

Committee on Environment, Public Health, and Food Safety (ENVI)**Preparation Module*****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,

First of all, we would like to wish you a warm welcome to the 60th iMEP in Athens. We look forward to seeing you all on the committee on ENVI.

To help you prepare for the sessions, we have compiled a series of links, articles, and other resources. It is important that you all attend the committee with good knowledge of the topic. To help you engage in the learning process, we kindly ask you to write a position paper on the topic. This should include:

1. An overview of the issue
2. The EU's actions on the matter so far
3. A personal opinion of the delegate regarding what the committee should emphasize during the meetings.
4. Length of the paper: 1-1.5 pages max.
5. Format: 12pt Times New Roman, 1,15 spacing, full justification

We kindly ask you to submit these papers **before September 29**.

Keep in mind that there is no obligation to limit your research to these resources. We highly recommend you all to continue doing your research with other sources, especially in your native language.

Sincerely,

Your Committee Presidents

Useful articles and web materials:

ENVI committee :

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/envi/about>

The EU is working on measures to mitigate the impact of wildfires. Here you can find what policies the EU is working on to improve fire prevention and climate resilience of forests:

https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/forests/forest-fires_en#:~:text=Policies%20to%20protect%20the%20EU's%20forests%20against%20fire,-The%20EU%20Forest&text=The%20EU%20is%20working%20on,faster%2C%20smarter%20and%20more%20systemic.

This link provides a short overview of the current flood situation and EU measures. It also provides links to more extensive research.

https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/water/floods_en

To cope with the consequences of climate change the European Commission has established common goals known as the “European Disaster Resilience Goals”. They include ways to better prepare European countries for natural hazards, including floods and wildfires.

https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/what/civil-protection/european-disaster-risk-management/european-disaster-resilience-goals_en

How the EU Civil Protection Mechanism acts as a joint effort to improve prevention and response to natural disasters.

https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/what/civil-protection/eu-civil-protection-mechanism_en

Some interesting ideas on how to take on wildfires.

<https://www.edf.org/climate/4-ways-right-policies-can-help-us-confront-wildfires>

Does thinning work as a solution to prevent fires from escalating even more?

<https://www.hcn.org/articles/wildfire-does-thinning-work-for-wildfire-prevention/>

Flood protection practices in Bulgaria:

<https://hydro.bg/en/t1.php?ime=&gr=&gn=floods>

Videos:

Video on how the Netherlands solves flooding rivers.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=av70hiOJcS4&pp=ygUWZmxvb2RpbmVmcGZXUgcHJldmVudGlvbg%3D%3D>

Analysis of what extreme temperatures are.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eeISzvk9SeE&pp=ygUYZnJlYWsgd2VhdGhlcjBzdGF0aXN0aWNz>

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Video about the fundamentals of tree thinning:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eqEPycreZUo&pp=ygUNdHJlZSB0aGlubmluZw%3D%3D>

Video on how flood tunnels could be used to mitigate damage:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r4G0aTq5oSM&pp=ygUWZmxvb2RpbmcgZXUgcHJldmVudGlvbG%3D%3D>

Cross Border planning and infrastructure measures for flood protection in Greece and Bulgaria:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QaaOT2St0m8>

Keep in mind that you don't have to review all the links we sent you, but it is important that you have a broad overview of the matter at hand. Try to answer questions such as:

- 1. What are the primary causes of freak weather in the European Union?**
- 2. What tactics can we implement in order to mitigate damages caused by freak weather?**
- 3. What is the scale for the problem that we are facing?**

Lastly, it is important to ensure that any potential solutions you want to bring to our meetings remain within the jurisdiction of our committee. This means that we can only keep things within the reach of subjects such as measures against climate change, public health measures, etc. You can find the responsibilities of our committee in the first link on this document.