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Nowcasting and Forecasting lightning activity over Europe: an overview of operational activities.

Kostas Lagouvardos, Vassiliki Kotroni, Theodore Giannaros, and Athanasios Karagiannidis
National Observatory of Athens, Greece

In the frame of Thunder And Lightning Observing System (TALOS) project, NOA has developed an operational procedure for the nowcasting and forecasting of lightning over the Mediterranean and a large part of Europe. The nowcasting tools are based on the use of lightning data provided by the ZEUS lightning detection system, operated by the National Observatory of Athens since 2005, complemented by high-time resolution METEOSAT imagery. Forecasting is based on the use of WRF numerical weather prediction model, in which a lightning forecasting algorithm is implemented, together with the application of a masking filter for the delineation of areas prone for lightning activity.

The presentation is focused on the operational products of both nowcasting and forecasting tools that are displayed in the dedicated webpage <http://www.thunderstorm24.com> as well as on the verification for a long time period.