Second Session of
SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE CLIMATE OUTLOOK FORUM (SEECOF-2)
23-27 November 2009, Budapest, Hungary

SEASONAL CLIMATE OUTLOOK FOR 2009-10 WINTER OVER SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE

CONSENSUS STATEMENT

Experts from National Meteorological and Hydrological Services in the Southeastern Europe and South Caucasian regions, Météo France and World Meteorological Organization (WMO), in the Second Regional Climate Outlook Forum held during 23-27 November 2009, examined the available national and global information on the predictions for the coming winter season (December 2009 to February 2010) and prepared a consensus statement indicating the expected seasonal mean temperature and rainfall conditions over the region. In doing so, the experts were guided by inputs from WMO El Niño/La Niña Update, WMO Global Producing Centres of Long Range Forecasts, notably Météo France, UK Met Office, European Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasts, WMO Lead Centre for Long Range Forecast Multi-Model Ensembles, International Research Institute for Climate and Society and regional/national level forecasts.

The main features considered for preparing the outlook are the global sea surface temperature conditions, particularly over the Equatorial Pacific, and North Atlantic and Indian Ocean, which are believed to influence the winter conditions over Southeastern Europe. It has been noted that an El Niño event, which started in June 2009, is well established across the tropical Pacific and that there is a high degree of agreement among the various global prediction systems that the El Niño conditions are very likely to continue at least through the remainder of 2009 and into the first quarter of 2010. These El Niño conditions are reaching their peak phase and the sea-surface temperatures are expected to slightly decrease, though warm conditions are expected to continue over equatorial Pacific in the coming season. The tropical Atlantic is expected to be warmer than normal. In the mid-latitudes of the North Atlantic, cold conditions are expected to occur in the western part of the basin. Over the Indian Ocean, there is a general indication that the sea surface temperatures will be considerably warmer than normal in the coming winter season, particularly over the western part of the basin. The conditions in the Mediterranean Sea do not indicate any major anomalous pattern. The observed and predicted situation of these sea surface temperature patterns are considered to have a bearing on the winter conditions over Southeastern Europe.

TEMPERATURE OUTLOOK

There is a high degree of consistency among the global model forecasts of surface air temperature over Southeastern Europe in the coming winter season. The available country-level forecasts, also indicate similar patterns. Based on these signals and interpretation of the potential links of climate variability over Southeastern Europe with other global factors, experts have concluded by consensus that the temperatures during 2009-10 winter season over the Southeastern Europe region are very likely to be above normal. Warmer winter conditions are expected to prevail over all parts of Southeastern Europe and the South Caucasian regions.

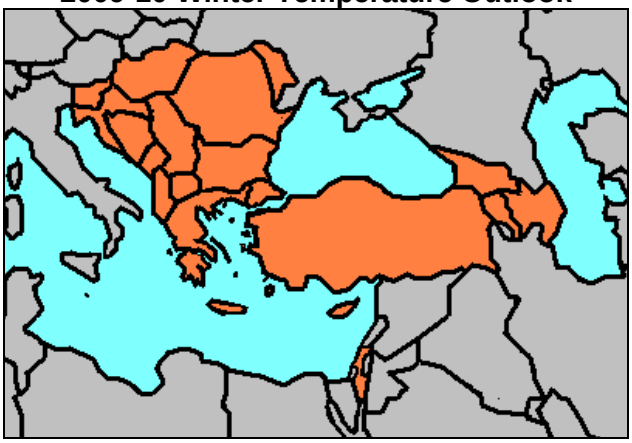
PRECIPITATION OUTLOOK

Unlike in the case of temperatures, the consistency among the global model forecasts of winter precipitation over Southeastern Europe and South Caucasian region is substantially low. No clear signals have emerged from the national forecasts also, and there are no reliable indications of the influence of global factors in the winter precipitation variability over the sub-region. It is therefore concluded that there is no evidence at this time for the winter precipitation for the sub-region as a whole to be above-normal, normal or below normal. However, there is a relatively greater likelihood of winter precipitation to be slightly above normal over the northwestern parts of the sub-region.

CONCLUSION

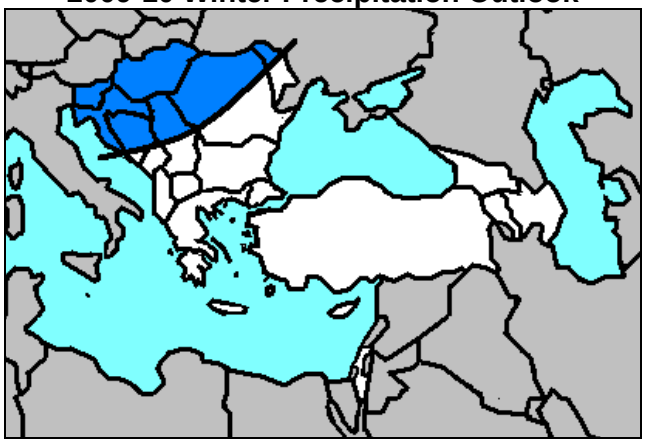
Warmer winter is expected over Southeastern Europe and South Caucasian region in 2009-10. Reliable forecasts of winter precipitation are not available at this time, but the northwestern parts of the sub-region have a slightly enhanced likelihood of above-normal precipitation.

2009-10 Winter Temperature Outlook



Above Normal
Normal
Below Normal

2009-10 Winter Precipitation Outlook



Above Normal
Normal
Below Normal