Facilitating communication during flood events
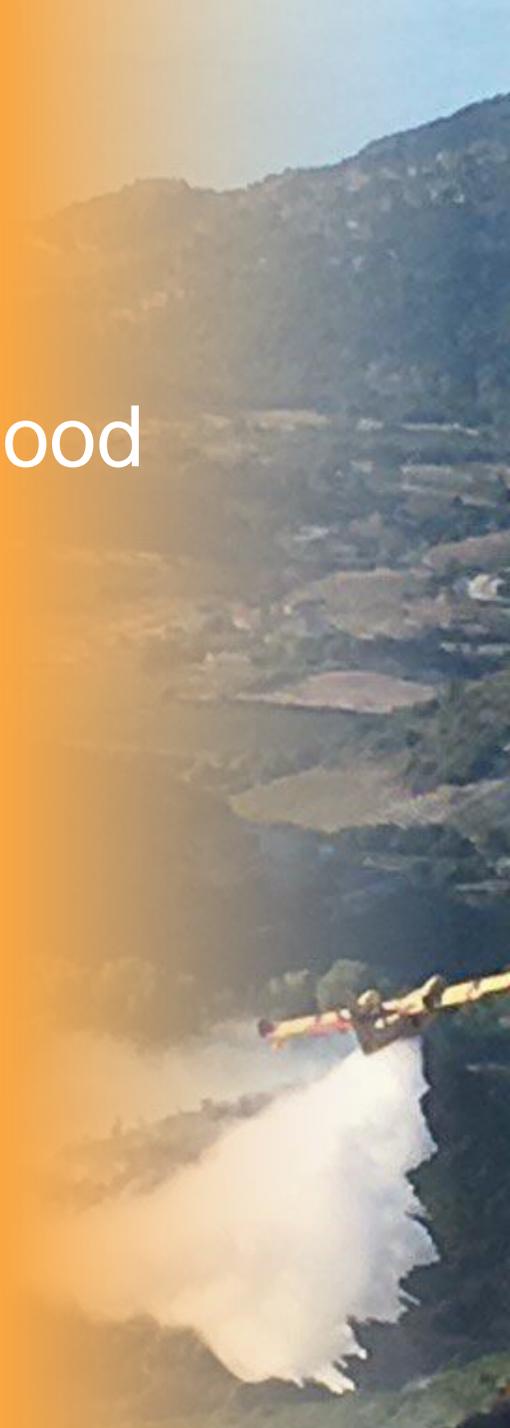
Emergency Management

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Why?

➢ High media echo during flood events

➢ Better communicate why EFAS real time forecast data are restricted and not publicly available (single one voice principle) and in general facilitate communication about the performance and limitations of EFAS

Current:

➢ EFAS real time forecast information is restricted with a 30 day embargo period. Initial conditions and seasonal forecasts are freely available.

➢ EFAS partners (not third parties) can decide to publish EFAS information for their region before the 30 day embargo period

Proposed:

➢ **Reduce the 30 day embargo period to 15 days**

➢ Everything else stays the same!

Feedback:

➢ Low response rate (also because no further follow up due to some negative replies)

➢ Results: **6 pro – 6 con**

Pro:

➢ **Better justification for the embargo period** connected to the maximum length of the medium range forecast range in EFAS

➢ **Maintain single one voice principle as no "valid" forecasts are publicly available**

➢ **Legal requirement to provide public access** to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents (Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001) – prescribed time-limit to respond to data request: 15 days

➢ **Restricted "secret" information triggers even higher interest by media/public to find out about the EFAS performance** - Easier to communicate with the public/others regarding EFAS performance, how it works and its limitations

Con:

➢ period after major flooding events is often very busy... Reducing from 30 to 15 days reduces the time for EFAS partners to concentrate on own flood event analysis **while having to explain differences between EFAS forecasts and national/regional forecasts** to the public/others

➢ **Flood event may not be finished after 15 days** (concern in relation to single one voice principle)

➢ **Change of length of medium range forecast** requires a **change in embargo period**