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GNSS Near Real-Time Zenith Path Delay Estimations at ROB: Validation by Inter-technique Comparisons

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The EUMETNET GPS water vapour program (E-GVAP) has been setup in order to collect on the European scale ground based GNSS tropospheric delay estimates in near real-time and to provide this information to its EUMETNET partners for operational Meteorology. For more than 7 years, the Royal Observatory of Belgium (ROB) assures the Belgian contribution to E-GVAP by providing near real-time tropospheric delay estimates. Over the last years, technological advances, larger GNSS observing networks and methodological developments allowed to improve the service provided by ROB to the meteorologists. Today, the regional network processed by ROB includes more than 220 GNSS stations geographically distributed all over Europe. In this presentation, we address the activities carried out by ROB in the framework of E-GVAP, with as a focal point the validation by inter-technique comparisons (radiosonde, water vapour radiometer, numerical weather prediction data...).