

Through the centuries, both the European Union countries and their neighbours have been confronted with major natural threats. The resulting catastrophes have left a strong impression on the collective memory and in written records. History has shown that, given the heavy human loss and costly damage, populations have learned to identify natural threats that affected their respective surroundings. Progressively they have learned how to develop defensive, protective and preventive attitudes to risk management. History also indicates that in each country, successful policies and actions resulted from specific initiatives and shared culture.

There are many areas of uncertainty concerning the likely impact of climate change on natural risks in Europe. In parallel with the measures agreed upon in major international treaties aimed at reducing the negative consequences of climate change, it is therefore imperative to develop in the short term a capacity of adapting to potentially dangerous situations and responding adequately to new threats.

Prevention is nowadays considered one of the main pillars of sustainable development. It is one of the focal themes of the European Commission, which has planned a communication on the subject (due in autumn 2008) along with the publication of a white paper on climate change.

The Paris conference to be held in November follows this same general trend. It proposes to address the question of whether experience and collective memory could benefit the Member States of the European Union, representing over 450 million people, as well as their neighbours. It will also discuss the potential components of a European and regional culture on disaster risk management in the context of the new climate change challenges.

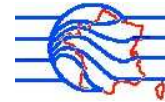
This conference also aims to situate the action of European States and their national platforms and national focal points for Disaster Risk Reduction within the wider framework of the Hyogo Declaration agreed during the United Nations Kobe conference on Disaster Reduction in January 2005.

www.afpcn.org

www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr



first announcement



Association
française pour la
prévention des
catastrophes
naturelles



Conference on natural disaster risk reduction

In the context of the
French Presidency
of the European Union.

**From past disasters to the
climate change challenges in Europe**

Paris

2008 november 26, 27 and 28

provisional schedule

wednesday 26

thursday 27

friday 28

Cooperation among national platforms and focal points for disaster risk reduction in Europe.

Chairperson
Madam **Irmgard Schwaetzer**,
President of German platform(DKKV)

Climate change in national policies for risk management.

Presentations by different platforms

European network of national platforms: goals and prospects

buffet

**Working groups:
what kind of adaptation to the climate change in Europe?**

Five parallel workshops with European experts on coastal areas, mountains, transborder rivers, megapolis, education/training will each examine issues relating to land use management policies, support activities (research, GMES....) and assistance to developing countries"

Summary of working groups

Chairperson
Mr **Eric Doligé**, Senator

social event *

Presidency: Mr **Yves Dauge**, Senator

International actions: presentations

Chair: Ministry of Foreign affairs
Mr **Salvano Briceno**,
director of UN/ISDR (Geneva)
Mr **Eladio Fernandez**,
executive Secretary of the EUR-OPA
Major Hazards Agreement (Council of Europe)

Session: Economy and resilience

Chair: PLANAT(Swiss platform)
Interventions on economic issues
Mr **Erwann Michel-Kerjan** (USA)
Mr **Jean-Jacques Wagner** (Switzerland)
Mr **Stéphane Hallegatte** (France)
**Public Private Partnership
on hazard zoning**
cases of Austria, France and United Kingdom

Round table

Chairman: Mr **Guillaume Sainteny**
directeur des études économiques et de
l'évaluation environnementale (MEEDDAT)

European Commission, French Development
Agency, OCDE, Red Cross, Regional
and local communities, re-insurance C°

lunch

Overall summary and conclusions

Chairperson: Mr **Christian Kert**, Député
Mr **Laurent Michel**, directeur général de la
prévention des risques (MEEDDAT)

Closing address

Mrs **Nathalie Kosciusko Morizet**
Secrétaire d'Etat à l'Ecologie

The Conference will be held in Paris at the Ministry for Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Planning and Development [MEEDDAT]

20 , avenue de Ségur PARIS 75007

Subway stations
line 13: *Saint-François-Xavier*
line 10: *Séгур*
line 6: *Cambronne or Sèvres Lecourbe*
line 8: *Ecole Militaire*

There will be a poster exhibition with expected contributing from participating countries.

Simultaneous translation (French-English) will be provided.

* On November 27, there will be a social event offered by organisers.

Participants will be responsible for their own travel and accommodation expenses.

For the second announcement, during summer, a website will be created to give useful information and advice.

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registration

from 13 h 30
Congress Hall Serge Antoine

Opening

Ministry of Foreign and
European affairs
Ministry of Interior
Ministry of Sustainable Development

**Addresses by
the European Commission**

Research DG
Environnement DG
Development DG

**From past to future:
challenges ahead**

Presentations by different
European personalities
historians, geographers and philosophers

cocktail