

Interactive comment on “Analyzing the causes and spatial pattern of the European 2003 carbon flux anomaly in Europe using seven models” by M. Vetter et al.

Anonymous Referee #2

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The paper is well written and focus on the comparison between different models to estimate the anomaly of carbon fluxes during the year 2003 compared with an average previous period. The paper comes along after several papers on the general climate extreme of 2003 and more in specific after the Ciais et al. 2005 paper on carbon fluxes. The novelty of the approach is the multi-model comparison and the extension of the baseline period. I have the following general comments :

1. The analysis so far has been focussed on the growing season effect alone. I would rather discuss also the effect of 2003 on the whole year. Indeed most of the carbon budget estimation are carried out at the year basis and it would be interesting to see if

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the biodiversity of functional types at European scale counterbalance or smooth out the effect when considering the whole year period.

2. I would discuss differences not only as the outputs of different models, but also trying to understand the differences in the representation of processes in the models. Otherwise there is really no value in model intercomparison if we do not learn from differences.

I think the last point is the most critical for adding novelty to paper and for its publication.

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