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زبانهای اروپایی

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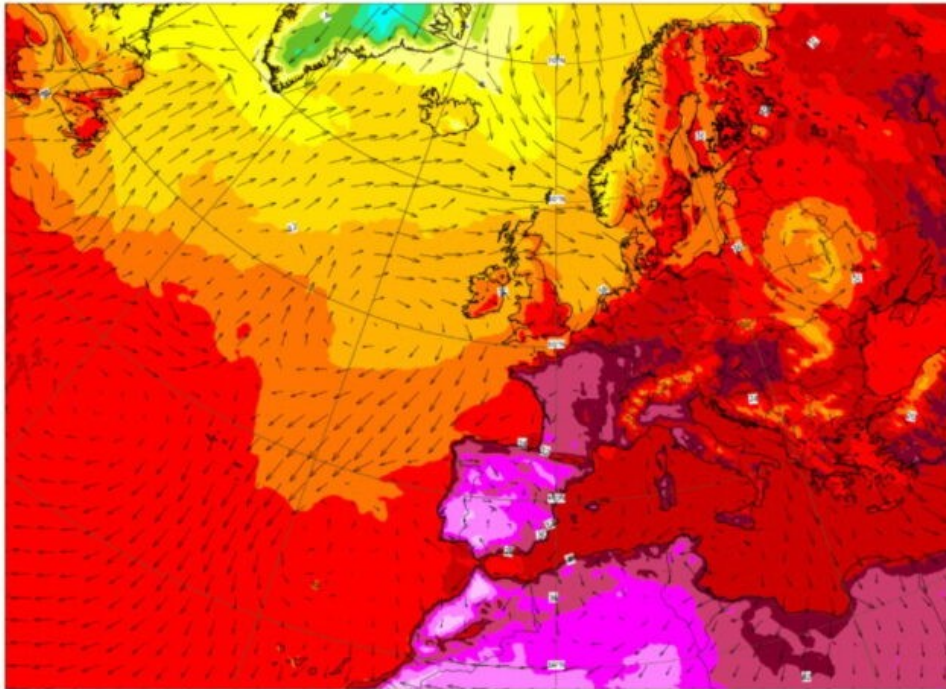
27.07.2022

Europe burns

Planet Earth tests positive for anti-doping

2 m temperature and 30 m

Base time: Mon 11 Jul 2022 00 UTC Valid time: Wed 13 Jul 2022 15 UTC



Sources: Rebellion

Western Europe cooks up and breaks all-time temperature records. This situation is nothing more than a foretaste of what awaits the entire planet, at least until 2060.

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Extreme heat in the west of the European continent is causing dangerous forest fires in France, Spain and Greece, as well as an unprecedented drought in Italy and Portugal, which reached 47 degrees Celsius on July 19. The United Kingdom reached more than 40 degrees Celsius on Tuesday, the highest mark recorded so far in that country. Temperatures exploded in Belgium and the Netherlands. Until Wednesday 20, however, the record of 2021, the 48.8 degrees of Sicily, had not been exceeded in Europe.

AN OVEN ON THE HEAD

According to various experts, this heat wave was born in North Africa and from there it moved north. Result of the conjunction of a warming caused by summer temperatures in the Sahara Desert and a low pressure marine system, formed between the Atlantic islands of Madeira and Azores.

This extreme wave affected the German capital on Wednesday, July 20. In Berlin there were marks close to 40 degrees. A day earlier, in Duisburg, in the west of the country, it reached 39.5 degrees, thus surpassing the record of 2021 (39.2 degrees on June 19) although not the historical record of 41.2 degrees in July 2019.

The German weather service announced that it is likely that in this country, as in other European nations, temperatures above 40 degrees will be reached more and more frequently. Until now, this situation with repeated temperatures of 40 degrees or more was considered an exceptional fact.

For its part, the Spanish State Meteorological Agency (AEMET), reported on the third Wednesday of July, that the "anomaly" — the difference between the temperature that can be considered as a heat wave and the one actually recorded — was very high: 4.2 degrees in the Iberian country. Anomaly that exceeds that of August 2021 and that represents a record since the measurements began, in 1975.

In direct relation to the high temperatures, Radio Television Española reported on July 21 that in nine days there were 1,047 deaths. For its part, in Portugal, different media spoke of more than 1,000 deaths until July 19. The European heat wave of 2003 produced, according to data from the United Nations (UN), about 75,000 deaths.

In the same period (around July 18 and 19) Switzerland reported an emergency situation in some of its Latin cantons due to the extraordinary heat and several cities established strict rules for the control of water use, an almost unprecedented fact in this Alpine reserve of drinking water. With only 40 thousand kilometers it concentrates 6% of the freshwater reserves of the entire continent. Much higher percentage if only the amount of fresh water received from the Alps by its neighbors: Italy, France, Germany and Austria, receive from the Alps.

NOVEL, BUT NOT EXCEPTIONAL

This climatic situation, which at one time would have been considered "exceptional", begins to outline what will be the norm for the next 40 years.

Heat waves such as the one Europe is currently experiencing will become more frequent and will continue at least until 2060, Finnish Petteri Talas, secretary-general of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) that is part of the UN system, said on July 19.

And he ratified what everyone already knows: that this weather pattern is related to global warming resulting from human activity, a reality that increases concern when we think about the future. In other words, Talas insists, "heat waves are becoming more common because of climate change."

Appealing to a sporting analogy, he explained that "we have doped the atmosphere," injecting it with enormous amounts of greenhouse gases, especially carbon dioxide, and for this reason warming and other trends "will continue at least until 2060, regardless of the success or not [of efforts] to mitigate climate change."

The effects of *doping* on a human being do not disappear from one day to the next. The doping suffered by the Earth will force a detoxification of decades, even if ideal conditions were given from a significant reduction in the greenhouse effect. At the moment this reduction is not being achieved. In short: at huge doses, profound effects and long-range therapies, without any security of real cure.

Talas also said that, in the future, "these types of heat waves will be normal and we will see even stronger extremes." And he accepted that "we have already lost the game when it comes to the melting of the glaciers. This phenomenon will continue for the next few hundred years or even thousands of years... [and therefore] sea level rise will continue" for an equal amount of time.

PURE *DOPING*

Spokesmen for the World Health Organization (WHO) stressed that the heat wave means a challenge to health, since when confronted with very high temperatures, the body has to fight hard to keep its internal temperature stable. This fight generates fatigue, heat stroke, hypertension, hyperthermia and a change in behavior, which, in general, can be aggravated by the irregularity of rest, with negative consequences for the psychological and emotional stability of the human being.

No less significant are the polluting effects. Extreme temperatures form a kind of atmospheric cap that pollutes and degrades air quality, with negative consequences for health, especially in vulnerable people, such as the elderly. In many European countries, this climatic situation is complicated by the direct impact of the "winds of the Sahara", which for days can generate a polluting phenomenon that makes the air unbreathable. According to the WHO, a large majority (about 99%) of human beings worldwide today already breathe air that does not meet the values and health requirements defined by that organization.

For its part, the World Meteorological Organization states that the direct impact of excessive temperatures on agriculture can be dire. And remember that, during the previous heat waves in Europe, a large part of the crops was lost. In the current situation, when the grain supply is going through an already critical phase due to the war between Russia and Ukraine, this heat wave is going to operate in a doubly negative way in agricultural activities.

Europe scorched. Thermometers explode. Political power does not take responsibility for the climate emergency. And human creativity is almost not enough to dodge the hellish

heat in a region that, particularly since February, seems to have no respite between crisis, more crisis and new crisis.

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