

 Europaverband  
Hochwasserschutz e.V.®

European Flood Protection Association

EXPERTS IN FLOOD PROTECTION



# European Flood Protection Association

The European Flood Protection Association is an association of companies that develop, manufacture, deliver, install and maintain mobile flood prevention technology.

Any company that's directly or indirectly involved in flood protection can be incorporated into the association as a full or associate member. Membership in other flood protection associations is preferred, including associations that are dedicated to improving flood protection.

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The European Flood Protection Association will do everything in its power to improve the economic situation of its members. It demands specialist tenders in flood prevention as well as legally required, market-neutral invitations to tender, so that any company involved in flood protection can take part. We demand product-neutral bills of quantities. By implementing these demands, the European Flood Protection Association has created its own set of rules and regulations, in accordance with which a neutral commission will, after testing, award seals of quality in the future. The association has published a sample functional tender on its website designed to serve as the basis for future bills of quantities. The European Flood Protection Association will take action against any infringements which limit the economic freedom of its members and to their detriment.



## We have made it our task

- To promote uniform quality criteria for improving flood protection
- To ensure the reliability of flood protection technologies and their installation
- To label products and services whose quality has been assured in this context with the association's seal of quality
- For this purpose, we have created dedicated seal of quality guidelines
- To require holders of the quality seal to label only those systems and/or services whose quality has been assured with the seal of quality
- To improve and secure the situation for manufacturers, their sales partners and installation firms by making tenders a legal requirement of flood protection in the future
- To ensure that tenders comply with European neutrality regulations



To protect regions prone to flooding with mobile technical flood protection systems

To pass on expert knowledge to decision makers

The association's seals of quality are a trademark for safe preventive measures





## The 2013 flood

The flood of 2013 finally caught the attention of politicians.

**And it was suddenly clear to everyone that action had to be taken immediately.**

It was time to start rethinking methods and to understand that too little had been done in flood protection and, as a result, there weren't enough preventive measures in place.

Preventive measures can only be successfully implemented once administrative hurdles have been eliminated.

The authorities also need to understand that they have to consult experts for their advice, knowledge and support.

The European Flood Protection Association companies that manufacture, distribute and install flood prevention systems are professionals when it comes to flood protection.

We're happy to offer everyone our advice and assistance as well as work together. We also provide seminars in keeping with this principle, as well as one-to-one training if required.

If you'd like to find out more, simply go to our website. If you'd like to become a member, you'll also find registration forms there. Alternatively, you can give us a call.

[www.europaverband-hochwasserschutz.eu](http://www.europaverband-hochwasserschutz.eu)

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## Climate change

If you compare the statements made by recognised scientists regarding climate change 20 years ago with those of today, there's no denying that politicians and many others in important positions wrongfully played down the seriousness of climate change.

With so many floods in recent history, this is no longer up for debate. Many have climbed on the bandwagon and finally found the guilty party for the misfortune of those affected – it's the climate's fault, and not theirs.

### **But that's simply not the case!**

They're also not absolved by the approximately €70 billion that the EU has spent on repairing flood damage over the past ten years, not to mention the €8 billion the German government dished out following the umpteenth flood of the century in 2013. We haven't learnt anything from the most serious floods since 1993 – we're hoping that we will finally start learning from the 2013 flood.

If we had used these funds in a meaningful and preventive way, then the damage caused and people's suffering would have been comparatively low.





## The future

There are some things that need to change in the future in terms of flood protection:

- EU guidelines need to be implemented more quickly
- The government should create a centralised flood protection authority with the power to direct above state law
- The responsibility for the full length of the river, from the source to the mouth, should fall to one central authority
- This would improve supra-regional collaboration
- More money from the government needs to be injected into mobile flood prevention technology
- Communities need to establish a neutral, and, if possible, volunteer contact partner for flood prevention, in order to speed up communication
- Citizens need to be made aware of flood protection through these and similar measures
- Insurance cover in the form of obligatory insurance for everyone in flood-prone regions
- Administrative barriers need to be broken down so that implementing planned flood protection measures doesn't take ten years or longer



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