

## EVH IS LOOKING FOR PATRONS

*Become a flood protection patron*

# GLOBAL WARMING AND PATRONS OF FIRE BRIGADES AND CIVIL DEFENCE ORGANISATIONS

***As a former German chancellor once put it: having a vision does not entail having to see a doctor – it means volunteering for the fire brigade or civil defence!***

*Future vision of the European Flood Protection Association (EVH)*

What does the word “climate” actually mean? Climate is the term used to indicate a weather pattern typical for a specific geographical region in accordance with weather records for roughly the past 150 years. As far as many experts are concerned, these weather patterns are now extremely and irreparably disrupted: global warming is the term now often heard. This change in the climate is impacting the weather and resulting in ever-increasing extreme weather conditions: droughts, on the one hand, and regional, torrential rain on the other. The earth is completely dried out, meaning it is as hard as rock and is hardly able to soak up any water. Then there are areas with significant impermeable surfaces – especially in the industrialised centres, meaning that the flora and fauna are lastingly damaged. If we continue to waste energy and do not reverse the trend, then we will produce a new - our very own - Great Flood. The flood of the century, back in 2002, revealed the first effects. During this massive catastrophe, we learned, at first hand, the impact mankind’s intervention is having on nature. There was an interesting article in an East German newspaper in 2004 entitled: “People of Saxony, have you already forgotten the flood!” And it was not until 2008, i.e. six years after the major flood, that the first floodgate on the River Elbe was shut using technical means for flood protection. In our opinion, this has taken far too long – and needs to be changed, collectively! And because it is not specifically a “Saxon” trait to turn a blind eye to anything bad, let us start to take the future in our hands – here and now – and work proactively towards flood protection. In order to do this, we – at EVH – need the fire brigade and other institutions as our partners.

### ***Flood protection means taking precautions***

It does not mean waiting until the next flood arrives. Everyone who lives in areas at risk needs to take precautions against floods in line with statutory regulations – not simply those living in urban centres. The consequences of simply ignoring the situation are fatal: what kind of world will we be leaving behind for our children and our children’s children if we carry on as if nothing has happened? Clearing woodland will lead to non-stop sun. This, in turn, will raise temperatures, sometimes to over 40° C, and prompt hurricanes and torrential rain throughout the world, as well as floods. The Gulf Stream is getting colder, slowing down the jet stream. This means that weather extremes will become more prevalent, as was the case with the snowfall in 2019 or lack of any snow in 2020. The poles are thawing at a record speed and El Nino is heating up the ocean. We need to recognise the sign of the times and change our ways – prevention is the name of the game!

### ***We need YOUR help***

Saving lives, extinguishing fires, rescuing, protecting - the demands placed on fire brigades and similar organisations are increasingly on the rise. This, too, is the result of global warming. We – the experts in mobile flood protection other than the sandbag – openly admit that your support is required: We need your help – in more ways than one. The technology behind our systems is safer and better than sandbags. It not only saves time and manpower – it saves lives, too – both humans and animals as well as property. We have to, and intend to, support and advise people, politicians, planners and decision-makers of flood protection. We are fighting against “short-term memories” and in favour of “preventive flood protection”.

Over the past decade the EU spent a little over 80 billion euros in repairing damage caused by floods. We feel that something has sorely gone amiss here. If only a fraction of this money had been invested

in preventive flood protection, a large part of the regions affected could have been effectively and sustainably protected. And this is the reason why we have come forward to improve the situation of those who live in areas that are at risk of flooding. We need YOU as an active patron!

*What does being a flood protection patron actually entail?*

They are ready and willing to support us when others are not able, or do not want, to help. We are looking for patrons from fire brigades and from other institutions or retired citizens, who wish to get involved with flood protection. We wish to get volunteers from the fire brigade, civil defence and others involved with giving advice to those people living in risk areas. We will provide training to those who volunteer, so that they are able to give advice to anyone interested. After the training course, the volunteers will be given a free hotline service number which is made public in the corresponding catchment area. The EVH will take care of the grants needed. Time is of the essence – it is better to make the most of concerted efforts to prevent something from happening rather than waiting until something happens before taking any action.

*We live and breathe our vision:*

All the areas at risk in Europe are protected with flood protection systems, and all the volunteers supporting us can sit and watch on TV that the floods have not caused major damage – the catastrophe has been averted! This is what we hope to achieve with our initiative. We hope that you will put your faith in us, as we do in you. Then nothing can stand in the way of this useful cooperation – please contact us at: [info@europaverband-hochwasserschutz.eu](mailto:info@europaverband-hochwasserschutz.eu)

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