

Committee on Environment, Public Health, and Food Safety (ENVI)**Fact File*****The question of crisis prevention and management against wildfires and floods***

In recent years, a combination of deliberate actions and the effects of climate change have led many European Member States to face freak weather conditions that lead to wildfires, droughts, extreme freezes, or severe flooding. All the damage comes at a great cost to innocent lives and monetary needs for repairs. How can the European Union best prepare itself to prevent and respond to these incidents in the future? How can each Member State help to combat freak weather effects?

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Dear delegates,

The fact file aims to provide you with an overview of the most important concepts of the matter at hand. We have compiled statistics about things such as the frequency of floods, economic losses due to freak weather, and more. Please do not feel obligated to only use these statistics for your research, as we highly encourage you all to do further research.

OVERVIEW:

In recent years freak weather conditions have become a great issue for the European Union. With the average probability of exceeding the 1981-2010 threshold for droughts rising to 17%, for extreme precipitation rising to 30%, and for heat stress rising to 53%, it is important to inflict change now. Furthermore, economic losses have been estimated to be €100 billion in the years 2021-2022.

What measures does the European Union have to take now in order to mitigate damages and improve the quality of life of its citizens?

WHAT MEASURES HAVE ALREADY BEEN TAKEN?

The EU Adaptation strategy: This is a political framework that aims to improve the links between climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

The EU Forest strategy: One of the flagship initiatives of the EU Green Deal. It sets a vision and concrete actions to take in order to improve the quality and resilience of forests.

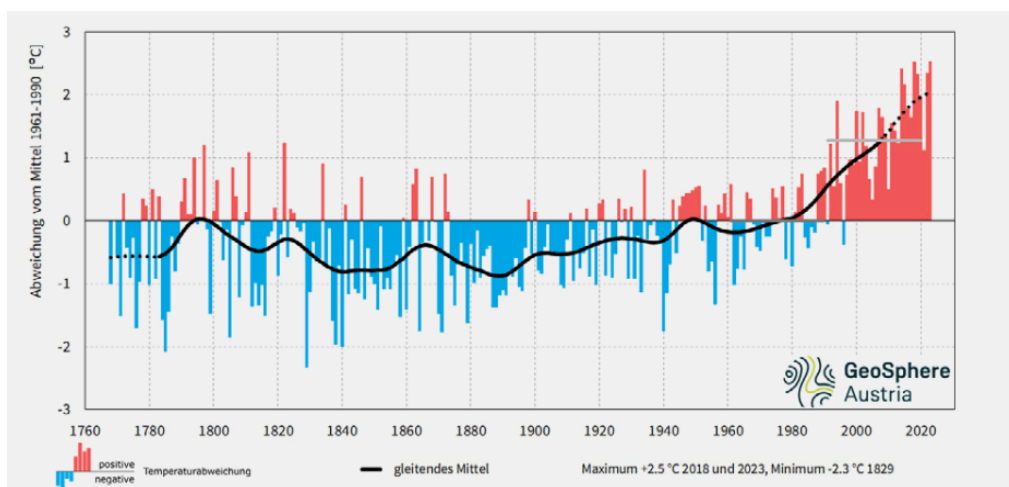
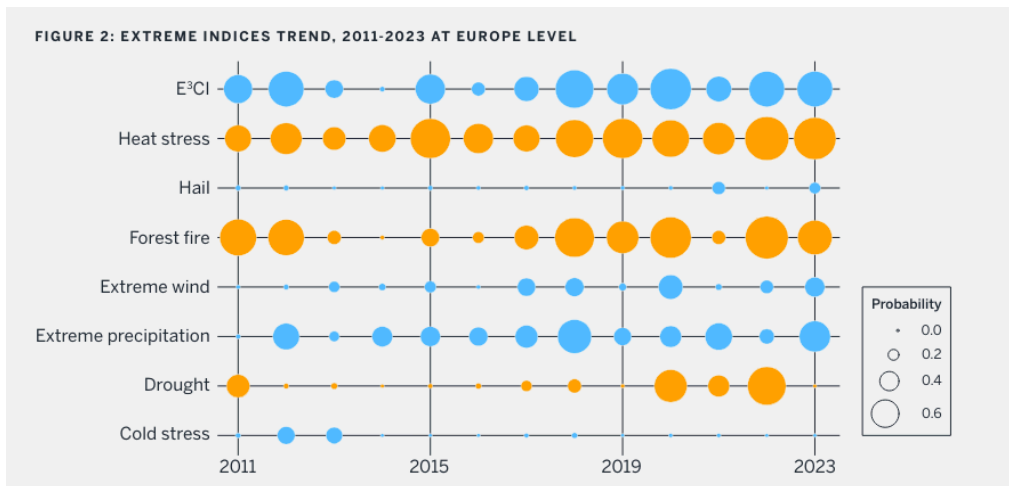
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The EU Cohesion Policy: Policies aimed at improving fire prevention measures, flood risk management, and resilience against other disasters. The link below provides a broader insight into what Member States are investing in, what prevention measures are already being taken with the help of the Cohesion policy, and what projects some countries have implemented to take on floods and wildfires:

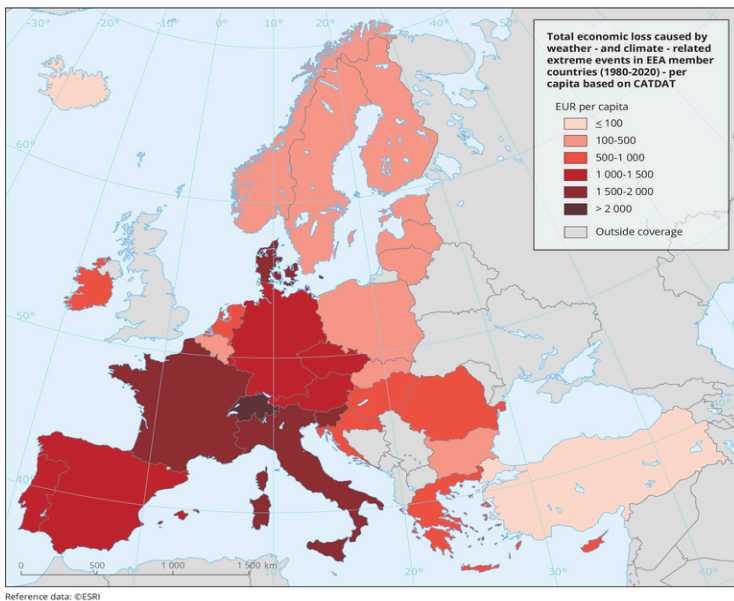
<https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/stories/s/Cohesion-policy-preventing-risks/j9ce-3mtn/>

The EU Cohesion Fund: Supports investment in the field of environment. 37% of the overall financial allocation of the Cohesion Fund is expected to contribute to climate objectives.

GRAPHICAL INFORMATION AND STATISTICS:



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Estimated flood damages:

€100m

Estimated flood damage in Austria

€550m

Estimated flood damage in France

€139m

Flood costs to Spanish insurers were €24 million, with an additional €100 million to €115 million covered by the country's Insurance Compensation Consortium.

The link below provides interactive statistics on the damages caused by floods and other extreme weather in the EU:

<https://www.milliman.com/en/extreme-weather-events-in-europe>