METEOROLOGICAL EVENTS

During the morning of September 26, 2007 an intense and persistent storm system affected, with the strongest rainfall, the central eastern area of the Veneto region and, in particular, the Venetian mainland. Convergence of winds in the lower layers of the atmosphere, thermal contrast between land and sea, convective phenomena fostered by the transport of warm moist air from the sea, led to precipitations so intense as to locally exceed 100 mm per hour and 200 mm in 3 hours.

The uniqueness of the event for which it was calculated a return period of 150 years is even more evident when one considers that the value of average annual rainfall in the coastal Venetian area is less than 800mm.

DAMAGES

The intensity of precipitation, associated with often undersized hydraulic works—particularly sewer works—and an urban planning that has sometimes neglected the hydraulic structure of the territory, has led to widespread flooding with damage reported, only in Venice mainland, for as much as almost 50 million euros and 6114 requests for assistance by both private persons and productive activities.

CIVIL PROTECTION

The main activities to be played by the "Civil Protection System," which is distributed along all levels of government of the State, are the forecasting of hazardous events, that is to say of the risks to which the territory is subject, prevention to minimize the damage following calamities, rescue and overcoming of emergency, thus allowing the return to normal life. The city of Venice has its own directorate of civil protection and security of the territory, through which it coordinates over 200 volunteers who are continuously trained.

THE COMMISSIONER’S ACTIVITY

The President of the Council of Ministers has appointed a special Commissioner with the task among others to restore the safety conditions in the areas affected by flooding. The Commissioner’s activities identified almost 400 interventions (some of which have already been accomplished), with an estimated cost of more than 350 million euros.

The Commissioner has also issued some ordinances for the construction of hydraulic invariance works, in case of renovations and/or new constructions and he has drawn up some guidelines for the assessment of the hydraulic compatibility and for interventions about prevention from flooding and mitigation of the effects.