



# Coastal areas workshop: What kind of adaptation to the climate changes in Europe?

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**“From Past Natural Disasters to the  
Challenge of Climate change in Europe”  
Conference on Natural Hazard Prevention  
26 to 28 November 2008, PARIS**

# Timetable

- Introductions
- Key Questions (panellist's remarks and audience comments/question)
  - Question 1
  - Question 2
  - Question 3
- Workshop Report

# Panellists



- Nicole Lenotre BRGM, FRANCE
- Horst Steer, University of Kiel, GERMANY
- Paolo Ciavola, Universita' di Ferrara, ITALY
- Sjoerd Hoornstra, Ministry of Water Works, the NETHERLANDS
- Jose Jimenez, UPC, Barcelona, SPAIN

# Why Adapt?

- Coasts are experiencing multiple drivers of change (multiple stresses)
- Climate change is one stress
  - Sea-level rise
  - Higher sea surface temperatures
  - Changes in storm conditions
  - Higher ocean pH
- There is a commitment to climate change, especially, sea-level rise.

# Key Questions

1. Is a European strategy for the protection of coasts needed to face to the effects of the climate change?
2. What are the needs and tools for a better comprehension of the evolution of coastal areas?
3. Which physical and legislative measures are required to promote adaptation to climate change in coastal areas?

# Question 1

- **Is a European strategy for the protection of coasts needed to face the effects of the climate change?**
  - How important are the coast regions for the European society? Is it possible to envisage a common adaptation strategy?
  - Coastal areas are in permanent evolution? Is there a strategy which addresses natural evolution and adjustment to a possible climate change?
  - What action at the European scale with regard to the national or local scales? How to approach the cross-border context?
  - European coasts are very sensitive to abrupt change scenarios: how should one address this topic and the associated uncertainty?

# Question 2

- **What are the needs and tools for a better comprehension of the evolution of coastal areas?**
  - What observations are required, including scale and resolution? What policy of acquisition, capitalization, accessibility and qualification is required for this data?
  - The coastal area is a complex environment: how can we predict and model the possible changes that concern coastal managers?
  - How can we promote synergy when addressing climate change, and develop a multi-risks approach (including climate change) in order to optimize the European effort?

# Question 3

- **What physical and legislative measures are required to promote adaptation to climate change in coastal areas?**
  - How to make the Public Power and Europe sensitive to these issues? How to finance the actions?
  - Is it necessary to promote a European Directive dedicated to the coastal areas?
  - Which adaptation measures? Protect, accommodate, retreat?
  - How can Europe support developing countries confront the consequences of climate change for their coastal zones?



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