

Workshop on the assessment of forest fire risks and innovative strategies for fire prevention
Rhodes, 4-6 May 2010

-Forest fire prevention developments at EU level-

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EU forest fire related activities

Since 1964 measures to develop the forestry sector, linked to the common agricultural policy (harmonisation of legislation, protection against atmospheric pollution and fires, research)

1988-1992: first Community forest action programme (afforestation, forest development in rural areas, cork, forest protection, etc.)

1992-2002: « Forest fire » Regulation 2158/92

2003-2006: Forest Focus Regulation 2152/2003

2007-2013: LIFE+ Regulation 614/2007

Currently, forest fire issues are supported by several EU instruments, such as Rural Development Regulation, Forest Strategy, Forest Action Plan, Regional policies (Interreg projects, Solidarity Fund, Cohesion policy), LIFE+ and civil protection measures and projects, as well as EU research programmes

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Regulation (EEC) 2158/92 on the protection of the Community's forests against fires

The scheme set up by Regulation (EEC) No 2158/92 provided significant co-financing (EUR 123.7 million for the period 1992-2002) for monitoring and preventive measures implemented by Member States.

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Regulation (EEC) No 2158/92
Yearly expenditure

Granted aid for the period 1992-2002

Year	Granted aid (in 1000 EUR)
1992	11000
1993	10500
1994	12500
1995	12000
1996	16000
1997	12500
1998	9500
1999	9000
2000	8000
2001	8500
2002	10500

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(EEC) No 2158/92
Expenditure by activity

Granted aid for the period 1992-2002

Activity	Granted aid (1000 EUR)
Fight against the causes and information campaigns	15000
Studies	5000
Protection infrastructures	65000
Monitoring and training	35000
Information system	5000

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The European Commission's group of experts on forest fires

The European Commission convenes the expert group twice a year. DG Environment and Joint Research Centre are organising the meetings.

Participants:

Experts designated by their national authorities, with different background according to the national structures (environment, agriculture, civil protection, public order). Other Commission services and EU institutions, FAO and UNECE

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 **The European Forest Fire Information System**
<http://effis.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>

EFFIS is the main working field of the expert group. Since the beginning, the system is a follow-up of the « common core for forest fire data » existing so far under Regulation 2158/92 on the protection of the Community's forests against fires and the Forest Focus Regulation 2152/2003 on monitoring forests in the Community.

EFFIS is an important element of the EU Forest Data Centre managed by the Commission's Joint Research Centre and contributes essentially to the new European Forest Information and Communication Platform EFICP.


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 **Support of international activities**

The expert group on forest fires supports:

- the implementation of the **FAO fire management voluntary guidelines** developed by a broad group of stakeholders (subject to adaptation to the European conditions).
- The **fire prevention related recommendations** as a result of the « Sabaudia » workshop organised in May 2008.
- Commitments taken in this field by Forest Europe

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 **Ongoing**

By its Green paper on forest protection and information, the Commission is launching a debate on forest protection and forest information systems, as foreseen by the White Paper « Adapting to climate change: Towards a European framework for action » (COM(2009)147.

A public consultation is running until 31 July 2010, see:
<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/forests/fprotection.htm>

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 **The European Commission's Advisory Group on forestry and cork**

The advisory group asks for

The re-establishment of independent financing for forest fire prevention to protect the environment

The reform of the EU Solidarity Fund in order to allow for direct compensation to victims of natural disasters, such as forest fires, storms, floods

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 **Recent EU activities on forest fire prevention**

The Commission works on implementing a **Community approach on the prevention of natural and man-made disasters [Commission communication COM(2009) 82 final] of February 2009**

In this context, the Council of the EU adopted:

- on 30 November 2009 conclusions on a **Community framework on disaster prevention within the EU**
- on 26 April 2010 conclusions on **prevention of forest fires within the EU.**

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 **Future**

On 3 June 2010, the Commission organises a stakeholder event during the Green Week in Brussels <http://www.greenweek2010.eu/>

On 11 June 2010, the Environment Council will adopt conclusions on forest protection and information.

The Commission will assess the public consultation in autumn 2010. Pending on the outcome of all consultations, the Commission will examine which next steps to take in 2011.

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Risk assessment and planning



- **May 2010, Berlin:** Workshop on risk assessment and mapping
- **July 2010:** comparative study of risk mapping practices, critical analysis of financial instruments capable of supporting disaster prevention activities, catalogue of prevention measures to be considered by EU Member States for EU funding; establishment of an informal European disaster prevention network with experts from several sectors (civil protection, environment, land use planning, forestry); review of civil protection legislation and policy addressing prevention and evaluating the need or further initiatives
- **End of 2010:** Community guidelines on methods of hazard and risk mapping, assessment, and analyses
- **2010-2011:** best practice programme (literature review, workshops, guidance documents)
- **End 2012:** guidelines on minimum standard for disaster prevention
- **2010-2013:** Financial perspectives and review of instruments

What next?

Green Paper, question 3:

Do you consider that EU and Member States policies are sufficient to ensure that the EU

- **contributes to forest protection, including preparing forests for climate change**
- **and conserving biodiversity in forests?**

In what areas, if any, do you think further action may be necessary? How might this be organized, under the given policy framework or beyond?