



European Parliament
To: Mr. R. Seeber
60, Rue Wiertz
Bureau 8 F 161
B-1047 Brussel

Date

13 April 2006

Contact person

Annelieke Laninga-Busch

Our reference

FLAPP-2006-V27

Subject

Amendment to proposed EU Flood Directive

Attachments

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Contact details

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Letter sent CC to:

Mr. Bloech, DG Environment, European Commission

Dear mr. R. Seeber,

The members of the European FLAPP network (for explanation on FLAPP: see below) underline the principles of subsidiarity and solidarity in the Flood Directive and call for a stronger focus on cross border aspects of flood management. Particularly preventive measures with positive effects across borders should be stimulated.

The proposal for the EU Flood Directive of 18 January 2006 rests on two guiding principles: subsidiarity and solidarity. Subsidiarity is expressed by the responsibility of the member states to determine acceptable risk levels; solidarity by the call for cooperation between member states as for instance in the international flood risk management plan. Furthermore, the proposal stipulates that measures taken in one country must not increase flood risks in neighbouring countries (art. 9.4).

In the opinion of FLAPP-partners this leaves a chance to further cross border cooperation unused. Realizing that cooperation can not be forced by regulations, FLAPP members hold a strong plea for the directive to focus more on cross border aspects and stimulate preventive measures with a positive effect across borders (national or regional). Member states should be open to a discussion on preventive measures to be taken with maximal benefit for the whole of the river basin in order to reduce total cost for the member states. In that case compensation can be called for, e.g. through EU funding, by compensation across borders on other topics such as nature, tourism, agriculture, etc. Also financial compensation across borders can be in order.



In their 3rd conference in Enniskillen (Northern Ireland) on 6 and 7 April 2006 the FLAPP members argue therefore that an amendment of art. 9 is required, and propose the following text to be added to art. 9.4:

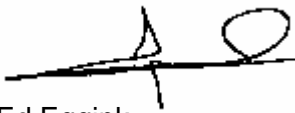
“Flood risk management plans shall include measures which contribute to the management of flood risks in upstream or downstream regions as much as possible.”

About FLAPP

FLAPP stands for 'Flood Awareness & Prevention Policy in border areas'. It is an EU-funded network which enables responsible local and regional actors in European river systems and their feeders to form partnerships. Partners of the FLAPP network can learn from each other by transferring and exchanging successful flood management approaches on an informal basis. The aim of the FLAPP network is to improve sustainable solutions regarding flood awareness and prevention in Europe's border areas.

The FLAPP network consists of 37 organisations in 14 different countries in Europe. Partners are spread over several river basins, amongst which are the rivers Danube, Tisza, Ebro, Meuse, Rhine, Scheldt, Elbe and Oder. Three partners are located in non-EU countries (Romania and Serbia-Montenegro). FLAPP participants range from local and regional water managers on the operational level to policy makers and university researchers. See for more information the attached brochure and the following website: www.flapp.org

Kind regards,



Ed Eggink
President FLAPP network



Annelieke Laninga-Busch
Project manager FLAPP network