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Belgrade, 19 April 2010 at 14.00 h

As national meteorological and hydrological service, Republic Hydrometeorological Service of Serbia (RHMSS) is continually monitoring information related to the movement of ash cloud of volcanic origin that has caused serious disturbance of air traffic over major part of Europe.

Besides usual forecasting charts and satellite images, we also have available forecasting products of British Meteorological Service that is one of authorized and internationally responsible advisory institutions for air traffic safety for the area of eastern Atlantic and Europe ([www.metoffice.gov.uk/aviation/vaac/](http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/aviation/vaac/)).

Today, volcanic ash cloud (not visible without instruments) in the lower parts of the atmosphere (up to 6 km) as well as on the altitudes of civil air traffic (6-11 km) will not jeopardize the area of our country as well as the most of the Balkan peninsula. Increased concentration of volcanic ash particles will remain over the British Islands, western and central Europe as well as the Baltic region. During the night the peripheral part of the volcanic ash cloud will cover Slovenia, northwestern part of Hungary and western Croatia.

According to the results of simulated model of ash cloud transport and dispersion of the Norwegian Institute of the Atmospheric Research regularly monitored by the RHMSS, a new ash cloud with increased concentration of particle matter in central Europe is forecasted for Tuesday, 20 April. Its further movement will be monitored by the RHMSS and regular reports will be issued.

RHMSS has introduced **experimentally** in operative work the numerical model DREAM for the forecasting of the transport, transformation and deposition of volcanic ash. We emphasize that we shall continue to issue official forecasting of the movement on the basis of forecasting material from British Met Office, internationally authorized and responsible advisory institution.

Samples of rain that was falling during the night and in the morning over most parts of Serbia have been analyzed in chemical laboratory of RHMSS and its pH value is in the range from 5.50 to 6.41. These values are considered slightly acid, that is, alkaline and they do not differ from the usual values, which coincides with the fact that they originate from the cloud system formed southwest of our country.

The approach of a new cloud system, this time from the northwest is expected by the middle of the week (Wednesday evening, Thursday morning) and RHMSS will continue to take samples of the precipitation and to make physical-chemical analyses and to make reports on obtained results.

Current measurements of the state of air pollution on the territory of the Republic of Serbia indicate that the concentration value of particle matter is in the usual range.