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Analysis of climatic conditions of wildfires in Belgium with an automatic daily weather pattern classification

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An automatic daily weather pattern classification was built using the geopotential heights of 850 hPa level from the ECMWF (re)analysis over the period 1958-2007. The classification is based on a similarity index between two 850hPa geopotential maps centred on Belgium, taking into account the slope difference between both daily geopotential surfaces as well as the absolute geopotential difference between both surfaces. Wildfire occurrences are analysed in April and September together with monthly frequencies and persistences of daily weather patterns types as well as with yearly variability of weather patterns climate conditions.