

## Risk issues in EU Climate Policy

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### **Outline**

- ★ Climate risks
- **★** EU developments: Adaptation Strategy and Clearinghouse mechanism
- Adaptation and disaster risk reduction
- International issues



## Key past and projected impacts of climate change

# Decrease in Arctic sea ice coverage Greenland ice sheet loss Higher risk of biodiversity loss North-western Europe Increase in winter

Northern Europe (boreal region)

Less snow, lake and river ice cover Northward movement of species More energy by hydropower Lower energy consumption for heating Higher risk of damages by winter storms Increased river flows Higher forest growth Higher crop yields More (summer) tourism

predipitation
Increase in river flow
Northward movement
of freshwater species
Higher risk of
coastal flooding

Coastal zones and regional seas

Sea-level rise Higher sea surface temperatures Northward movement

of species Increase in phytoplankton biomass

Higher risk for fish stocks

#### Mountain areas

High temperature increase Less glader mass Less mountain permafrost Higher risk of rock falls Upwards shift of plants and animals Less ski tourism in winter Higher soil erosion risk High risk of species extinction

#### Central and eastern Europe

More temperature extremes Less summer precipitation More river floods in winter Higher water temperature Higher crop yield variability Increased forest fire danger Lower forest stability

#### Mediterranean region

Decrease in annual precipitation Decrease in annual river flow Increasing water demand for agriculture Lower crop yields More forest fires Less energy by hydropower More deaths by heat waves More vector-borne diseases Less summer tourism Higher risk of biodiversity loss Higher risk for desertification



#### Most vulnerable areas in Europe:

- Southern
   Europe and the
   Mediterranean
   Basin
- Mountain areas, in particular the Alps
- Coastal zones, densely populated floodplains
- Arctic region



## Natural disasters in Europe, 1980-2009





## **Adaptation Strategies**

#### EU Strategy:

- Currently being developed and to be published in 2013, will comprise the following elements:
  - 1. Enhancing the knowledgebase and widening access to information
  - 2. Mainstreaming adaptation into policies, strategies and programmes at EU level
  - 3. Support and facilitation for Member States, regions, cities and other stakeholders
  - 4. Capturing the potential of the market, market-based instruments and the private sector

#### 2. National Strategies:

- Currently 11 EU-MS have adopted National Adaptation Strategies
- ★ EU strategy and tools can help facilitate the development of national strategies



## Strengthen the knowledgebase

### Establishing the EU "Clearinghouse Mechanism"

- ★ provide access to key data sources on climate change (including spatial maps)
- ★ extensive library of adaptation measures, national and subnational adaptation strategies and best practices
- ★ a web-tool to guide policy-makers in the development of national or sub-national adaptation strategies/plans
- ★ 1st prototype was delivered end of April; will be followed by evaluation and further development phase
- ★ Operational in March 2012



## **EU Adaptation and DRR**

- ★ It is important that Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) is part of our adaptation strategies, both at international and national levels.
- ★ The links are clear: Adaptation to climate change is about climate change risk reduction. Most of disasters last year were climate-related.
- ★ We are working together with Commission Services on disaster prevention to promote policy coherence, a holistic approach and to step up political commitment.



### Role of insurance

## **★** Risk management priorities

- 1. Taking adequate adaptation actions that reduce the risks
- 2. Insuring the risks that can not be prevented

### **★** The role of insurance

- sa) provide information on climate change risks
- b) reflect costs of the climate change risks
- c) provide incentives for adaptation
- d) cover remaining risks that can not be prevented



## International adaptation and DRR

- ★ UNFCCC Cancun Adaptation Framework makes explicit link with DRR
- ★ Communication in 2009 on disaster risk reduction in developing countries

Staff working document on the implementation adopted Feb 2011

- Supports coherence between adaptation and DRR in development policy
- Special attention to the least developed and highly vulnerable countries



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