

Interactive comment on “How unusual was autumn 2006 in Europe?” by G. J. van Oldenborgh

G. J. van Oldenborgh

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Dear Juerg Luterbacher,

thank you for your comments on ‘How unusual was autumn 2006 in Europe?’. I list my replies to the points you raise plus changes in the manuscript resulting from these comments.

1) 95% confidence intervals on the return periods were already calculated throughout, and reported whenever appropriate. As you are aware these are often quite large, and no extrapolation should be reported without confidence intervals.

2) Luterbacher et al 2004 use a time-dependent mean function modelled by a spline function as a baseline to estimate extremes against. I did not choose this method because the spline is ill-defined at the end of the time series, as is the case here. Fortunately there is a physical way to define the mean, as the low-frequency variations of local temperature are dominated by large-scale temperatures changes, so that the

hemispheric or global temperature is a reasonable proxy for the low-frequency variability of the mean.

3) Luterbacher et al 2007 was cited whenever appropriate; I replaced Figure 2 with a short summary of the historical part of that publication.

4) Figure 2 has been deleted.

5) Added 'very likely'

6) Thank you for the reference, which has been added.

Interactive comment on Clim. Past Discuss., 3, 811, 2007.

CPD

3, S523–S524, 2007

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