

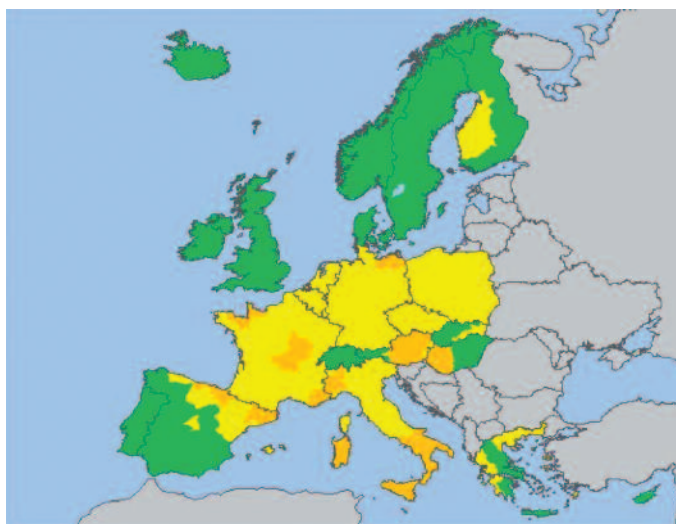
# Summary of Meteoalarm developments 2010

The Meteoalarm programme is a long established programme started after the December 1999 storms, Lothar and Martin. Together with over 20 European countries a website was developed that became operational in 2007.

[www.meteoalarm.eu](http://www.meteoalarm.eu) now gives online warning information originating from the European National Meteorological Services (NMSs) for more than 30 countries. The website presents the actual and forecast warning and awareness situation for both today and tomorrow. Due to its multilingual and graphical way in presenting the information the website is easily understandable, at a glance, by non-professional users. European citizens and the national civil protection services are the target audience for the information. In particular, while travelling throughout Europe awareness for severe weather and its impact across the route is of high importance.

## Meteoalarm Phase III, Eumetnet programme in progress until 2012

The Meteoalarm project is initiated and implemented by Eumetnet, the network of European weather services. Since 2009 the EMMA/Meteoalarm Phase III programme is underway. Programme management is performed by ZAMG (Michael Staudinger) in close co-operation with KNMI (Frank Kroonenberg). Eumetnet maintains and funds the operational system for its members, the NMSs. In this way the website's technical and operational configuration is guaranteed to be up and running on a 365x7x24-hourly basis. New hardware and software maintenance is foreseen, due to the high and rising hit rates. Since its creation, the site has received over 1.5 billion hits. A new version of the website's home page is expected to be launched by April 2010. The new 2.0 version of Meteoalarm will give the **Europe of regions page** as the website's home page.



## Meteoalarm Extended Features (EF) funded by European Commission

Besides just keeping the website up and running, there was more ambition within the Meteoalarm community. Since Meteoalarm offers a coherent and integrated European footprint on Weather awareness, it receives substantial attention from civil protection authorities across Europe. In particular the Monitoring Information Centre (MIC), responsible for civil protection at the European level, has great interest in our information. This is why the European Commission, DG Environment, decided to accept the project proposal for the Meteoalarm Extended Features (EF) programme. This Meteoalarm EF programme will run from December 2009 until December 2010 and is undertaken by ZAMG, FMI and KNMI.



## The content of the Meteoalarm EF programme

### Prolonging the awareness lead time

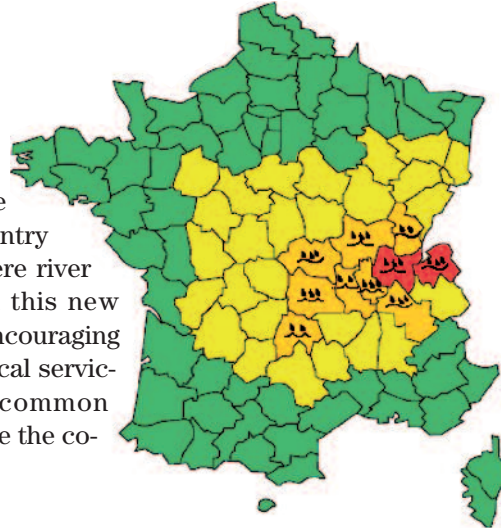
This augments the website's technical structure to offer Day 2 up to Day 5 awareness information. This information will be made available within a user and password protected area on the website. The awareness information presented will be colour-coded in the same way as the other Meteoalarm public information for Day 0 and Day 1. Targeted user groups for Day 2 up to Day 5 information are civil protection agencies both at National- and European level. The MIC is very interested in this information for logistical reasons.

### Introduction of the new parameter "Coastal warnings"

Many people enjoy sea shore activities such as yachting, windsurfing, kite surfing and paragliding, and there is a growing interest from our visitors in receiving awareness information for coastal areas. The Meteoalarm EF programme will implement the technical structure to offer these new parameters on the website. Already many Meteoalarm member countries have offered their willingness to deliver their awareness data on coastal warnings.

## Introduction of the new parameter “Flooding”

At the start of the website in 2007 we introduced “Rain” as an important awareness parameter in Meteoalarm. In 2010 the new parameter “River flooding” will be introduced. The need to introduce this parameter was felt because a country might be “Green” for rain, while at the same moment severe river flooding is expected. To give proper national input on this new parameter the Meteoalarm programme team is strongly encouraging National co-operation between Met services and Hydrological services within the member community. It is likely that a common Meteoalarm conference will be organised in 2010 to enhance the co-operation between these services.



## Extension of the Meteoalarm domain towards Southeast Europe

Also in co-operation with the WMO we will seek an extension of the Meteoalarm domain within the Balkan area and towards Turkey. The WMO is willing to help the “New countries” in further upgrading their warning infrastructure in order to be able to join the Meteoalarm community.

## Implementing RSS feeds and Common Alert Protocol (CAP) XML codes

New techniques like RSS feeds and CAP format messages will be made available. RSS feeds will enlarge possibilities for users to make best use of the available information on the website. Also professional users from the Media are taking advantage of RSS feeds. The CAP-format messages will allow governmental authorities to send out SMS messages targeted at people in a certain geographical area and is adopted by the WMO as an important format for NMSs to deliver their warning information.

Frank **Kroonenberg**,  
KNMI