centre

Daily marks for D+6 (red) and D+7 (blue) forecasts

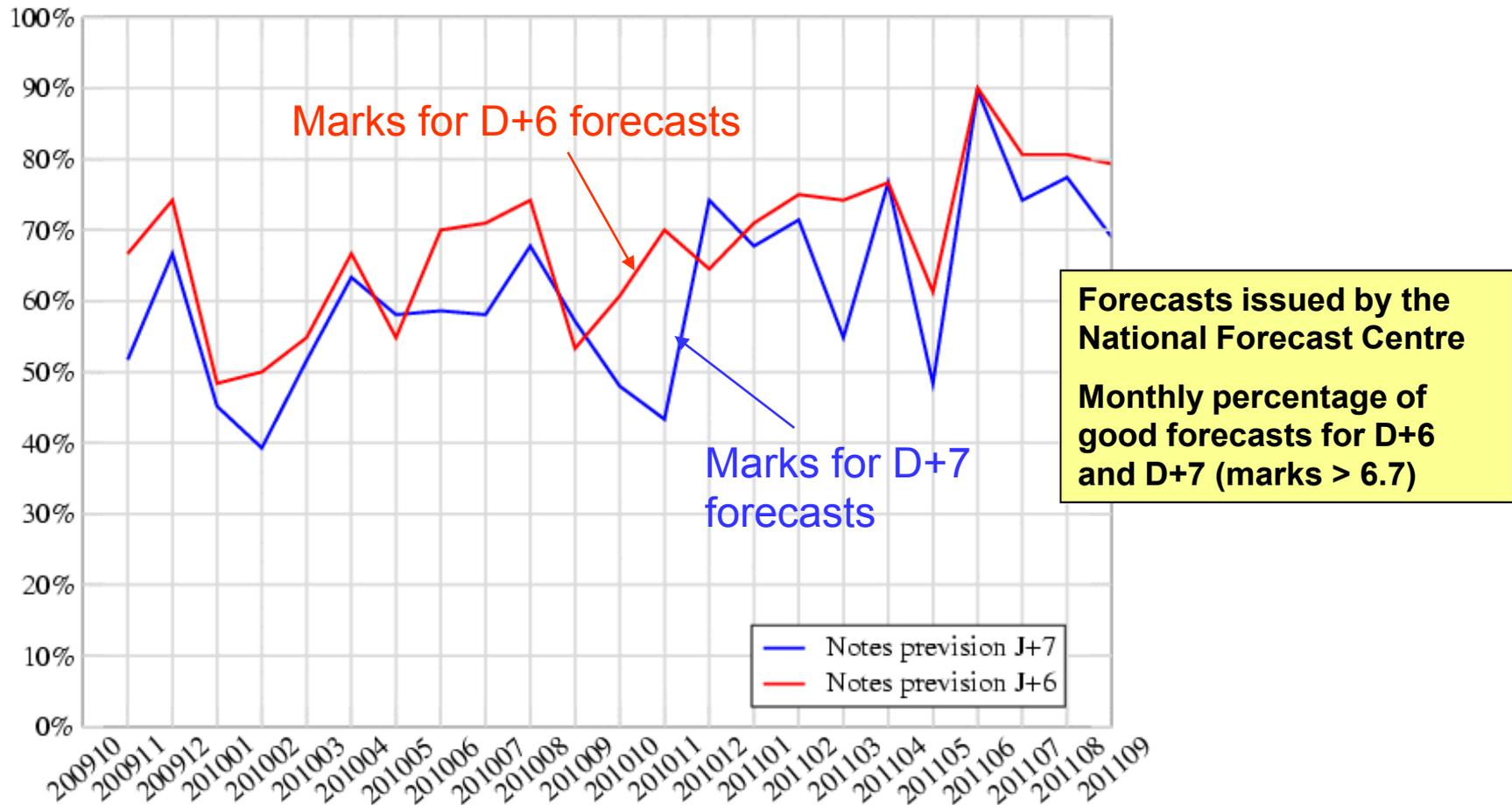


Automatic forecast verification for D+6/D+7

(from Oct. 2009 to Sept. 2011)

Controle de la prevision moyenne echeance du CNP

pourcentage mensuel de bonnes previsions (notes > 6.7)



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Conclusion on medium range forecast

- Good signal for the large scale, got from the EPS products, complemented by IFS and other ensemble products
- Good interpretation of the forecasters :
 - Based on production of weather symbols
 - Also for severe weather events
- Interest of a human interpretation :
 - Synthesis of global and local data
 - Synthesis of the most likely weather-type
 - To bring out risk of dangerous phenomena (strong winds, snow, thunderstorms, heavy rain)

Outline

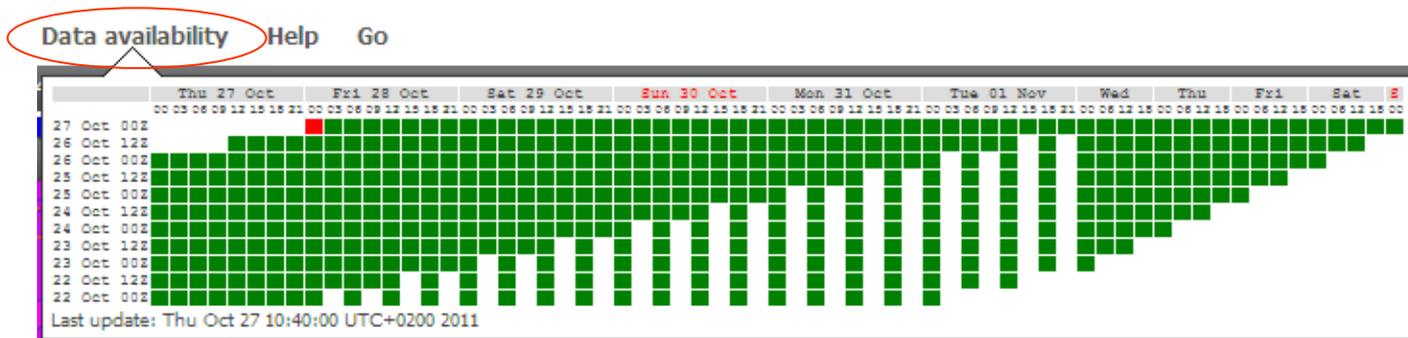
Use of ECMWF products at Météo-France :

- Severe weather forecast for D+2 and D+3
- Medium and extended range forecast
- **Feedback on ecCharts**
- Tropical cyclone forecast

Thanks to Thierry Dupont, Nicole Girardot, Philippe Caroff, Matthieu Plu, Ghislain Faure

Feedback on ecCharts (1)

- Forecasters of the National Forecast Center have tested the new ECMWF Website ecCharts/Forecasters during Summer 2011
 - Test by almost 20 forecasters
 - 11 forecasters filled an evaluation form
- Interesting tools
 - Map navigation and zoom tools
 - Data availability menu



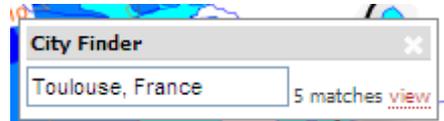
- Time navigator (change of valid time or base time), **but too slow**

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Feedback on ecCharts (2)

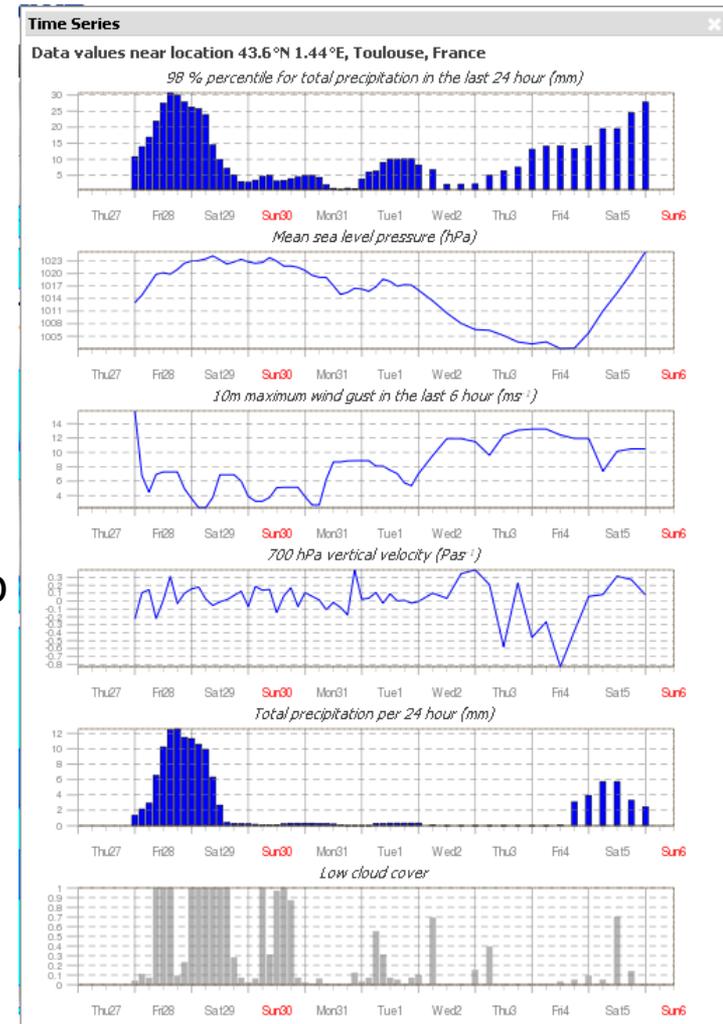
- Interesting tools and products

- City-finder
- Time series
- Meteograms
- Interactive probabilities maps
- Principle of layers



- Tools which should be improved :

- Animation : it could be possible to choose the step and start/end of the animation loop
- Layers : it should be possible to adjust the transparency of the layers, and to display isolines (instead of colors)
- Bigger characters in the menus



Feedback on ecCharts (3)

- Missing tools and products :
 - Spaghetti diagrams (Z500 and MSLP)
 - Vertical profiles and cuts
 - Superposition of several runs
 - Several display windows
- Conclusion :
 - Several interesting tools and products
 - Complementary to other tools (Synergie workstation, internal Website)
 - Needs to be improved for operational forecasting (display speed, other products)

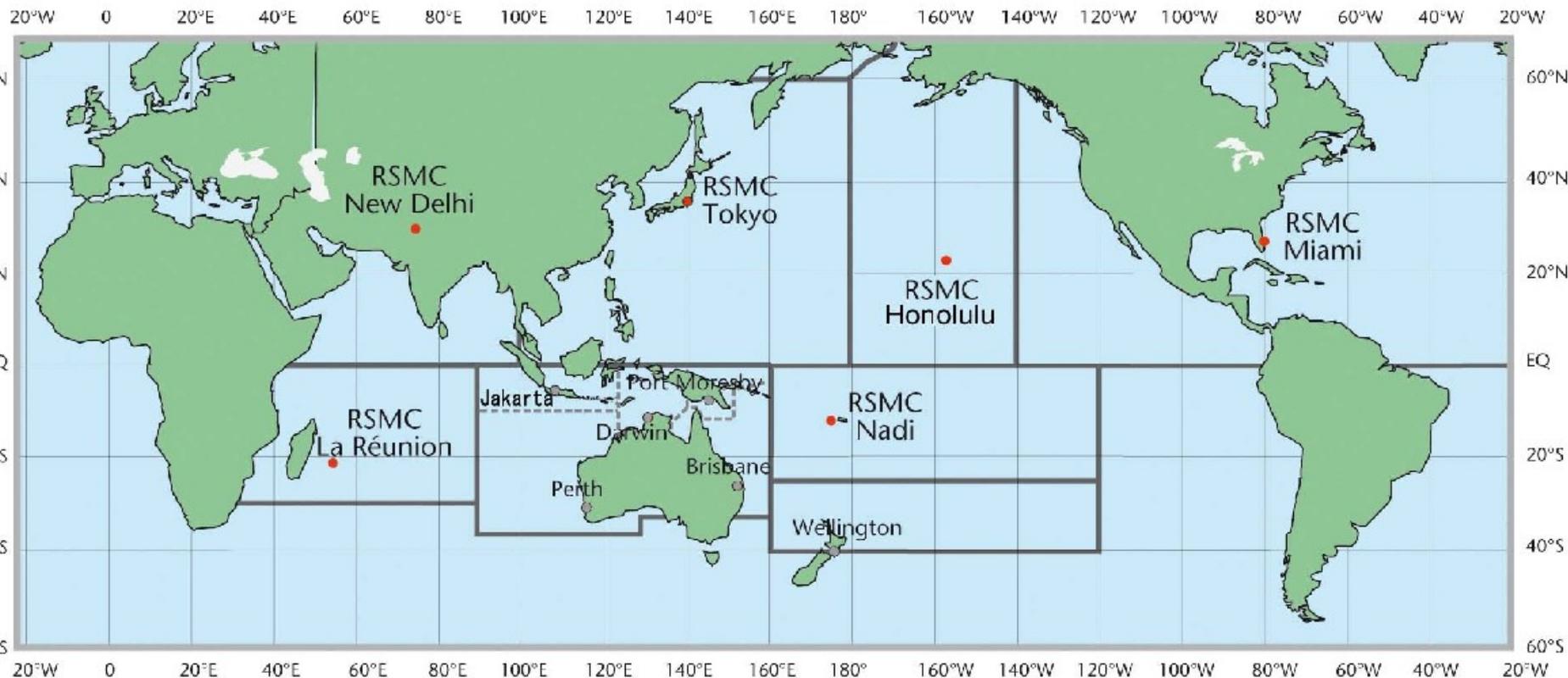
Outline

Use of ECMWF products at Météo-France :

- Severe weather forecast for D+2 and D+3
- Medium and extended range forecast
- Feedback on ecCharts
- **Tropical cyclone forecast**

Thanks to Thierry Dupont, Nicole Girardot, Philippe Caroff, Matthieu Plu, Ghislain Faure

Tropical cyclone watch in the world



A specific organization, under control of World Meteorological Organization (WMO) for managing a major natural hazard : 6 RSMC (Regional Specialized Meteorological Centres) and 6 TCWC (Tropical Cyclone Warning Centres).

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RA = Regional Associations

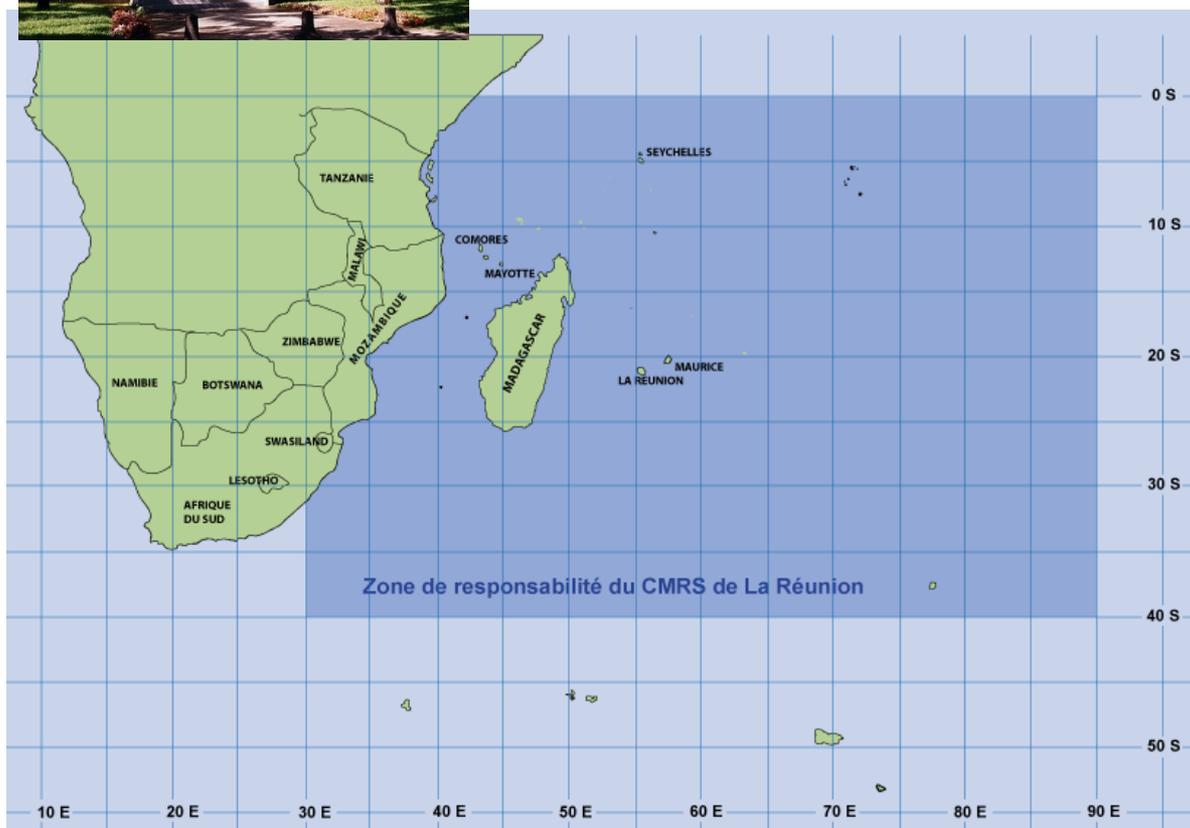


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The RSMC / Tropical Cyclones of La Réunion



- An international responsibility of Météo-France
 - towards the 15 countries members of the Tropical Cyclone Committee for the South-West Indian Ocean,
 - with a view to reducing the loss of life and mitigating the damage to property caused by tropical cyclones.



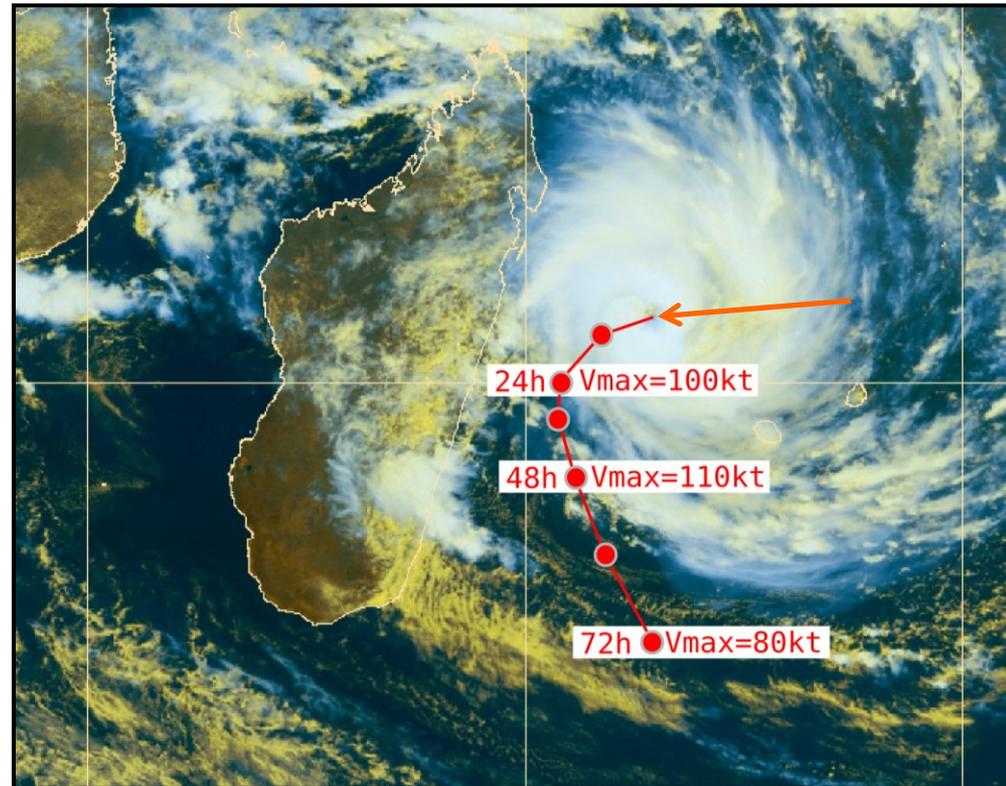
The 3 main missions of the RSMC of La Réunion

- **Operational** : to issue informations on all tropical disturbances tracking in the area
- **Research** : to improve the numerical models and to develop tools adapted to TC forecast
- **Training** : organization of training courses, forecasters' exchanges



Tropical cyclone forecast : challenges

- Challenges of tropical cyclone forecast :
 - Cyclogenesis
 - Future track
 - Intensity evolution
 - Consequences (distribution of strong winds, heavy rainfall, cyclonic swell and storm surge)
- The RSMC of La Réunion (Météo-France) sends tropical cyclone track and intensity forecasts (up to 120 hours range now) to the meteorological services
- National meteorological services issue forecasts and warnings at national scale.

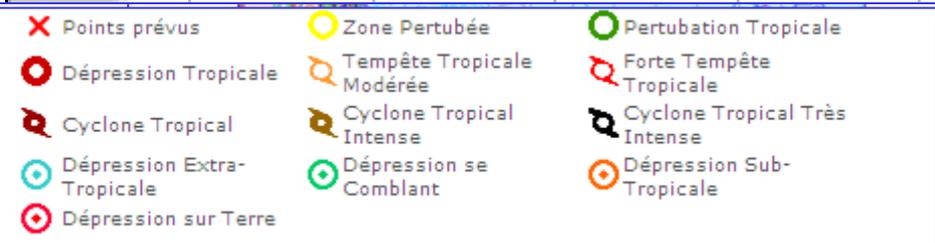
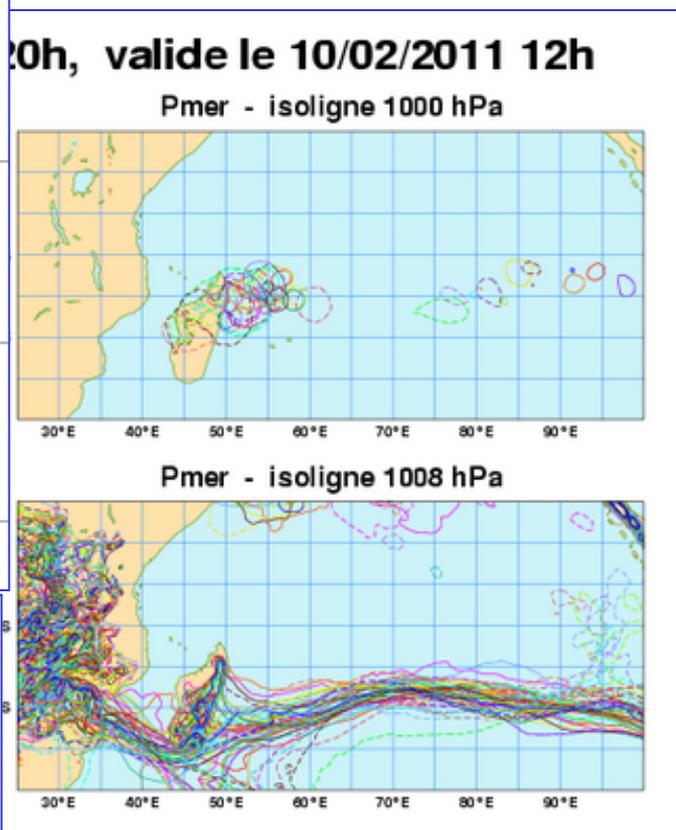
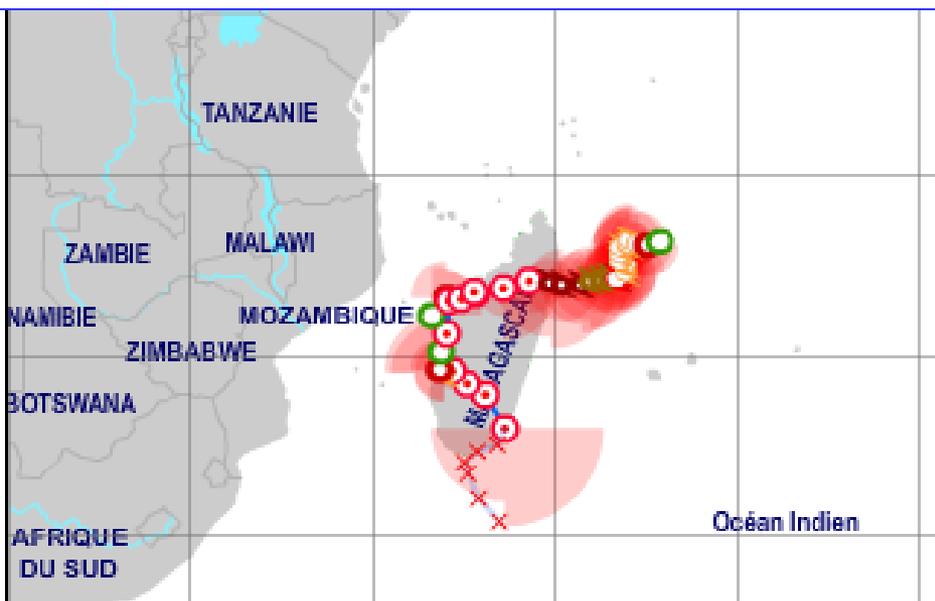


GAEL, 06/02/2009, 06 UTC
10 minutes average wind~ 80 kt

Track forecast is an essential data element !

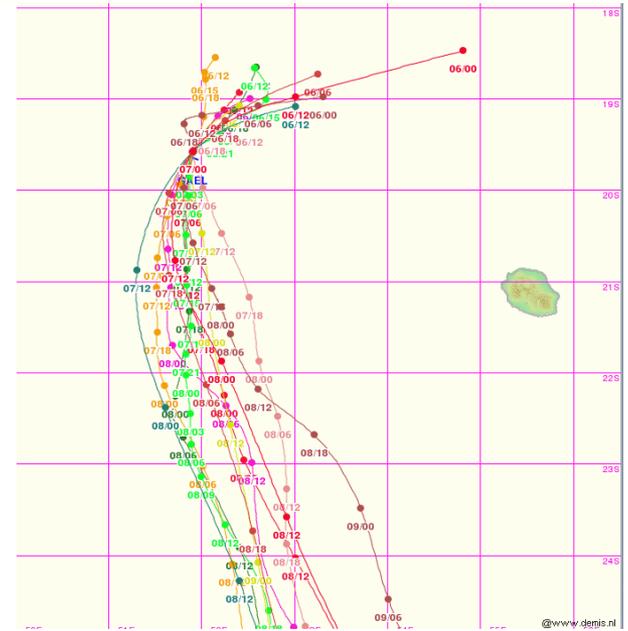
Use of spaghetti diagrams for cyclogenesis forecast

- EPS spaghettiis MSLLP, base 5 February 2011 12h
- Cyclogenesis of TC Bingiza

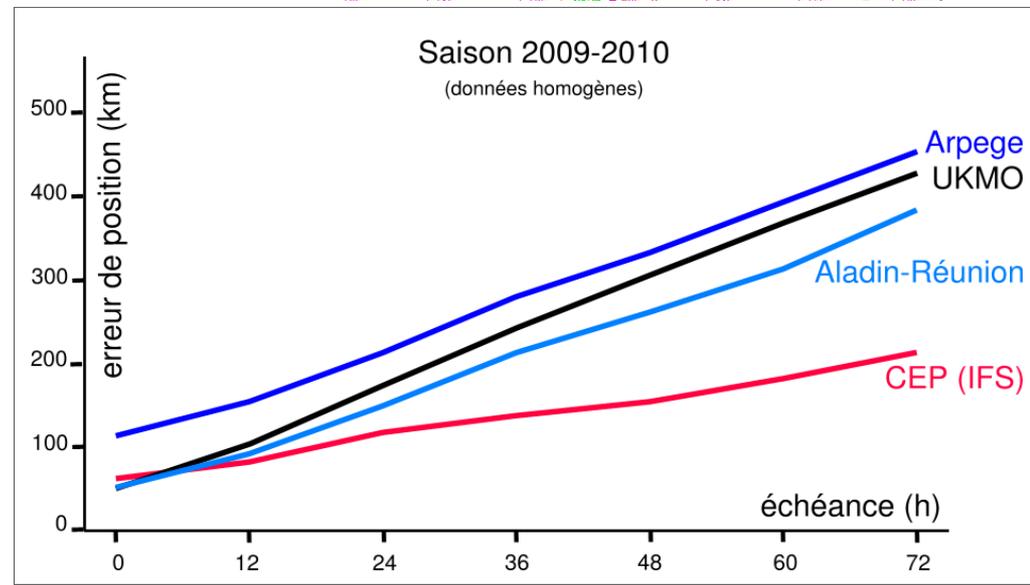


Tropical cyclone track forecast

- The main tool for track forecast : NWP
- Models available for TC forecast :
 - Arpege, Aladin-Réunion
 - IFS (ECMWF), UK-MetOffice
 - US models : GFS, GFDL, JTWC consensus
- Ensemble products :
 - EPS (CEPMMT), PEARP, NCEP, CMC, MOGREPS (UKMO) since last



- In spite of huge improvements, deterministic track forecasts remain tainted with important errors

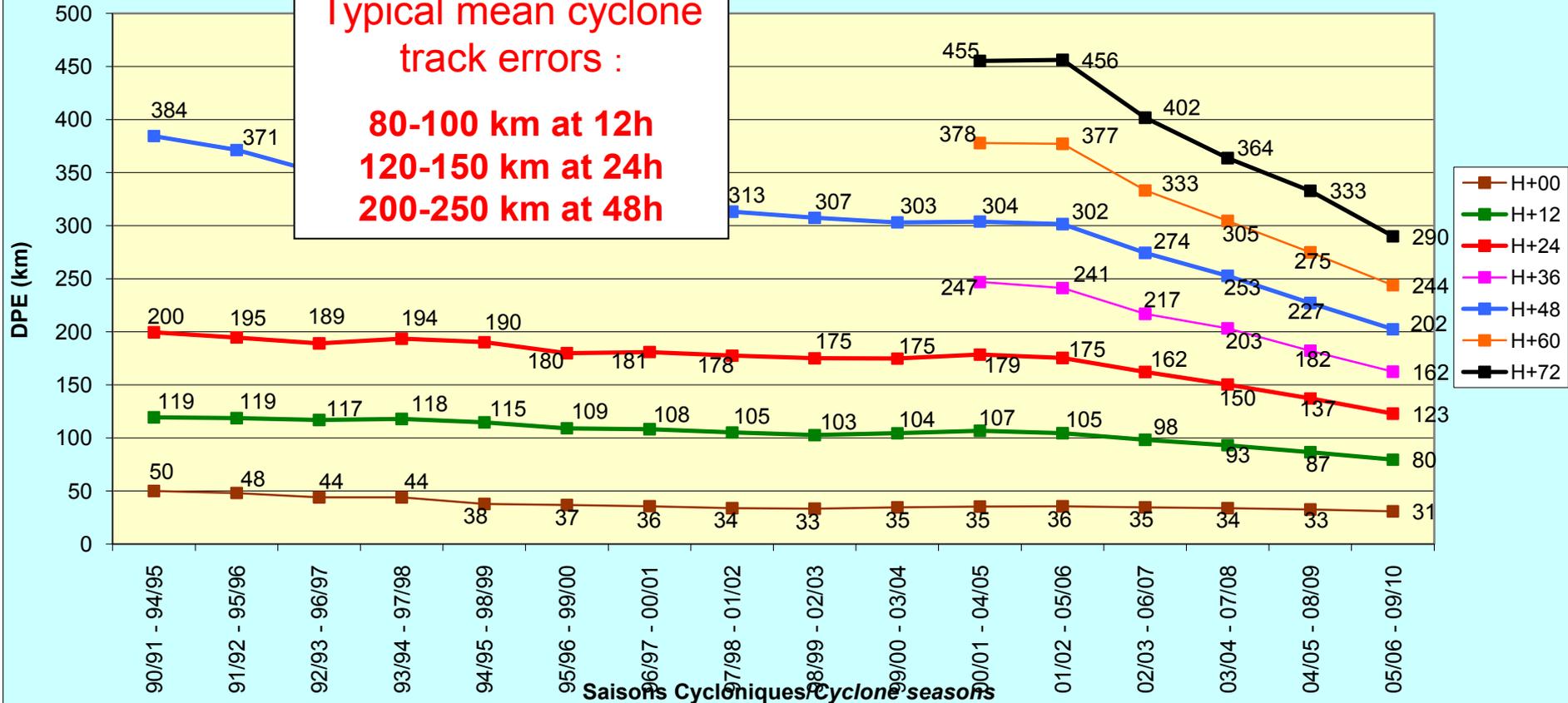


Tropical cyclone track forecast errors (RSMC of La Réunion)

Evolution Interannuelle des prévisions du CMRS
Moyennes glissantes sur 5 ans (sauf H+36, H+60, H+72)
Toutes Intensités confondues

All intensities
5 years mean errors

Typical mean cyclone track errors :
80-100 km at 12h
120-150 km at 24h
200-250 km at 48h



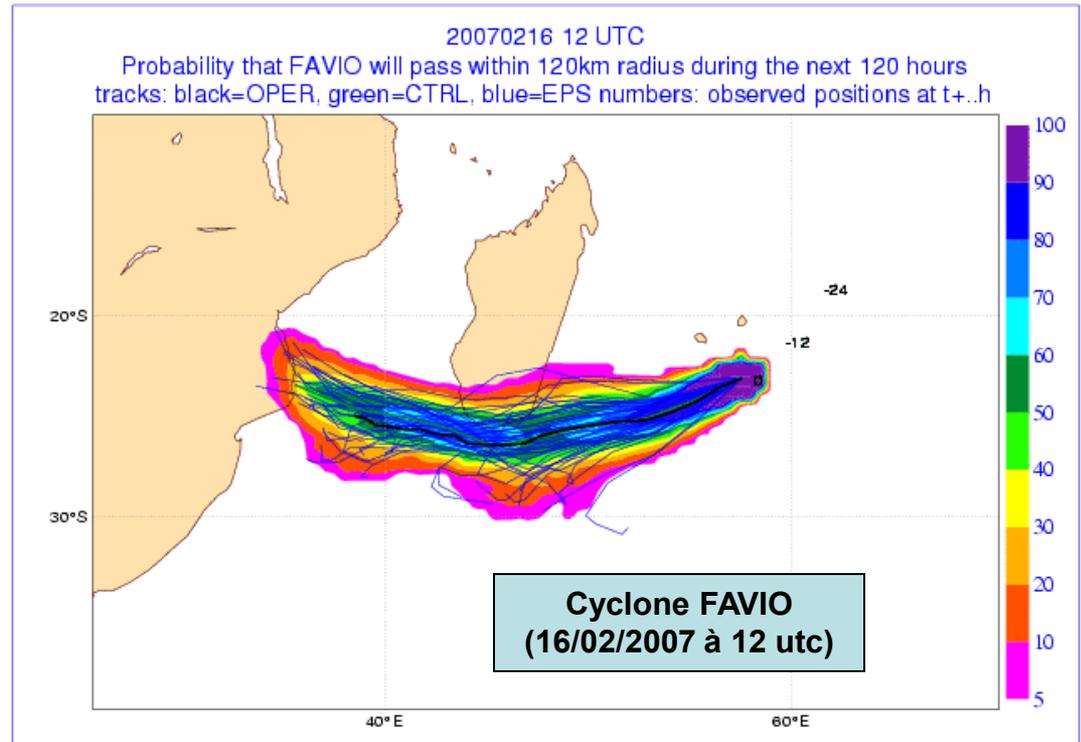
Conclusion : the quality of track forecast remains a limiting factor → importance of a warning system.

The ensemble prediction : a tool for a better estimation of the forecast uncertainty

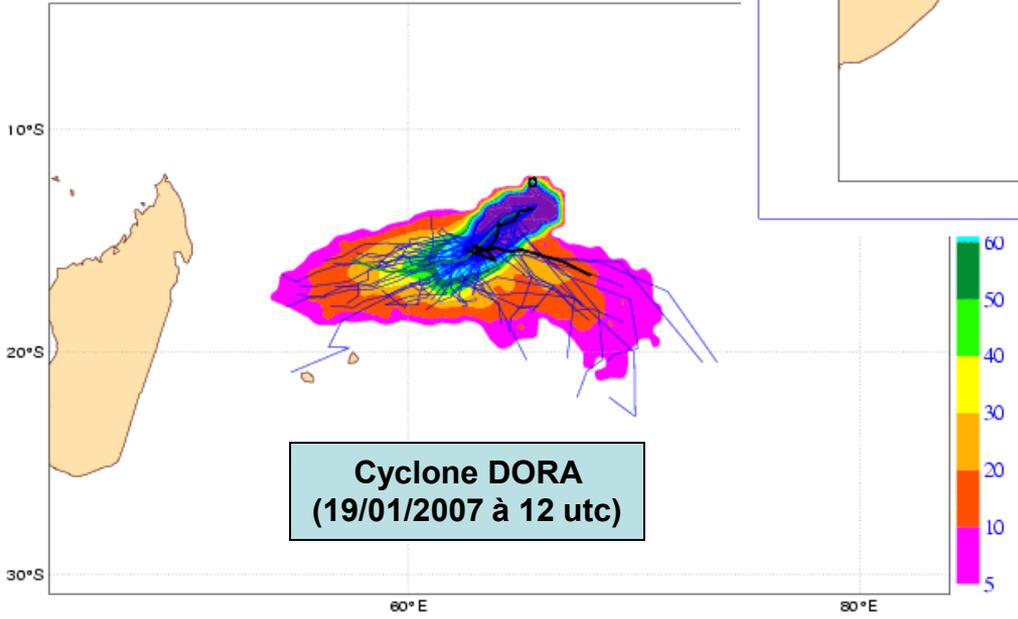
The EPS products have been proved reliable :

- for track forecasts
- and also for an estimation of the forecast uncertainty.

Both are important for risk managers and public agencies.

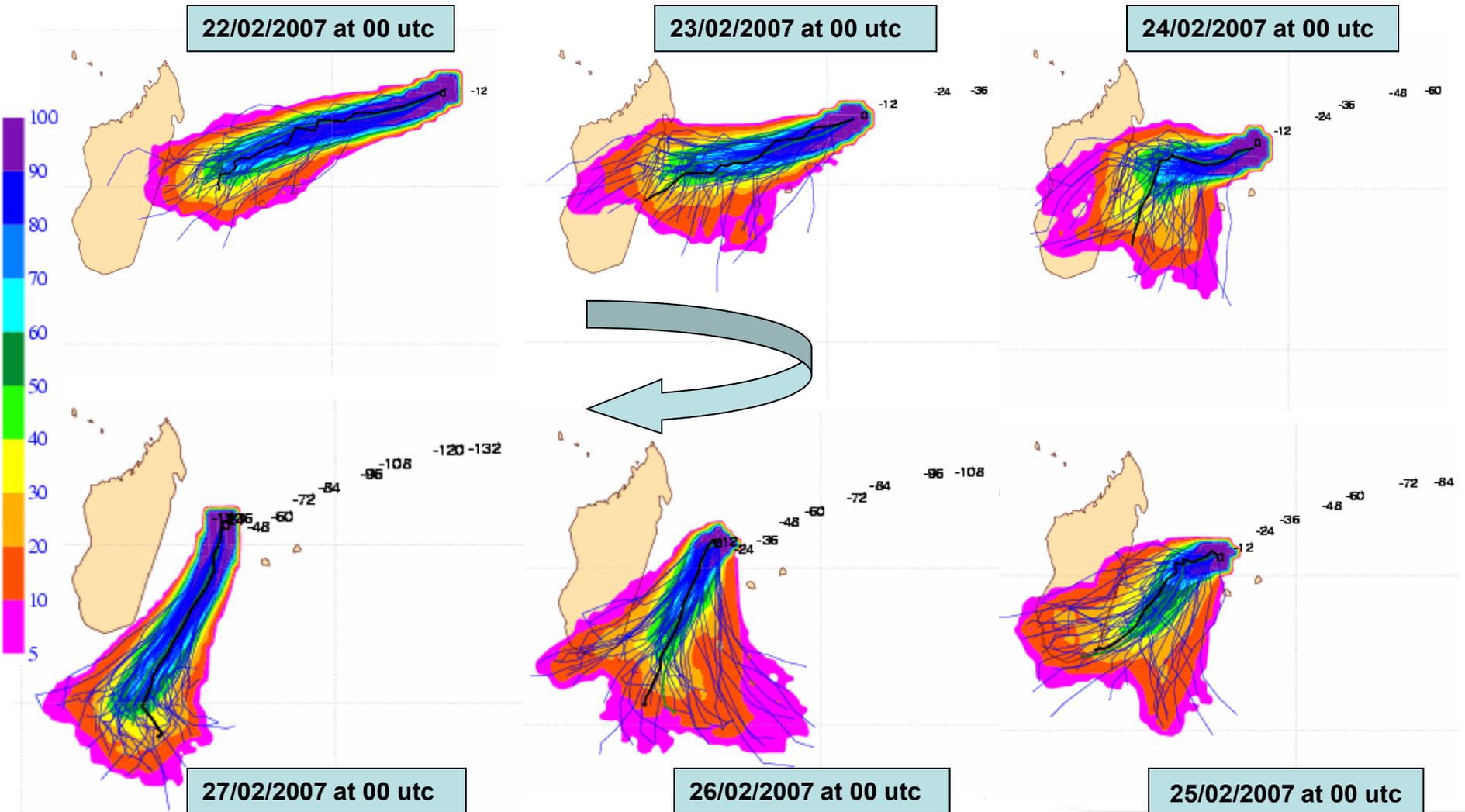


20070129 12 UTC
Probability that DORA will pass within 120km radius during the next 120 hours
tracks: black=OPER, green=CTRL, blue=EPS numbers: observed positions at t+.h



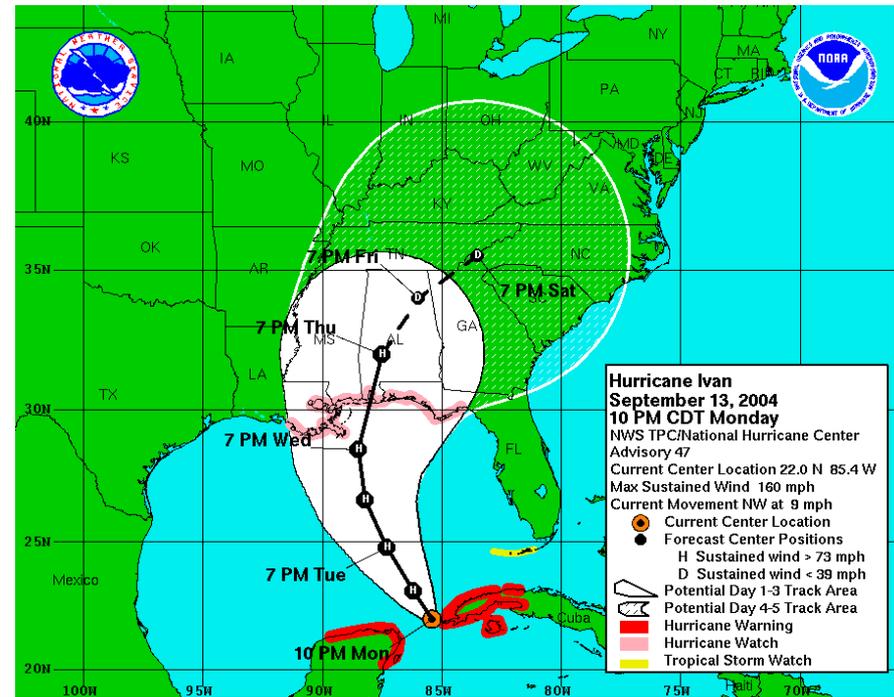
On line forecasts from different ensembles including EPS are available on an external Website for the South West Indian Ocean Meteorological Centres.

Forecast tracks from the ECMWF ensemble prediction for TC GAMEDE (22-27 February 2007)



Ensemble-based uncertainty circles around track forecasts

- Several tropical cyclone forecast centres issue an uncertainty information around their official track forecasts :
 - generally using the climatological distribution of position error
 - such methods are not able to convey an information that is case-dependent
- Therefore, the RSMC of La Réunion has developed a new technique :
 - to measure and to display the uncertainty around its official track forecast until to 3 days lead time
 - with uncertainty circles based on EPS.

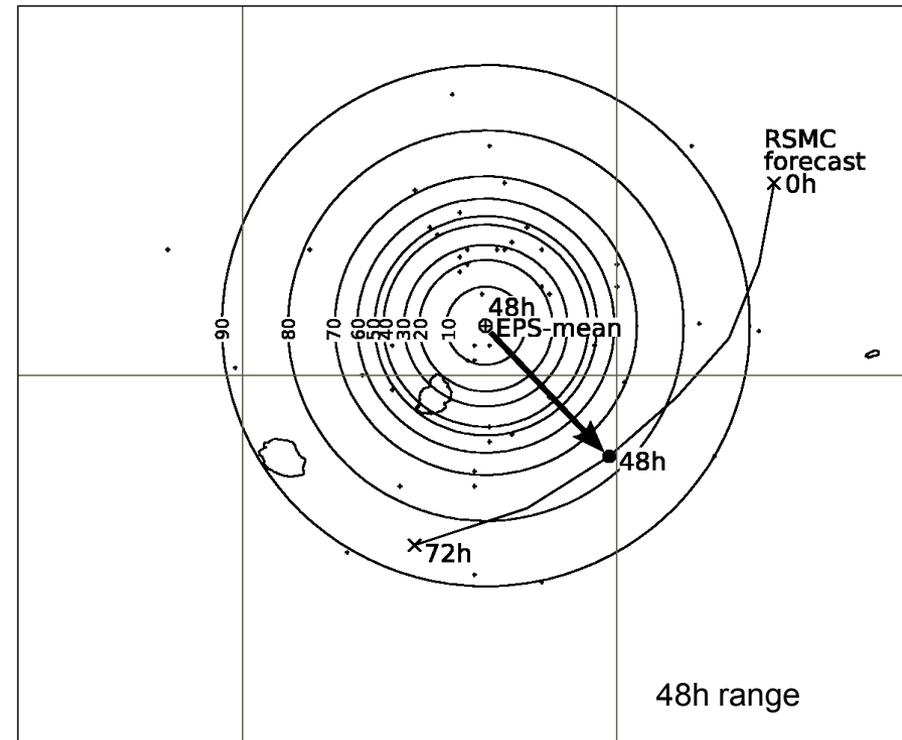
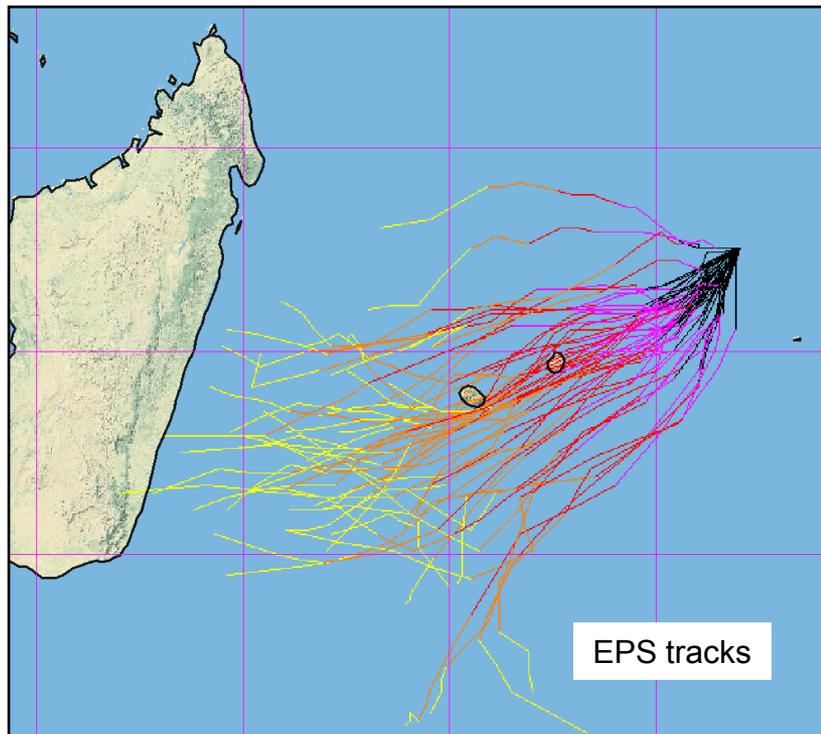


Thierry Dupont², Matthieu Plu¹, Philippe Caroff² and Ghislain Faure¹, 2011 : Verification of ensemble-based uncertainty circles around tropical cyclone track forecasts, *American Meteorological Society, Weather and Forecasting, Volume 26, Number 5 (October 2011).*

- (1) Laboratoire de l'Atmosphère et des Cyclones
- (2) Service de prévision cyclonique (DIRRE/CYC)

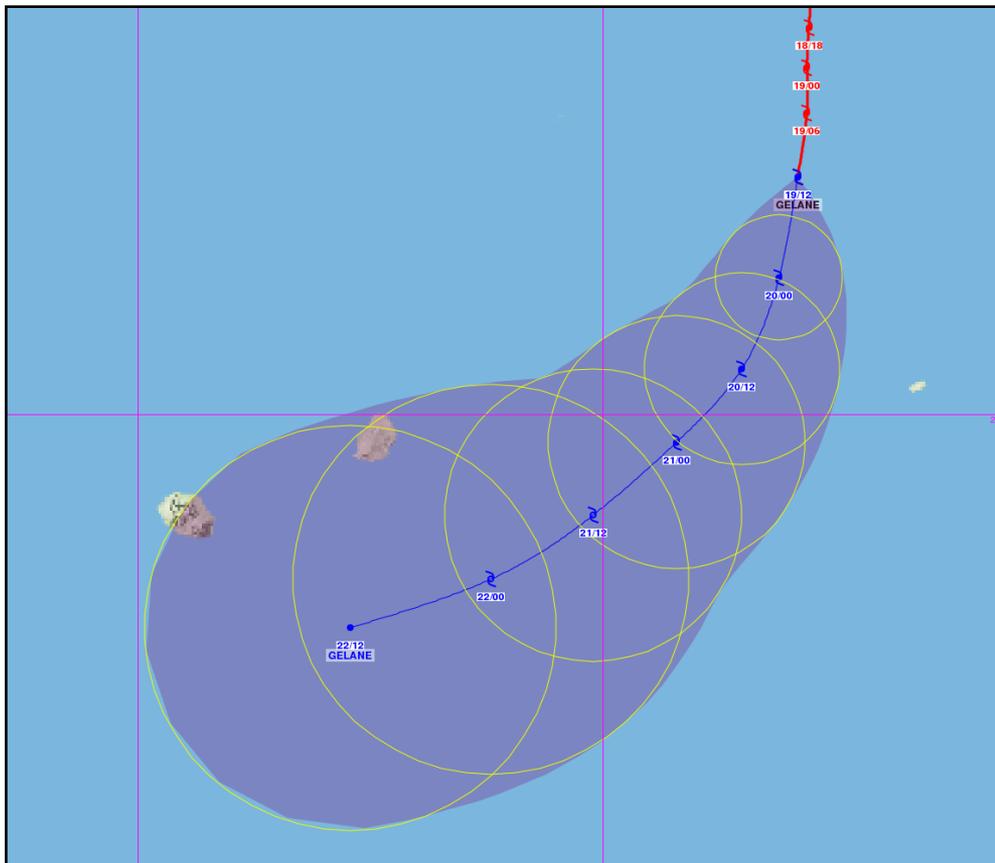
Construction of uncertainty circles

- For each range of EPS forecast :
 - Radius from EPS-mean position is calculated as $x\%$ of the EPS members are inner the circle (EPS forecast accuracy was calibrated at first)
 - This probabilistic circle is translated around RSMC forecasted position.



Construction of uncertainty cones

- The uncertainty circles correspond to calibrated probabilities of 75% (calibration with Brier scores)
- The succession of circles form an uncertainty cone :



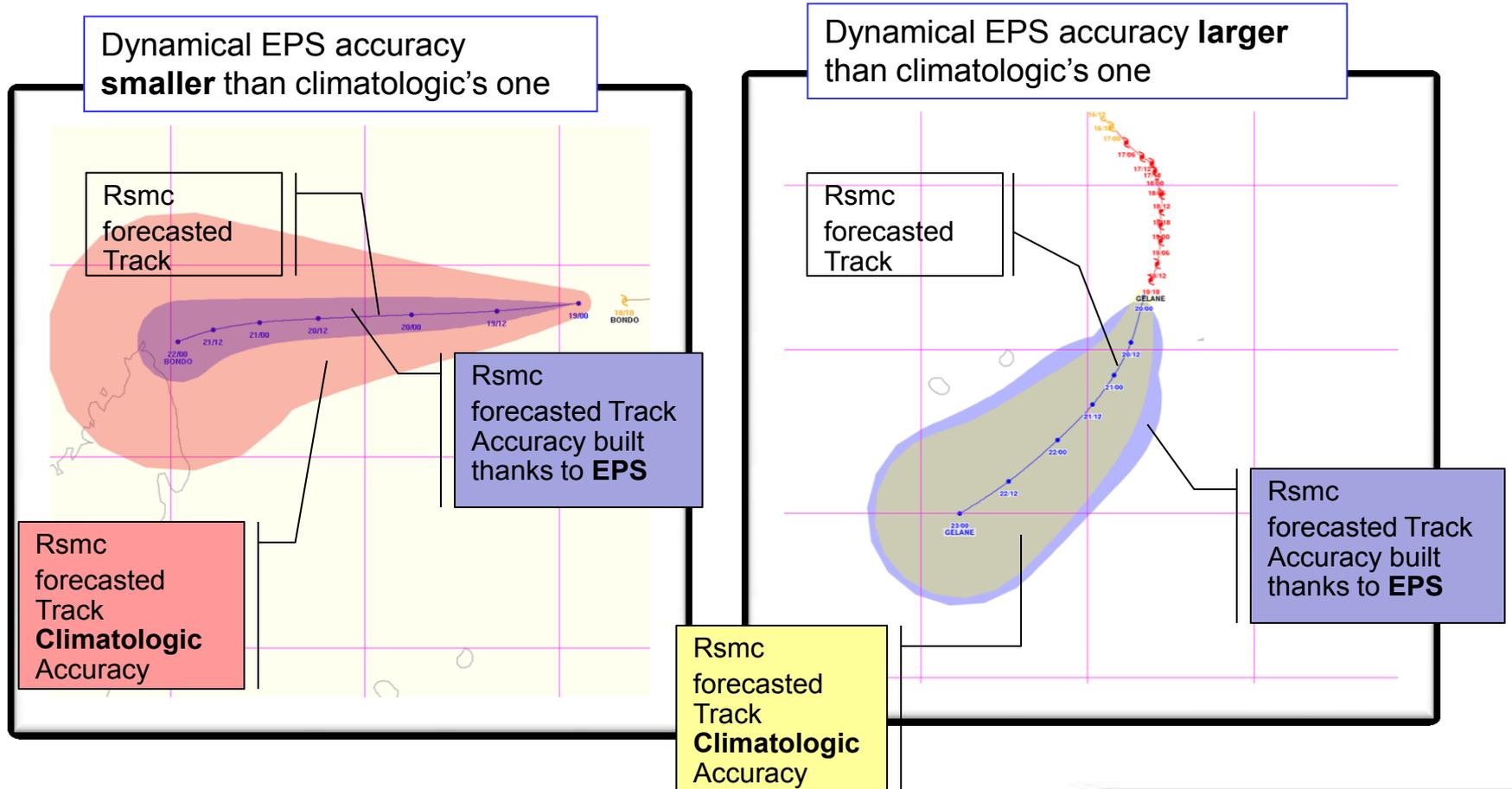
Oct 2011



METEO FRANCE
Toujours un temps d'avance

Graphic Production of the uncertainty circles

- CXML file with RSMC position and calibrated EPS accuracy is produced and visualized thanks to Synergie Cyclone.



Verification of EPS-based uncertainty circles

- The verification of this technique has showed that the probabilistic forecasts have better scores than the climatology
- Secondly, the skill of uncertainty circles - built by fixing the calibrated probability at 75% - at detecting the small and the large error values is assessed :
 - At least until the 3-days term for large errors
 - Only until 2-days lead time for small radii
- The forecaster will keep the choice of the cone size
- Perspectives :
 - To evaluate and compare other ensemble forecasts (PEARP, MOGREPS...)
 - Other forms than a circle ? Ellipsis ...
 - Towards a strictly probabilistic approach ? ...

Thank you for attention

October 2011