



Planned 2008 EEA-JRC-WHO report on impacts of climate change in Europe

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The European Environment Agency (EEA), the Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC-IES) and the World Health Organisation (WHO) are preparing an indicator report on climate change impacts in Europe to be published in September 2008. The EEA is also cooperating closely with several of its European Topic Centres (ETCs). This report is the second indicator report on climate change impacts in Europe (the 1st was issued in 2004).

This report is focused on policymakers at EU and national level and the informed public. The main aims of the report are to present past and projected climate change and impacts through indicators and to identify sectors and regions most vulnerable with a high need for adaptation. Furthermore it aims to increase awareness of the need for both adaptation and global and EU mitigation and to highlight the need for enhanced monitoring, data collection and dissemination, and reduce uncertainties.

The EEA/JRC/WHO 2008 report will be published after publication of various important other relevant reports including the IPCC fourth assessment reports (2007) and the European Commission's communication on post-2012 climate change policy (Jan 2007) and after some important events including the UNFCCC COP/MOP to be held in Bali (December 2007). The added value of the planned 2008 report is the utilisation of most recent data and results from national sources and from European studies and projects.

The introductory chapters of the report will show the scientific background of processes taking place in the climate system of the Earth including the anthropogenic contribution. These chapters also describe shortly the complex mechanism of feedbacks, abrupt climate change and scenarios and uncertainties. Finally the report will include a chapter summarising current data gaps and future monitoring.

The most important section is the report's indicator-based assessment. About 40 indicators are divided into nine categories, of which water quality is a new category and categories dealing with agriculture and forestry and water quantity are more comprehensive (compared to the 2004 report). The list of indicator categories is as follows.

- Atmosphere and climate
- Cryosphere
- Marine and coast
- Terrestrial ecosystems, biodiversity
- Agriculture and forestry
- Water quantity, river flows, floods, drought
- Water quality and fresh water ecology
- Human health
- Economic loss

This EEA-JRC-WHO report is aimed to be providing the most recent information on impacts of climate change in Europe also after 2008 through a regular updating process of the indicators on the EEA web site, e.g. as soon as important new data becomes available.