



Flood Action Programme

Between 1998 and 2002, Europe suffered over 100 major damaging floods. Since 1998 floods have caused 700 deaths, displaced around 500 000 people and cost more than € 25 billion in insured economic losses. Although floods are natural phenomena, human activity contributes to the increased likelihood and consequences of extreme events.

As floods have the potential to severely compromise economic and sustainable development and to undermine the competitiveness of the European Union, there is a need for concerted and coordinated action at the European level. The European Commissions **Communication on flood risk management; Flood prevention, protection and mitigation** addresses the risks of flooding, and proposes to develop and implement a concerted EU Action Programme on flood risk management.

River Basin Management Plans and Flood Risk Management Plans are elements of integrated river basin management. Therefore, one of the main principles of the approach to flood risk management to be developed is that there is a strong link to the implementation of the WFD.

The programme includes three distinct, but closely linked actions:

- Improvements of the exchange of experiences and knowledge and increasing the awareness;
- Development of a targeted approach to the best use of funding tools (e.g. Common Agricultural Policy and the Cohesion Policy) and;
- The development of a proposal for a legal instrument, a Directive.

Communication on Flood Risk Management

To view the text of the Communication in your language, available in 11 languages, click on the relevant link below.

[DADEELENESFIFRITNLPTSV](#)

Council Conclusions

Flood protection and the Communication have been discussed at both the **Informal Environment Council** on 18 July 2004 and at the **Council of the European Union** on 14 October 2004. To view the summary of the Informal Environment Council and Conclusions of the Council.

Summary of the Informal Environment Council

[EN](#)

Conclusions of the Council of the European Union

[DADEELENESFIFRITNLPTSV](#)

Committee Opinions

The Opinions of the Committee of the Regions and Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee are also available. To view the text in your languages, click on the relevant link below.

Opinion of the Committee of the regions

[DADEELENESFIFRITNLPTSV](#)

Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee

[DADEELENESFIFRITNLPTSV](#)

EU Floods Directive

For the development of the Flood Action Programme the Commission initiated an Expert Advisory Forum, assembling experts from Member States, European umbrella organisations, industry, NGOs and the scientific community involved in major research projects and other stakeholders. Three meetings of this Expert Advisory Forum during 2005 formed the main phase of the consultation. In addition to these meetings an internet consultation took place from 20 June to 14 September 2005 to elicit opinions from stakeholders on the principles and elements being considered for inclusion into a new EU Floods Directive. Results can be found at the [EUROPA](#) website.

Sources of additional information

Additional information relating to the European Action Programme on Flood Risk Management can be found on the [EUROPA](#) website