

PRESS RELEASE

The "European Flood Protection Association" (Europaverband Hochwasserschutz) was launched on 4 May 2011 in Munich.

Eighteen companies from five European countries unanimously voted in favour of founding an association which will deal with issues that everybody involved in flood protection may encounter.

The idea resulted from, among other things, an attempt by numerous stakeholders to dictate manufacturing and security criteria to the manufacturers – particularly concerning mobile flood protection systems – from the outside.

With the founding of this Association this external control will become history!

According to the Statute of the European Association, the current Europe-wide practice of establishing a flood protection system in the run-up to public tenders will also cease to exist.

Product neutrality in public and corporate tenders will lead flood protection back to the market economy, and it will no longer only play into the hands of small groups.

A research institute will be founded for certification marks and further development of the Association's policy.

The founding members hope that other European flood protection system manufacturing companies, as well as other national flood protection organisations, will join the Association and thus give it even more importance.

A five-member Executive Board was elected from among the founding members as follows:

■ **Christian H. Wirz, Chairman of the Executive Board, GER**

■ **Andreas Roos, Deputy Chairman, CH**

■ **Dieter Kalczyk, Secretary, A**

■ **Michael Czernetzki, Deputy Secretary, GER**

■ **Dr. Claus Schwenzer, Treasurer, GER**

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■ **Dr. Matthias Krist** Legal advisor of Europaverband Hochwasserschutz e. V.

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