



Deutsches Komitee Katastrophenvorsorge e.V.
German Committee for Disaster Reduction
within the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR)



DRR relevant developments in Europe

Paris 27.11.08



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- **Green Paper on Adaptation to Climate Change**
- **EU Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction in Developing Countries**
- **Communication „Reinforcing the Union’s Disaster Response Capacities”**
- **Member States’ Approaches Towards Prevention Policy**
- **Research and other areas**



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Identified key issues

- **Areas missing in the Green Paper**
 - Communication and awareness raising
 - Additional research and monitoring systems
 - Overarching strategic vision, demonstrating leadership
 - Migration and cohesion of society
 - Coordination between mitigation and adaptation strategies
 - Financing of adaptation



- **Priorities for early action**

- EU policy: synergies need to be explored and addressed, EU policies harmonised, policy conflicts are identified and resolved
- Cities and urban environments need special attention
- Role of spatial planning
- Appropriate guidelines, standards for building and design
- Communication, information sharing and raising awareness
- Use of incentives to promote positive action



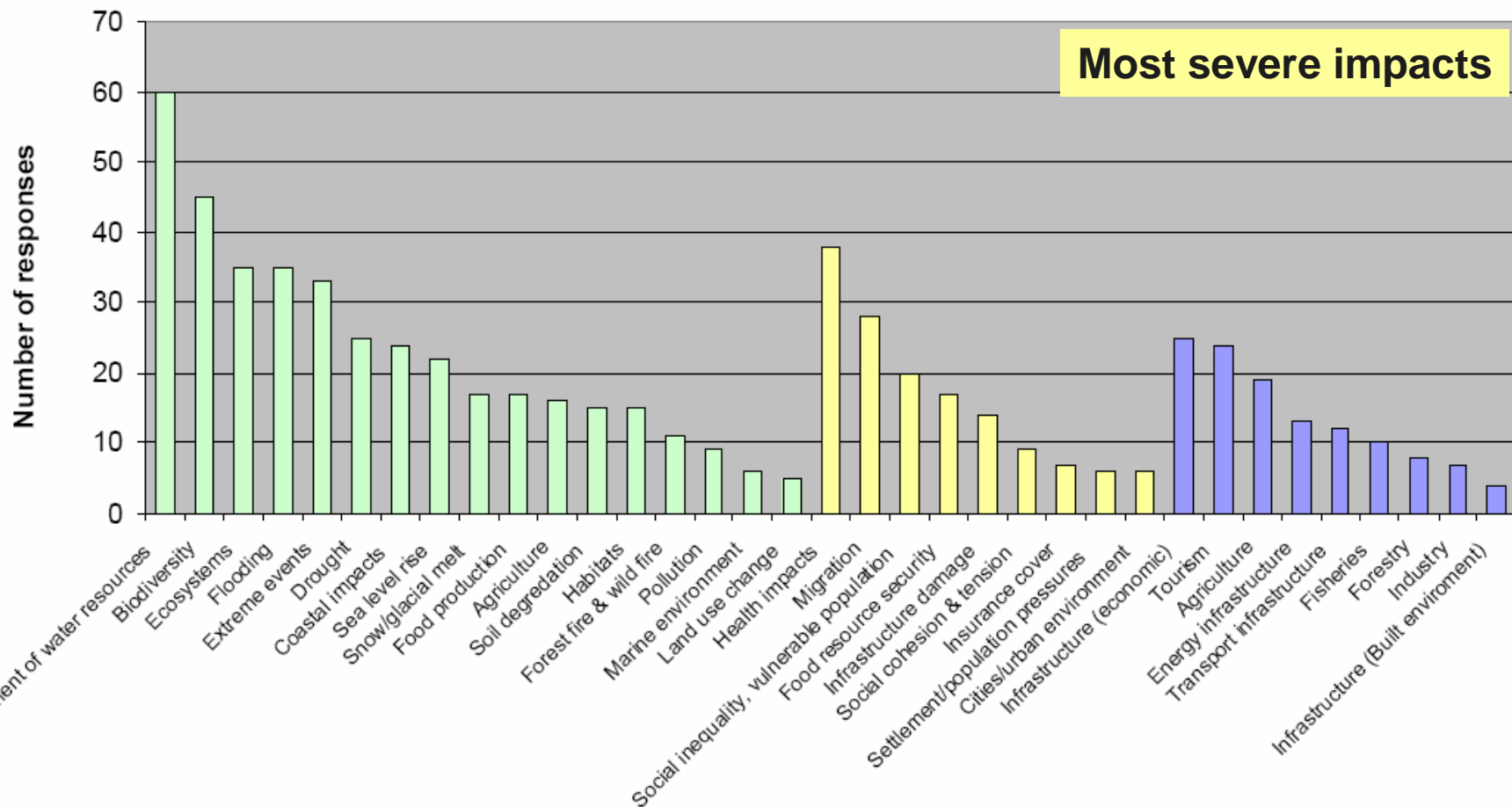
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Green Paper: Adapting to Climate Change in Europe

- **216 responses in total**
 - 23 submission were blank
 - Three sets of possible duplicate answers were identified
 - Mixture of organisation and individual responses

- **Written submissions: 84 documents in total**



Quelle: Green Paper COM (2007)354 - Adapting to climate change in Europe – Options for EU action.



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Next Steps

- Further discussions within Commission services
- Preparation of the Impact Assessment (IA) supporting the White Paper and discussion
- Submission of the Impact Assessment to the Impact Assessment Board (IAB) and discussion
- Following a positive opinion of the IAB, the White Paper and its IA will go for Inter-service Consultation
- After the Inter-service Consultation, the White Paper will be adopted by the Commission.



EU Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction in Developing Countries - Analysis

- Increase in disasters
- Climate Change
- Vulnerability
- EU as world largest donor



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Strategic areas of intervention

- **Integrate DRR better into development and humanitarian policies**
- **Improve identification, and assessment and sharing of disaster risk**
- **Develop and strengthen DRR institutions**
- **Enhance knowledge and public awareness on DRR**
- **Address and reduce the underlying risk factors**
- **Consideration should be given to explore how funding streams could be better aligned and how innovative non-ODA funding can be mobilised for DRR and adaptation**



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Next steps

- April – June: stakeholder consultation
- May – September: Development of the strategy and Commission-wide consultation
- October: Adoption by the Commission and transmission to the EU and the Council



Reinforcing the Union's Disaster Response Capacity

Starting Points: Tsunami, War in Lebanon, Wildland Fires

Goal

Greater Coherence, effectiveness and visibility



Concrete Proposals

- Development of the MIC as an operational Centre
- Strengthening of European Disaster Response Capacities
- Assessment of existing resources
- Development of Stand-by capacities
- Strengthening of rapid detection and response capacities
- Development of a European training network
- Improvement of preparedness within and outside of the EU



Member state approaches towards prevention policy

- Study commissioned by DG Environment
- France, Portugal, Romania and Sweden were selected as case studies



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Conclusion on elements for possible EU intervention

- **Cross border compatible decision information**
- **Cross cutting national vulnerability assessments**
- **Mechanism to improve exchange of best practice**
- **Initiatives addressing public awareness.**



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Conclusion on elements for possible EU intervention

- **European wide monitoring capacities**
- **Access to common resources**
- **Economic funding and coordination of research**



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Conclusion on elements for possible EU intervention

- **There is no singly entry point in the European Commission**
- **The EU in collaboration with MS should provide norms**
- **EU should do a proof of their policies and instruments**



Research and other areas

- Framework Programme 7 with topics like:
Natural Hazards;
Environment incl. Climate Change;
Security Research
- Global Monitoring for Environment and Human Security (GMES)
Section on disaster management

European Bank for Reconstruction

Donors to the EBRD met ahead of the Bank's Annual Meeting to discuss priorities for the year ahead. As the main challenges for the period 08/09 they identified among others the **“Adaptation to climate change, security of energy, food and water”**.



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Summary

- A number of conceptual and strategic developments at different levels of the EU
- Climate Change is the driver
- Beside political processes there is a number of rather practical implications to be followed and accompanied



The questions we should discuss are:

In which topics would we like to become involved?

How are we going to become involved?