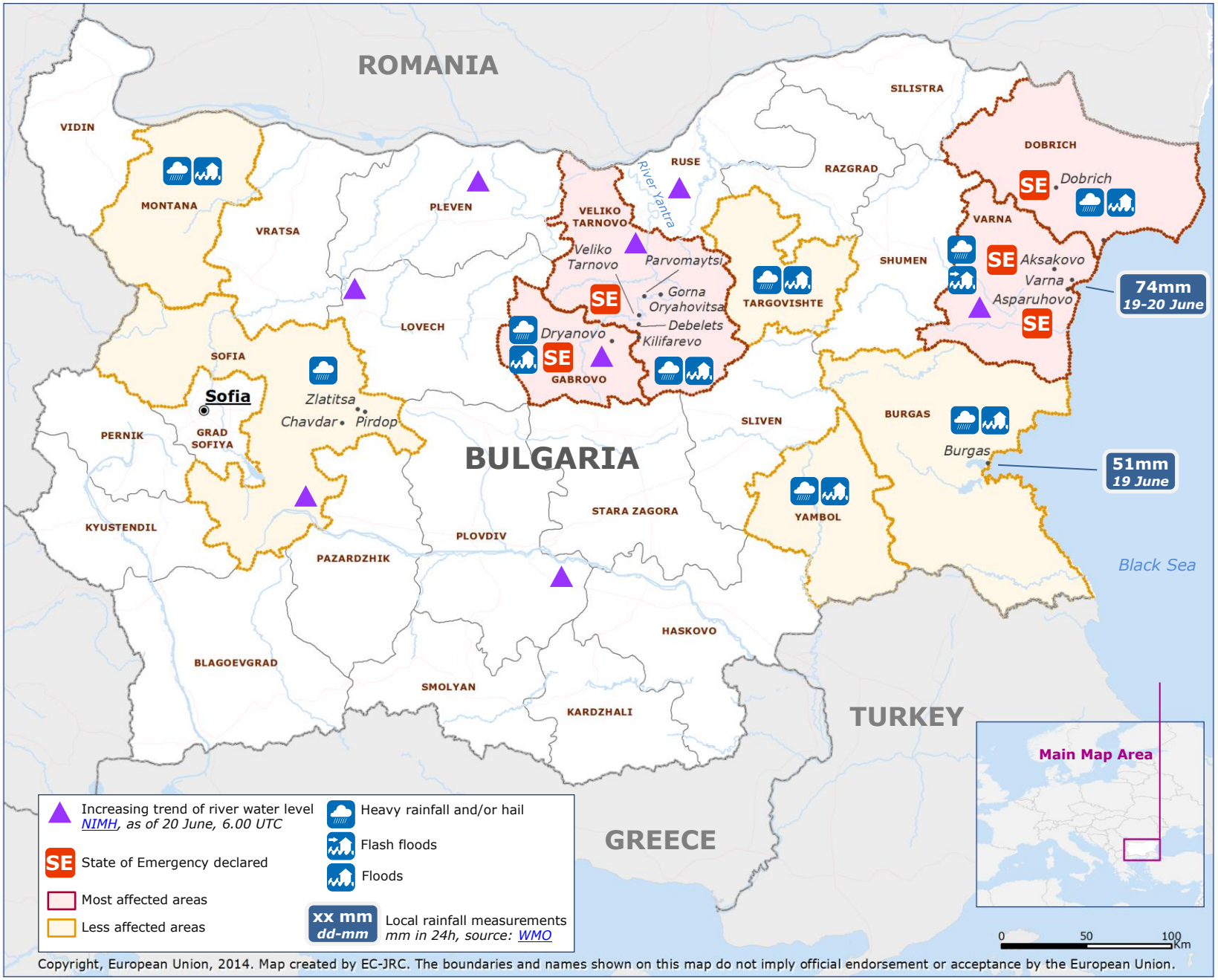
20 June 2014: Bulgaria - Severe Weather / Floods

European Commission



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SITUATION

- Severe weather, including heavy rainfall, winds and hail, affected Bulgaria over 18-20 June. As a consequence, flash floods and stream overflow caused casualties, damage and evacuations in the east and north-east of the country. Houses have been flooded and dozens of vehicles swept away, while electricity outages and road closures have also been reported.
- As of 20 June, National Authorities report that 11 people have been confirmed dead and one missing. The majority of deaths occurred in the eastern province of Varna, where a State of Emergency has been declared in Asparuhovo and Aksakovo.
- In Dobrich, 14 rescue units are operating, in an attempt to rescue people trapped by floodwaters.
- In Veliko Tarnovo, the river Yantra exceeded its flood level, trigering a State of Emergency in the city itself, as well as in four nearby villages and in Dryanovo, in the neighbouring province of Gabrovo.
- The provinces of Targovishte, Burgas, Yambol, Sofia and Montana have also been affected by heavy rainfall, however to a lower degree.
- Bulgarian National Authorities (DG Fire Safety and Civil Protection) have deployed rescue units throughout the affected areas and are fully engaged in response operations. The ERCC is monitoring the progress of the situation and is in close contact with the Bulgarian Civil Protection.
- Current forecasts indicate an improvement of the weather conditions as of 20 June in the afternoon. The National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology indicates several locations with an increasing trend of river water levels. However, only Yantra river in Veliko Tarnovo has exceeded its flood level.

***Sources**: Bulgarian Ministry of Interior - DG Fire Safety and Civil Protection; NMS*