

# Citizens' summary

## EU strategy on adaptation to climate change

### WHAT IS BEING PROPOSED?

The European Commission has published a policy paper outlining the EU's strategy for adapting to climate change.

### WHAT'S THE ISSUE?

- The EU is **already facing adverse impacts** of climate change: changing rainfall patterns, melting glaciers, rising sea levels, more frequent heat waves and floods.
- We **already need to adapt** to deal with the economic, environmental and social costs of these impacts - for example by making infrastructure resilient to climate change, selecting drought-tolerant crops and building sea dykes.
- **Failure to adapt will be costly** to our economies and societies. Effective adaptation will reduce overall damage costs and save lives.

### WHO WILL BENEFIT AND HOW?

- The **environment and all people living in Europe** – all adaptation measures are intended to preserve quality of life and our environment.
- The **economy** – the cost of taking early, planned and coordinated action to address climate change is much lower than the (medium- and long-term) costs of not doing so.
- **Businesses** – adaptation to climate change will stimulate innovation and bring new market opportunities and jobs (in agricultural technologies, ecosystem management, water management, insurance, etc).

### WHY DOES ACTION HAVE TO BE TAKEN BY THE EU?

- National, regional and local initiatives already exist, but are incomplete and do not cover the whole EU territory.
- Many climate change impacts affect domains where the EU already has common policies, such as agriculture and energy. EU-level action in these domains offers greater consistency and coherence.
- Coordinated action at EU level promises substantial savings in areas like capacity building, research, data collection and knowledge transfer.

### WHAT EXACTLY WILL CHANGE?

The EU is committing to:

- support action by EU countries, including action taken at regional and local level
- create a basis for coordinated research, information sharing, exchange of best practice and innovative approaches
- make key economic and policy sectors more resilient to the impacts of climate change
- facilitate funding for adaptation in all relevant EU funding programmes for 2014-20.

### WHEN IS THE PROPOSAL LIKELY TO COME INTO EFFECT?

Immediately.

More information on adaptation to climate change is available on:

[http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/adaptation/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/adaptation/index_en.htm)

<http://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/>