

WGCEF 2021 round table: RMI Belgium

Thursday 11 November 2021 - Thomas Vanhamel

Updates from the weather office

- Since 2020: 2 new full-time meteorologists hired; 1 retired
- Working from home goes smoothly (great assistance from IT): medium range and nowcast shifts are 100% telework, short range forecast shift 100% in Uccle
- Clients: Flemish & Walloon road agency + a possible new contract with a media channel (not certain)
- Meteoalarm: implementation of CAP
- Ongoing bilateral talks/discussions to increase cooperation with regional hydrological services (after disastrous floods in Wallonia in July)

Updates from research & development & IT

- Major improvements in road model (radiation & cloudiness)
- Developments of post-processed products: MOS from ECMWF (Tmin, Tmax, gusts, ... At station locations); ongoing: MOS on grid instead of at fixed locations
- More models are available to forecasters:
 - ALARO 13 is operational after development stage
 - Arome BE runs locally
 - ICON
- New radar products (improved QPE, SVI “severe weather indication” & TVD “tornado vortex detection”)
- Ongoing: plans to set up a “climate centre” in Belgium, cooperation between federal & regional scientific agencies (like IRM, observatory, ...) and universities