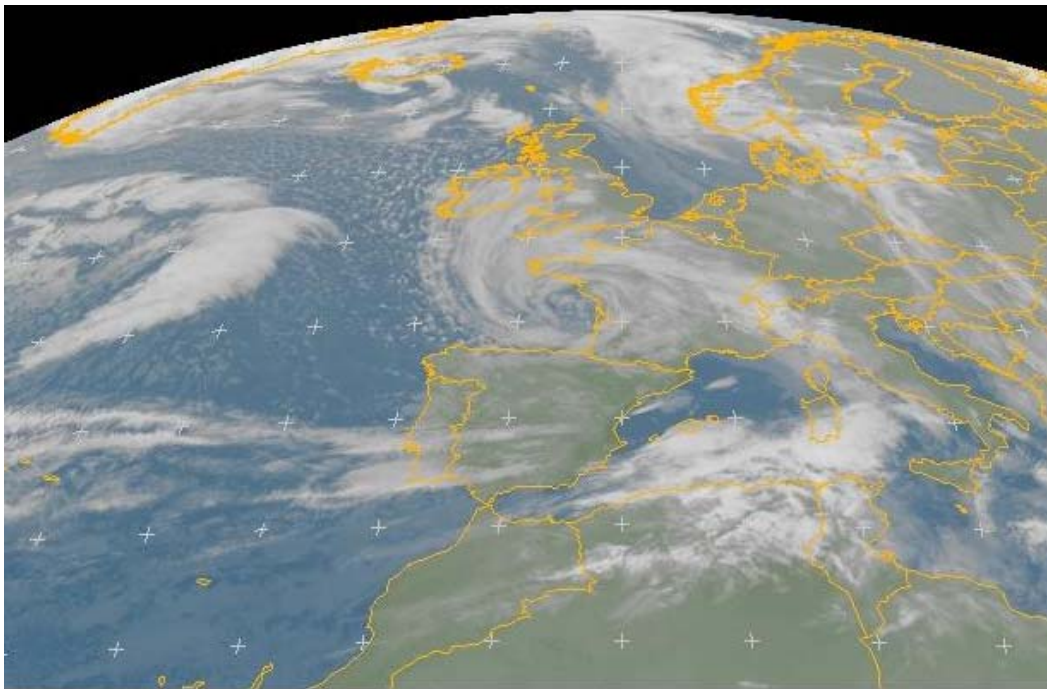


Extra Tropical Storm Klaus – France & Spain - 24 January 2009

Preliminary report

On 24 January 2009 southern France and northern Spain were affected by a severe windstorm associated with extra-tropical depression Klaus (name given by Meteorology Department of the University of Berlin).



MET9 IR108 2009-01-24 04:00 UTC

 EUMETSAT

Figure 1: Infrared satellite image showing the Klaus vortex located over the Bay of Biscay at 4 UTC, 24 January 2009 (Courtesy of: Eumetsat)

The storm swept quickly (moving at 60km/h) across southern France hitting the Atlantic coast early in the morning of January 24, reaching the Mediterranean in the early afternoon of the same day. During passage, strong gust wind speeds of up to 184 km/h were been measured in Perpignan, France and speeds of up to 194km/h have been recorded over Spain. These winds speeds correspond to those experienced in Hurricanes Category III and represent record values for this particular region While weakening in the afternoon of 24 January 2009, the storm reportedly caused waves of 10 meter and more height in the Mediterranean and still had substantial strength when reaching northern Italy.

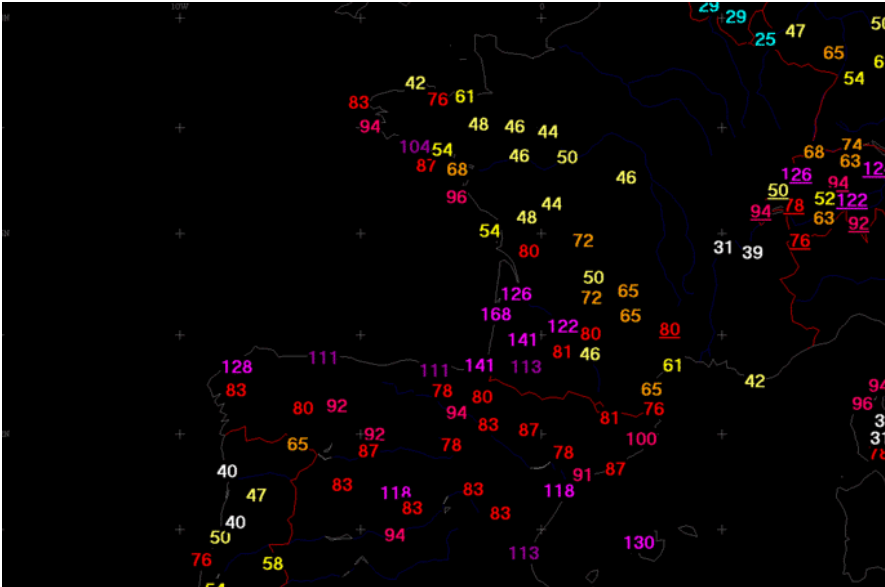


Figure 2: Maximum gust wind speeds (in km/h) recorded over southern France and northern Spain at 7 CET on 24 January 2009 (Courtesy of: MeteoGroup, Wetter24)

Klaus' severity was comparable to the one of extra tropical storm Martin, which affected the same region in December 1999. According to Meteo France, which successfully predicted the strength, as well as the timing of the storm (for the first time Meteo France issued the highest level of alert since the introduction of the alert scale eight years ago), the extra-ordinary strong event has been linked to a Jetstreak (band of strong high-level winds) descending over the Bay of Biscay (Figure 3: Image of a Klaus-related Jetstreak (red), a band of very strong winds at 9 kilometres height stretching from East Atlantic to western Europe on 23 January 2009, 00Z (Courtesy of: MeteoGroup, Wetter24)).

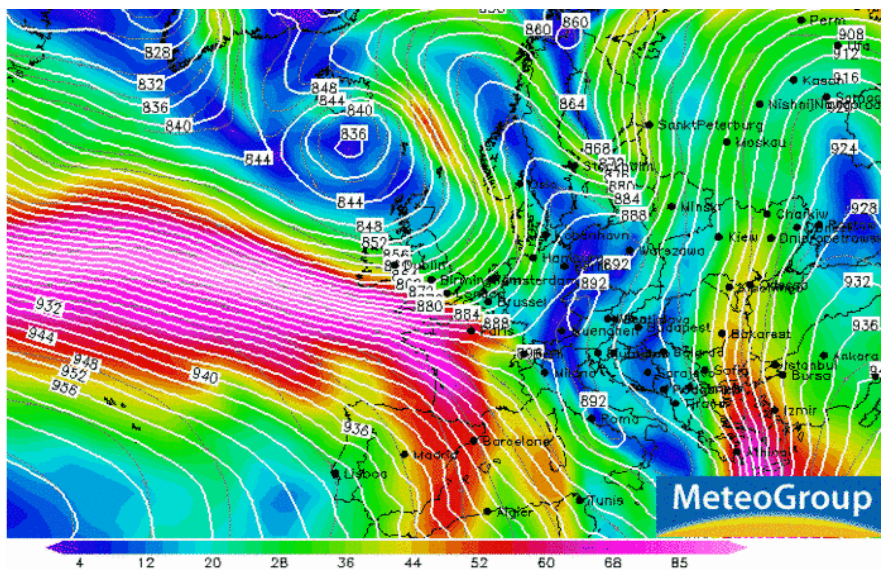


Figure 3: Image of a Klaus-related Jetstreak (red), a band of very strong winds at 9 kilometres height stretching from East Atlantic to western Europe on 23 January 2009, 00Z (Courtesy of: MeteoGroup, Wetter24)

Even though smaller in spatial extent (on French territory) than Martin, Klaus (reportedly) caused the death of 21 people and left a path of heavy destruction stretching from approximately Bordeaux to the Mediterranean coast and all along northern Spain.

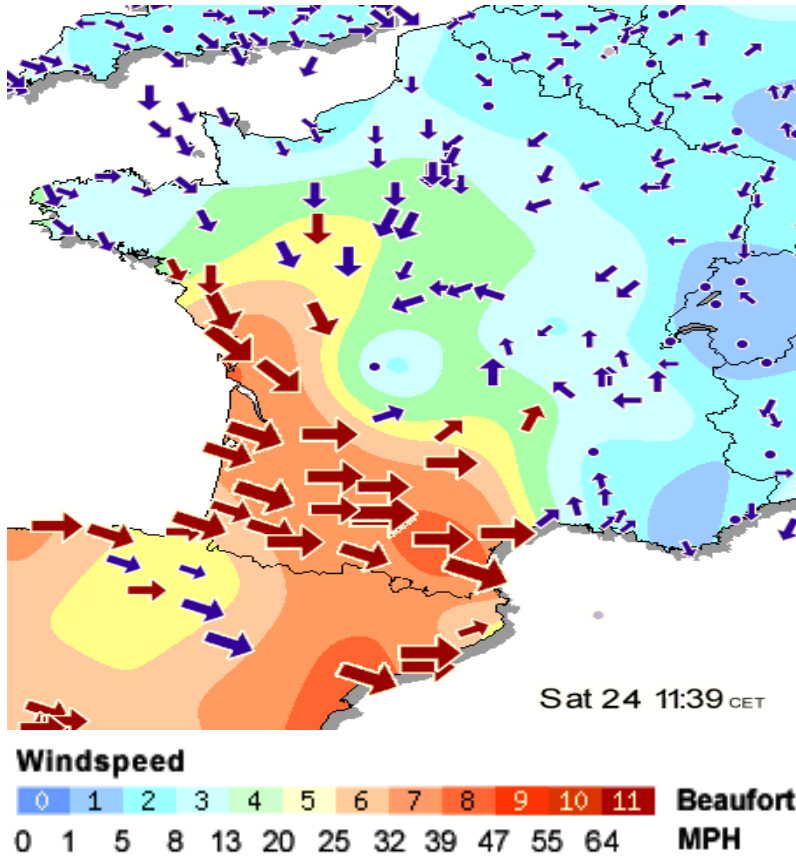


Figure 4: Path of storm Klaus - 24 January 2009, 11.39 CET (Courtesy of: XCWeather)

Besides expected substantial damages to property, life lines and electricity networks have also been hit hard, leaving 1.5 million (700,000) households in France (Spain) without electricity. Similarly hard hit have also been forests in south-western France, with reported losses of up to 70% of stock in certain areas.

Further damages are expected from localised riverine flooding occurring especially south of Bordeaux in the confluence area of Garonne and Lot, as well as a minor sea surge reported at the coastline of the Departments Var and Alpes Maritimes (southern France)



Figure 5: Example of damages caused by storm Klaus in Bordeaux (Courtesy of: ScienceBlog)

While awaiting the receipt of official certified measured gust wind speed data for the generation of a refined storm footprint, EQECAT have made a first preliminary assessment of the damages caused by Klaus using selected footprints from their Eurowind stochastic set as proxy.

Based on the currently very preliminary information, the first market loss estimates are in the range of €800 to €2500 Million for France (and a similar amount is expected for Spain).