



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

The Ministry for the Environment, Energy, Sustainable Development and Regional Planning (MEEDDAT), in association with the AFPCN is hosting a

Conference on Natural Hazard Prevention

on November 26, 27 and 28, 2008

salle Serge Antoine au MEEDDAT - 20 avenue de Ségur – PARIS

**“From Past Natural Disasters to the
Challenge of Climate Change in Europe”**

Programme

« to be confirmed »

Wednesday, November 26

12:00 – 14:00 - Reception, Registration, Buffet

14:00 – Opening

Welcome address by **Laurent Michel**, Director General of Risk Prevention, French Ministry for the Environment, Energy, Sustainable Development and Regional Planning (MEEDDAT),
Communication by **Yves Dauge**, Senator of Indre et Loire, President of the Association française pour la prévention des catastrophes naturelles (AFPCN; French association for the reduction of natural disasters).

Statement by **Nathalie Kosciusko Morizet**, French State Secretary for the Environment.

14:45

Presentations by **the Representatives** of the European Commission:

Pia Bucella, Director of Communication, Legal Affairs & Civil Protection, DG Environment

Manuela Soares, Director of Environment, DG Research

And by

Régis Koetschet, Director of Development Policies (DGCID), French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs,
Alain Perret, Director of Civil Protection, French Ministry of the Interior, Overseas and Regional Territories,
The Representative from the French Ministry for the Economy, Industry and Employment.

16:00 - Break

16:30 - Plenary Session: from past to future: challenges of disaster risk reduction in Europe in the context of climate change

Chair: **François Ewald**, philosopher and legal historian, Professor at the Conservatoire national des arts et métiers (higher education institute) and **Riccardo Petrella**, advisor to the European Commission, Professor of Economics at the University of Louvain.

Yvette Veyret, Vice-President of the Scientific Council of the AFPCN and **Christian Van Der Moutten**, Chairman of the French and Belgian national committees for geography,
René Favier, historian, professor at the university of Grenoble,
Thierry Gaudin, President of Foresight 2100 and **Henri Décamps**, French Academy of Sciences.

18:30 - Cocktail Buffet

Thursday 27 November

9:00 - National initiatives and cooperation in Europe

Chair: **Irmgard Schwaetzer**, President of the German platform (DKKV) and
Chair: European Network of national platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction

9:10 - First Session:

How is each country taking climate change into account in its disaster reduction policy? What institutional and practical tools are being used? What role should civil society play in this process?

Presentations by:

- Dr **Jean Jacques Wagner**, Honorary Professor University of Geneva, natural hazards expert (Switzerland)
- Dr **Yvan Obrusnik**, Director of the Hydrometeorological Institute (Czech Republic)
- **Mette Lindhal Olsson**, Swedish Rescue Services Agency (Sweden)
- Dr **Gerd Tetzlaff**, Meteorology Institute, University of Leipzig (Germany)
- Dr **Katalin Cecei-Morotz**, National Directorate-General for Disaster Management (Hungary)
- **Anne-Marie Levraut**, Head of the natural and hydrologic risks department, French Ministry of the Environment, Energy, Sustainable Development and Regional Planning (France)

10:30 - Break

11:00 - Second Session

Discussion on existing cooperation among European countries and on the European dimension of national DRR policies, notably through national platforms and focal points for DRR.

Following an introduction to the present situation by Ms. **Irmgard Schwaetzer**, exchanges among representatives of European Countries will help to identify basic principles and action regarding European level developments and possible synergies, notably through the development of the network created in 2007.

Summary by **Philippe Boullé**, AFPCN, former director of the United Nations, International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR).

12:30 - Buffet Lunch

14:00 - Workshops: risk management and adapting to climate change in different geographical contexts in Europe.

Among the various topics for discussion as regards risk reduction, climate change is an important issue.

Five workshops will study this issue, in particular with regard to coastal areas, mountains, cross-border rivers, metropolis and training.

They will focus on regional management policies and probable changes in the use of space. They will study how to tackle resilience reinforcement in this new context and the possible approaches to European-wide cooperation, based both on the experiments, initiatives and on new support resources.

Possible cooperation with developing countries will also be addressed.

Coastal areas Workshop

A complex environment subject to many constraints, the European coastline is the focus of competitive developments, which may increase its vulnerability in the context of climate change.

- What kind of management should we consider for these heterogeneous and sensitive areas? What kind of European approach to this problem should we adopt?
- What role should local authorities play? How to improve the use of currently available National and European instruments? What kind of cooperation could be developed between Europe and countries on other continents with coastlines already exposed to strong natural hazards?

Mountains Workshop

Consisting of very diverse areas, mountains have high quality environmental assets. They also generate an important economic production.

- What probable changes would climate change bring about concerning land use, space planning and activities in mountains?
- What are the consequences as regards vulnerability? Should there be changes in the present system of prevention against natural hazards and how to engineer this change?

- What common work base for prevention can be envisaged at European level? What sort of cooperation is desirable in Europe and beyond Europe?

Cross-border Rivers Workshop

Upstream-downstream river management is essential. Organisations have been established for European cross-border rivers.

- What positive and negative lessons can be drawn from current experiments and initiatives?
- What are the constraints? What lessons can be drawn for the implementation of the Flood Directive? How should this Directive be strengthened?
- What are the consequences for river management at the national level? What are the tools? Is cooperation with non-EU countries possible?

Metropolis Workshop

Concentrations of large human populations, large economic assets and major infrastructures, metropolis provide fertile ground for various and complex vulnerabilities.

- What steps have been taken in large European cities, in the wake of past disasters, or in anticipation of dangerous changes?
- Can we set up prospective approaches, taking into account forthcoming risks? Should we change our way of thinking? Which criteria should we choose for disaster risk reduction strategies in megacities? Which tools are the most appropriate?

Training and Education Workshop

To avoid and/or reduce risks in a complex environment in the context of the uncertainties of climate change, there is need for an anticipation and reaction capacity in numerous fields. The continuing acquisition of competences is a must...

What are the expectations of the main stakeholders (Governments, local authorities, businesses, private citizens)?

Can we enhance the visibility of the present training and education programmes for disaster reduction? Do education policies on DRR already exist in Europe? What kind of collective or cooperative ventures could be developed?

16:30 - Break

17:00 - Workshop Summary

Chair: **Eric Doligé**, Senator of Loiret, President of the Centre européen pour la prévention du risque d'inondation (CEPRI; European Centre for Flood Prevention).

Rapporteur: **Yves le Bars**, Deputy Vice-President of the AFPCN.

Response from the experts:

Professor **Erwann Michel-Kerjan**, Managing Director of the Wharton Center for Risk Management and Decision Processes (USA), chercheur associé à l'Ecole Polytechnique (France); Chairman of High Level Advisory Board on Financial Management of Large-Scale Catastrophes (OECD).

Professor **Bernard Drobenko**, jurist, Université du Littoral Côte d'Opale and CRIDEAU Limoges.

19:30 Evening event

Under the presidency of **Yves Dauge**, Senator of Indre et Loire, President of the AFPCN, the participants will be welcomed in a warm and friendly atmosphere that will allow them to discover the heart of Paris and the Seine.

Friday 28 November

9:00 - International Initiatives

Chair: **Régis Koetschet**, Director of Development Policies (DGCID), French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs,

Salvano Briceno, Director of the UN Secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction secretariat (ISDR)

Eladio Fernandez, Executive Secretary of the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement - Council of Europe

9:45 - Economy and Resilience

First Session: Presentations on the economic context

Chair: **Pierre-Franck Chevet**, Director for Energy and the Climate, French Ministry for the Environment, Energy, Sustainable Development and Regional Planning.

Professor **Erwann Michel-Kerjan**, Managing Director of the Wharton Center for Risk Management and Decision Processes (USA), chercheur associé à l'Ecole Polytechnique (France); Chairman of High Level Advisory Board on Financial Management of Large-Scale Catastrophes (OECD).

Stéphane Hallegatte, CIRED and Météo-France.

Dr **Jean-Jacques Wagner**, natural hazards expert, PLANAT.

10:45 - Break

11:15 - Second Session: partnerships between the authorities and insurers on sharing flood risk zoning data.

Chair: **Stéphane Penet**, Director of Property and Liability Insurance at the Fédération Française des Sociétés d'Assurance (FFSA; French federation of insurers).

Presentations of original approaches to public-private partnerships concerning the sharing of flood hazard zoning data for prevention and insurance in three countries: Austria, the United Kingdom and France. These presentations will endeavour to highlight increased prospects for cooperation, notably in the context of implementing the Flood Directives and INSPIRE and through the new possibilities generated by science and technology in associating IT and geography.

Austria

Dr. **Thomas Hlatky**, Head of Property, Grazer Wechselseitigung AG, Chairman of the Property Committee of the Austrian Insurance Association (VVO), Chairman of the Sustainable Non-life Steering Group of CEA,

France

Frédérique Martini, Head of the Bureau of Meteorological Risks MEEDDAT/ DGPR and **Roland Nussbaum**, Managing Director of Mission Risques Naturels (MRN),

United-Kingdom

Dr. **Swenja Surminski**, Policy Advisor for Flood Insurance and Prevention, Association of British Insurers (ABI),

Aidan Kerr, Head of Investment and Funding, Environment Agency.

12:30 – Lunch

14:00 – Round Table: A Road to Resilience in Europe?

Chair: **Christian Kert**, Elected Member for Bouches du Rhône, French National Assembly, Vice-President of the AFPCN.

Bringing together different viewpoints, this Round Table will endeavour to propose several courses of concrete action stemming from the concept of resilience. It will identify sector-based representations, highlight the fundamental issues concerned and seek to identify the key problems to be overcome. It will also study the tools and mechanisms essential to a resilience policy.

15:30 – Summary

Paul-Henri Bourrelier (AFPCN): lessons drawn by the Scientific Council of the AFPCN.

Conclusion by **Laurent Michel**, Director General of Risk Prevention – MEEDDAT.

16:00 - Close - Cocktail Buffet

Inscription à transmettre / registration to be sent to :

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