

**Lines 336-337:** We are aware that the assimilation of radar data is already operational at several meteorological services, but the Center of Excellence Cetemps is one of the few meteorological centers in Italy that has radar data (volumetric reflectivity and radial velocity) assimilation in operational mode, together with SYNOP and TEMP observations, using the 3D-Var assimilation technique. Also the Italian ARPA-SIMC operationally performs the assimilation of radar-derived precipitation rates using the latent heat nudging into the COSMO model and, as future step in the next year, the technique will be extended to the direct use of 3-D radar data (radial wind and reflectivity).