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EUROPEAN AND MEDITERRANEAN MAJOR HAZARDS AGREEMENT (EUR-OPA)

EUROPEAN AND MEDITERRANEAN WORKSHOP

**CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT ON WATER-RELATED AND
MARINE RISKS**

*26-27 October 2009
Hotel Nelva, Murcia (Spain)*

Programme

In collaboration with



Climate change is probably one of the major challenges addressed to contemporary societies since the first assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 1990 clearly stated that "human activities are substantially increasing the atmospheric concentrations of the greenhouse gases, resulting on average in an additional warming of the Earth's surface". If, as a first step, emphasis was put on mitigation of such human generated greenhouse effects which lead to the Kyoto protocol, the data collected over the ensuing years governed IPCC in its latest assessment report in 2007 to state that "anthropogenic warming and sea level rise would continue for centuries due to the timescales associated with climate processes and feedbacks, even if greenhouse gas concentrations were to be stabilized".

Consequently, mitigation cannot be the sole response and adaptation to the new context generated has turned out to be as crucial as the reduction of the greenhouse effect. This enlarged approach reinforces the need for traditional disciplines to cope with the emerging facts due to this almost irreversible trend and disaster risk reduction is obviously one of the more affected domains. The overall definition of prevention measures for natural disasters, which are often directly or indirectly linked to meteorological events, must focus on present features but also on the longer term impact which climate change will have on them.

Moreover, the latest IPCC assessment report in 2007 gives more details on the expected temperature rise during the 21st century (between 1.1 and 6.4 °C) and on its likely consequences :

- sea levels may rise by 18 to 59 cm,
- more frequent warm spells, heat waves and heavy rainfall (confidence level >90%);
- increased droughts, cyclones and extreme high tides (confidence level >66%).

There are even some reservations on these predictions as in February 2009, at the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, several experts suggested that temperatures may rise between 2 and 11.5 °C.

All these forecasts confirm that water-related phenomena will play a crucial role in the future and associated extreme events will be more likely to happen. For better protection of the population from these risks induced by climate change and to develop common understanding and readiness to respond, the international workshop "CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT ON MARINE AND WATER RELATED RISKS" will be organised on 27-28 October 2009 in Murcia (Spain).

The main aim of the Workshop is to foster better preparedness and response amongst populations living in the European and Mediterranean areas which might be affected by water related disasters induced by climate change. This can be done by spreading the latest knowledge on the potential impact of climate change and identifying the challenges of the associated scenarios to such domains as public awareness, protective actions, emergency planning, early warning procedures and emergency response.

The workshop will be structured around the following major issues:

1. Reassessing risk identification: how the traditional risk evaluation can be merged with the diverse climate change scenarios ?
2. Adapting preventive measures: how the often short term designed measures will be able to cope with longer term evolutions due to climate change?
3. Improving populations' information: how to communicate on the specific natural hazards component of climate change ?
4. Enhancing emergency plans and training: how to adapt the existing procedures to the new features imposed by climate change ?
5. Fostering international co-operation: how to coordinate transboundary initiatives on both climate change issues and disaster risk reduction ?

To enrich the discussion and identify concrete proposals, decision makers, civil society and mass media representatives, as well as experts, are invited to participate in the Workshop.

The main expected output of the Workshop is thus twofold :

- to identify new requirements for risk management responding to the recent context of increased threats related to climate change consequences.
- to promote, with the support of international organizations and central authority institutions, a network of actors to transform such new requirements into a better protection of the population against such emerging hazards.



Sunday
25 October 2009

Arrival of participants at Alicante airport (70 km from Murcia)



Monday
26 October 2009

8:30-9:00 **Registration of participants**

9:00-10:00 **Opening session**

- Spanish authorities
Rafael González Tovar, Delegate of the Spanish Government in the Murcia Region
Murcia local and regional authorities
- International organisations
Eladio Fernandez-Galiano, EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement, Council of Europe
Paola Abrito, International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, United Nations
Thomas de Lannoy (tbc), Civil Protection Unit, DG Environment, European Commission

10:00-10:30 *Coffee break*

10:30-12:00 **I. Background work**

- **Findings of the French presidency of the European Union in disaster risk reduction and climate change**
Philippe Boullé, French Association for the Prevention of Natural Disasters (AFPCN), Paris, France
- **Linking the disaster risk reduction to adaptation to climate change**
Karl-Otto Zentel, German Committee for Disaster Reduction (DKKV), Bonn, Germany
- **The role of local and regional authorities in Disaster Risk Reduction in the face of Climate Change**
Iñigo de la Serna Heirnaz, Rapporteur of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe on Coastal towns and cities facing rising sea levels, Mayor of Santander, Spain
- **NGOs on climate change and disaster preparedness : the Red Cross action across the Mediterranean**
Amèlia Marzal, Red Cross Centre for the Co-operation in the Mediterranean, Barcelona, Spain

▪ **Round table discussion on session I**

12:00-13:30 **II. Floods and related water management problems**

- **2007 floods: a forerun of climate change implications?**
Steven Barnes, Civil Contingencies Secretariat, Cabinet Office, London, United Kingdom
- **Floods and climatic change trends in Germany**
Janos Bogardi, United Nations University, Institute for Environment and

Human Security, Bonn, Germany

- **Climate change and river management: the Loire example**
Jean-Claude Eude, Etablissement Publique Loire, France [The Public Establishment of the Loire river]
- **Spanish approach to climate change and water management**
(*speaker tbc*, Water General Directorate, Ministry of Environment and Rural and Marine Environment)

▪ **Round table discussion on session II**

13:30-15:30 Lunch

15:30-16:30 **III. Droughts, desertification, heat waves and forest fires**

- **Impact of climate change on drought appearance in Slovenia and Southeastern Europe**
Gregor Gregorič, Meteorological Observations and Applications, Environmental Agency, Ljubljana, Slovenia
- **Climate change impact on drought management in Mediterranean area: how to improve the approach**
Michele Vurro, Water Research Institute, National Research Council (CNR), Bari, Italy

16:30-17:00 Coffee break

17:00-18:00

- **Desertification : a threat for both sides of the Mediterranean**
Fattoum Lakdhari, Euro-Mediterranean Center on Scientific and Technical Research in Arid Zones (CRSTRA), Biskra, Algeria
- **Heat waves: learning from the 2003 experience in France**
Raquel Bohn-Bertholdo, Symlog Institute, Paris, France
- **Climate change and forest fires risk**
Johann G. Goldammer- Nikola Nikolov, UNISDR Global Wildland Fire Network

▪ **Round table discussion on session III**

19:00-20:00 Cultural tour of the city

21:00- Official dinner



Tuesday
27 October 2009

9:30-11:00

IV. Marine risks, coastal erosion and landslides

- **Mediterranean Coastal risks in a climate change context**
Anton Micaloff, Euro-Mediterranean Centre on Insular Coastal Dynamics (ICoD), La Valetta, Malta
- **Geomorphological coastal effects of climate change**
Olivier Maquaire, European Centre for Seismic and Geomorphological Hazards (CERG), Strasbourg, France
- **Oceanic risks in a climate change context**
Françoise Pautrizel - Romain Chanceler, European Centre on Coastal Risks (CERCO), Biarritz, France

- **Climate change and marine related risks: a scandinavian perspective**

Dag Olav Hogvold, Directorate Civil Protection Emergency Planning (DSB), Norway

- **Round table discussion on session IV**

11:00-11:30 *Coffee break*

11:30-13:00 **IV. Concluding session**

- Summary and discussion of the Workshop conclusions
- Closing speech
Pilar Gallego Berruezo, Spanish General Director of Civil Protection and Emergencies

13:00-14:30 *Lunch*

15:00-20:00 **Field visit**

Visit of the Segura Hydrographic Confederation on the topic "Water Management in Extreme Hydrological Situations"