

# 01 – Tool for the environmental self-assessment of tourist accommodation

## Environmental EU Policy and Legal context

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## Introduction

Under the **European "Green Deal,"** new European strategies and legislation lead the tourism sector into the green transition of the whole sector. Making tourism more environmentally

friendly goes hand in hand with the revision and implementation of several ongoing legislative initiatives relating to environmental protection and climate change. This goes from a healthier food system to a safe and environmentally friendly transport.

In 2021, the European Commission made a series of legislative proposals to achieve climate neutrality in the EU by 2050 and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030, compared with 1990. This "green transition" impacts the public and private sector tourism on numerous and various aspects, and the EU strategies and legislations concerned are abundant, creating a complex compendium.

## **Tourism and Environmental law**

Tourism professionals should be aware of the relevant legislation in Europe and in their own country<sup>1</sup>. It will help them learn about the environmental requirements, establish measures to prevent or minimize possible negative effects on their surroundings, and better inform their visitors.

Tourism has been a growing sector for decades, but environmental strategy and respect for natural resources were not always a priority. However, changes are now requested due to three main elements:

- The new demand from visitors for more sustainability and environmental respect.
- The COVID-19 pandemic and the increase in local tourism and eco-tourism.
- An increasing awareness among professionals about the link between the lack of environmental protection and the low efficiency and competitiveness of our tourism activity.

## **Objective of this report**

This report intends to provide you with an **overview of the trends in terms of strategies and legislation** within the main issues covered by the project EcoHosting.net. **It is not a comprehensive compilation of EU environmental legislation** but should help you better understand the present and future framework and constraints for tourism activities.

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<sup>1</sup> see: The regulation of tourism activity in Europe - [https://ec.europa.eu/growth/sectors/tourism/business-portal/understanding-legislation/regulation-tourism-activity-europe\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/growth/sectors/tourism/business-portal/understanding-legislation/regulation-tourism-activity-europe_en)

It should be clear that the trends of Tourism strategies that is impacting tourism professionals are tackling the specific challenges of climate mitigation and adaptation, limiting pressures on biodiversity, and preserving water resources.

The strengths of tourist destinations will lean on the quality of their natural resources, cultural heritage and their potentiality to give customers a unique and authentic experiences.

**Tourism professionals have a key role in this development, in strong collaboration with local authorities.**

***Reminder:***

*The EU legislation includes:*

- *Regulations (with direct implementation in the Member States)*
- *Directives (the precise implementation of which remains the responsibility of the Member States)*

*Prior to legislation, adopted by the Council of the EU and the European Parliament, the European commission is developing Strategies, Plans, Communication and proposals, that are all orientation documents and are not binding.*



# Waste management

- **Main European policy provisions**

The Waste Framework Directive is the EU's legal framework for treating and managing waste in the EU. It introduces the "waste hierarchy". To prevent and reduce the impact of waste on human health and on the environment, this "waste hierarchy" gives priority to prevention (non-production of waste), preparing for re-use, recycling, treatment and, as latest solution, disposal<sup>2</sup>.



Figure 1- [European Commission](#)

Certain categories of waste require specific approaches and the EU has many laws to address different types of waste (eg. Construction waste, Packaging waste, End of life vehicles, Hazardous waste, etc.) or specific methods of treatment (eg. Landfill).

<sup>2</sup> See: Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC [EUR-Lex - 32008L0098 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#)

For instance, the EU Directive on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment aims at fighting the Single-use plastics and makes all plastic packaging reusable or recyclable by 2030<sup>3</sup>.

- ***Waste prevention & circular economy***

Under the European Green Deal, a new "green development model" is proposed with the production of products and services with fewer resources and more "green resources", while minimizing or even zeroing waste at all stages of production, but also after the end of product's life. This is because not only does waste have a negative impact on the environment, climate, and human health, it also has a negative impact on the economy as it results in the loss of valuable materials.

In this line, the European Commission created a **Circular Economy Action Plan**<sup>4</sup> which focuses on the prevention of waste generation and on the promotion of reuse and recycling of waste. The plan fixes objectives for recycling: for instance, target recycling rates for plastic are 40% by 2025 and 55% by 2030; for wood, it's 25% by 2025 and 30% by 2030; and paper and cardboard are set at 75% by 2025 and 85% by 2030.

Additionally, whilst not yet legally binding, it encourages food waste to be reduced by 30% by 2025 and 50% by 2030 in accordance with the United Nations' development goals.

- **Specific waste management policy in the field of tourism**

The European Commission released the Best Environmental Management Practice in the Tourism section in 2016. Whilst this is not a legally binding document, it strongly suggests that the sector focuses on reducing waste generation, reusing when possible, having a waste sorting system set up, and recycling sorted waste.

This approach is also pertinent from an economic standpoint as for many types of waste accommodations pay twice for it: at acquisition and disposal.

- **Current reforms**

In 2022, the Commission proposed a Circular Economy Package II, which main objective is to ensure for consumers reusable packaging options and, get rid of unnecessary packaging<sup>5</sup>.

- **Sources**

- [European Environment Agency](#)

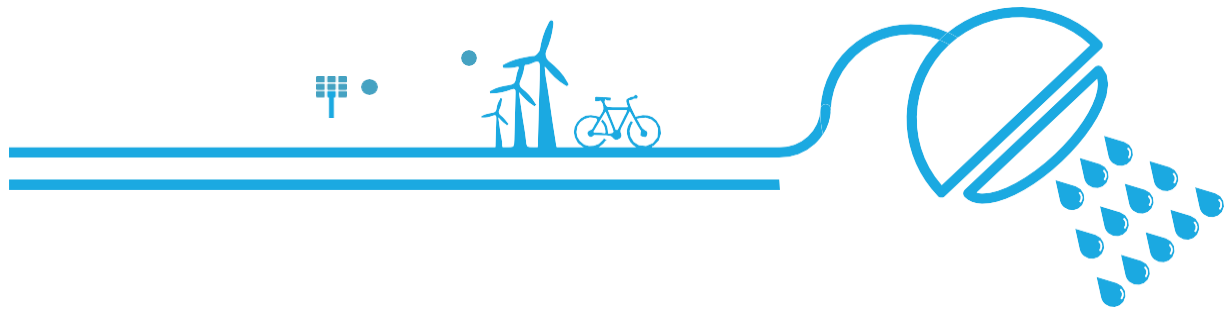
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<sup>3</sup> See [Directive \(EU\) 2019/904 of the European Parliament and th... - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#)

<sup>4</sup> See the [new Circular Economy Action Plan](#) 2020

<sup>5</sup> [Directive on single-use plastics](#) 2019 and [Directive on plastics bags](#) 2015

- [Best Environmental Management Practice in THE TOURISM SECTOR](#)
- [Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns](#)



## Water management

It is very important to mention that the European Union treats water as a **non-commercial product**, and as a heritage that should be treated accordingly because “*Clean water is the driving force of life*”. It became clear during the last decades, with the visible impacts of climate change, that a lot of pressure is put on this good and that the amount of good quality soft water is limited.

- **Main European provision**
  - *The Water Framework Directive*

A global framework for a European water policy was established in 2000 with the **Water Framework Directive** (Directive 2000/60/EC) which aims for a good water status in general. Member States shall implement the measures necessary to prevent or limit the input of pollutants into groundwater and to prevent the deterioration of the status of all bodies of groundwater.

The objectives are:

- to enhanced protection and improvement of the aquatic environment and prevent or limit the input of pollutants into groundwater to prevent further pollution.
- to ensure the establishment a management of each river basin district, taken into account the status an aquatic ecosystem as a whole (and not only part of it, separately)
- to promotes sustainable water use based on a long-term protection of available water resources
- and contributes to mitigating the effects of floods and droughts.

- *Specific provisions*

Within this general framework, several specific directives were adopted to ensure that water is managed and preserved in the long-term and that aquatic ecosystems are protected (groundwater, drinking water, urban wastewater, etc.). Among them, some may directly interest hotel and camping owners, especially those located close to natural surface water (sea, river, lake, etc.):



- Directive on **Bathing water** (Directive 2006/7/EC): to ensure the monitoring of the quality of bathing water to all natural surface water used for leisure across Europe. This ensures tourism professionals get information during the bathing season.
- Directive on **Floods** (Directive 2007/60/CE) is to manage flood risk and the risks floods pose to human health, economic activities and the environment. This Directive asks State members to monitor and inform the public on flood risk of all water courses and coastlines, evaluate and map them. They also have to organise measures to reduce the potential risk.

In addition, the Regulation on **Water Reuse** of May 2020 that aims to encourage and facilitate water reuse in the EU contributes to reducing water consumption and managing possible water scarcity. It focuses on water reuse in agriculture, but it generated some minimum requirements for water reuse and started the development of water reuse schemes. A review of the sector performed in 2017 by Water Reuse Europe, 787 schemes practising reuse were identified, distributed across 16 European countries. 11% were implemented for water reuse in recreational activities. This Regulation will be applied in all EU member States from June 2023.

- *A better monitoring of water quality*

This legislation contributed to the improvement of national legislation and also led to an increase of monitoring of water quality and status, providing professionals with more information on water in their area:

- [The WISE](#) Water Information System for Europe provides data on European fresh and marine waters
- Interactive map to check the state of bathing water in your area: [State of bathing waters \(europa.eu\)](#)

- **Specific rules for water management in the field of tourism**

According to the **European Eco-label criteria for Tourism accommodation**, that are reserved to businesses engaged in the certification process, several criteria regarding water management should be considered. These criteria may provide guidelines for any hotel or camping owner wishing to better manage water.

## *European Eco-label criteria for Tourism accommodation*

### *Water management*

- The average water flow rate of the bathroom taps and showers shall not exceed 8,5 litres/minute (bathtubs, rain showers and massage-showers are exempt). In order to ensure that, it is necessary to measure the number of litres flowing from the bathroom taps and showers. This could be done by using a flowmeter or a small bucket and a watch.
- Efficient water fittings: for toilets and urinals, continuous flushing is not permitted. Toilets installed within the duration of the EU Ecolabel shall have effective toilet flush of  $\leq 4,5$  L.
- With regards to bathroom taps and showers, the average flow of the showers should not exceed 7 litres/min and bathroom taps shall not exceed 6 litres/ minute.
- Every accommodation should water its plants and its garden after sunset or before high sun.
- Hotels and camping sites should not change sheets and towels on a daily basis. More frequent changes should be explicitly requested by law or national regulation, established by a third-party certification scheme, or requested by guests.
- Additional criteria are trying to encourage accommodations to manage their pool management policy so as to recycle rainwater and grey water, and to have efficient irrigation systems.

- **Current reforms**

The European Union is trying to accelerate the reduction of water pollution:

- The **revision of the Drinking Water Directive** will strengthen water quality standards, tackling pollutants of concern, such as endocrine disruptors and microplastics, and leading to even cleaner water from the tap for all and less need for plastic bottles.
- In addition, in 2021, the European Commission adopted the EU Action Plan **“Towards a Zero Pollution for Air, Water and Soil”**. The action plan fix objective for 2050 to reach levels no longer considered harmful to health and natural ecosystems. The idea is to speed up **reducing pollution at source**. For water,

the objective for 2030 is to improve water quality by reducing waste, plastic litter at sea (by 50%) and microplastics released into the environment (by 30%).

- **Sources**

- Water Framework Directive (Directive 2000/60/EC) and specific legislation: [Water \(europa.eu\)](https://europea.eu)
- [Directive on Bathing water \(Directive 2006/7/CE\)](https://europea.eu)
- [Floods Directive \(europa.eu\)](https://europea.eu)
- [Regulation on Water reuse](https://europea.eu)
- Ecolabel for tourist accommodation:  
[https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/circular-economy/eu-ecolabel-home/eu-ecolabel-tourist-accommodation/tourism-professionals-corner\\_en](https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/circular-economy/eu-ecolabel-home/eu-ecolabel-tourist-accommodation/tourism-professionals-corner_en)
- [EU Action Plan: "Towards a Zero Pollution for Air, Water and Soil"](https://europea.eu)
- European Environment Agency – Report: [European bathing water quality in 2021](https://europea.eu)



## Energy management

In recent decades, the EU set ambitious climate and energy targets aimed at boosting the **share of renewable energy sources** in the overall energy mix and at **saving energy** through conservation and efficiency improvement measures.

- **Main policy provisions**

- *Energy production*

The EU promotes a coordinated approach by its member States to encourage energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions to ensure the Paris Agreement commitments are respected.

Currently, the adopted minimum **EU targets** for renewable energy and energy efficiency for 2030 is a binding increase of the **share of renewable sources to 32% of gross final energy consumption**. The overall renewables target is to be 40% by 2030.

To this end, the European Commission is promoting the transition to low-carbon and is facilitating private and public investment for the transition to clean energy through co-funding of projects.

Additionally, provisions enable citizens as actors in the development of renewables by enabling **renewable energy communities** and **self-consumption of renewable energy**<sup>6</sup>.

- *Energy consumption – energy efficiency*

The EU countries must collectively ensure a binding decrease of 7% for final energy consumption and 9 % for primary energy consumption compared with the 2020 levels.

The **Energy Efficiency Directive** states that EU countries must achieve new savings each year of 1.5% of final energy consumption from 2024 to 2030 in comparison to the actual 0.8%.

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<sup>6</sup> “Energy communities organise collective and citizen-driven energy actions that help pave the way for a clean energy transition while moving citizens to the fore. They contribute to increasing public acceptance of renewable energy projects and make it easier to attract private investments in the clean energy transition. At the same time, they have the potential to provide direct benefits to citizens by increasing energy efficiency, lowering their electricity bills and creating local job opportunities.” See: EC [Energy communities \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/energy/clean-energy-communities/)

Energy efficiency requirements are also to be systematically considered when public bodies procure products, services, buildings, and work.

- **Current reforms**

The European Commission is revising the Energy Efficiency Directive to nearly double the annual energy savings obligations for EU countries from 2024 to 2030.

Recently, the REPowerEU plan set out key measures to rapidly reduce the EU's dependence on Russian fossil fuels by further accelerating the clean energy transition.

- **Transport:**

The European Commission is revising the Regulation (EU) 2019/631 on CO2 emission performance standards for passenger cars and vans. The EC also propose rules for the use of renewable and low-carbon fuels in maritime transport.

- **Building:**

The EC is also revising the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive to require all new buildings to be zero-emission as of 2030.

- **Sources**

- [Energy – Investing in a sustainable energy future for Europe](#)
- [Energy efficiency directive](#)
- [2030 Climate Target Plan](#)
- [Renewable energy – directive, targets and rules | Energy](#)
- [Rural Energy Communities](#)



## Mobility and Accessibility

- **Tourism for all: accessibility**

According to the European commission “While designing, executing, operating, maintaining and communicating about your tourism business, you must ensure that it is accessible and available to everyone.” (see: *Tourism for all*, European Commission - [Accessibility](#))

Accessibility covers:

- **physical accessibility** – improving spaces and infrastructure to create an environment where citizens can move around freely
- **communication accessibility** – helping people with communication difficulties to get their message across via tools and trained staff
- **web accessibility** – making booking services and related websites easier to access

An International Standard ISO 21902 on Tourism and related services fixed some requirements and recommendations to make tourism accessible for all: it provides requirements and guidelines to facilitate equal access and enjoyment of tourism by people of all ages and abilities. (see: [ISO - ISO 21902:2021 - Tourism and related services – Accessible tourism for all – Requirements and recommendations](#).)

Other major regulations and laws on accessibility at the international and European levels are as follows:

- UN convention on the rights of persons with disabilities: [Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities \(CRPD\) | United Nations Enable](#)
- The European Accessibility [Directive \(EU\) 2019 on the accessibility requirements for products and services \(europa.eu\)](#)

- **Sustainable mobility**

In order to translate into law the European Green Deal, the European Commission proposed the '[Fit for 55](#)' package in 2021, to review the existing law and add new initiatives on climate, energy and transport-related legislation.

Concerning mobility the objective is to promote sustainable and smart mobility, in line with [sustainable and smart mobility strategy and action plan](#), in order to reach the following objectives:

By 2030

- at least 30 million zero-emission cars will be in operation on European roads
- 100 European cities will be climate neutral.
- high-speed rail traffic will double across Europe
- scheduled collective travel for journeys under 500 km should be carbon neutral
- automated mobility will be deployed at large scale
- zero-emission marine vessels will be market-ready

By 2035

- zero-emission large aircraft will be market-ready

By 2050

- nearly all cars, vans, buses as well as new heavy-duty vehicles will be zero-emission.
- rail freight traffic will double.
- a fully operational, multimodal Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) for sustainable and smart transport with high-speed connectivity.

To reach these objectives, measures include, for instance:

1. Boosting the uptake of **zero-emission vehicles**, and related infrastructure - for instance by installing public charging points.
2. Making **interurban and urban mobility healthy and sustainable** - for instance by developing extra cycling infrastructure over the next 10 years.
3. **Pricing carbon and providing better incentives for users** – for instance by pursuing a comprehensive set of measures to deliver fair and efficient pricing across all transport.



## Biodiversity and nature protection

Biodiversity is defined as the variety of living organisms, wherever they come from, including land, sea, and other kinds of ecosystems.

- **Main policy provisions**

In 1979, following its international engagement to the Bonn Convention on Migratory Species and the Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, the European Union committed to nature protection with the so-called “Birds Directive” to protect bird species and their habitat.

Since then, the legislation has been developed and enlarged to the protection of the ecosystems hosting wild fauna and flora species. The “Habitats Directive” (1992) helps maintain biodiversity and identifies “Natural habitats type of Community interest” which are areas in danger of disappearance or that outstanding examples of biogeographical regions (eg. Alpine, Macaronesian, Mediterranean, etc.). **It protects over 1000 animals and plant species and over 200 types of habitats and is the starting point of the European network “Natura 2000”**. All these measures led Member states to identify and monitor endangered habitats and species; and to designate protected areas where human activities may be limited.

Of course, other policies related to water protection, pollution, agriculture, forest or other themes also influence the preservation of biotopes and of the species they host.

The Habitats Directive defines how **Natura 2000 sites** are managed and protected (article 6 of the Directive). Within Natura 2000, Member States have to “take appropriate conservation measures to maintain and restore the habitats and species for which the site has been designated to a favourable conservation status” and “Avoid damaging activities that could significantly disturb these species or deteriorate [their] habitats” (article 6 of the Directive).

In this framework, any project which could significantly impact a Natura 2000 area, should be assessed beforehand to analyse and prevent any negative impact on the site.



- **Specific provision in the field of tourism**

According to the criteria of the EcoLabel for tourist accommodation, tourism professional engaged in the process should provide:

- Communication/education notices on local biodiversity and nature conservation for the guests (information on Nature trails, protected natural areas, on the values of environmental sustainability, etc.)
- Guest entertainment including elements of environmental education (animation, event, nature observation posts, etc.)
- They should also use native or non-invasive alien species (i.e. plant species that occur naturally in the country) used in outdoor areas or aquatic vegetation.

- **Current reforms**

Nowadays, the EU strategy is no more oriented only towards protection but, facing the continuous loss of biodiversity, also on restoration!

The [EU Biodiversity Strategy](#) was drawn in 2021 to call for binding targets to restore degraded ecosystems, in particular those with the most potential to capture and store carbon. The Strategy contains specific commitments and actions to be delivered by 2030.

- Enlarge the existing Natura 2000 areas network with stricter protection for protected areas
- **Launching an EU nature restoration plan, together with the foreseen Nature restoration law, for degraded ecosystems**
- The improvement of knowledge and financing for biodiversity
- Better respect of nature in public and business decision-making

In this framework, the Commission proposed **a new law to restore ecosystems**. The proposal combines an overarching restoration objective for the long-term recovery of nature in the EU and foresees binding restoration targets for specific habitats and species. These measures should cover at least 20% of the EU's land and sea areas by 2030, and all ecosystems in need of restoration by 2050.

At international level, end 2022, during the Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (**COP-15**) to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, the EU (party to the Convention) and 195 countries agreed on **goals and targets for action by 2030 and 2050 and**

**fixed targets, among which the restoration of 30% degraded ecosystems** globally (on land and sea) by 2030 and the reduction of **pollution risks** and **negative impacts of pollution from all sources by 2030** to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity and ecosystem functions.

- **Sources**

- [European Environmental Agency](#)
- [Natura 2000 and the Directives](#)
- [Natural and Cultural Heritage in Europe: Working together within the Natura 2000 network \(2019\), European Union](#)
- The European Biodiversity Strategy [Biodiversity strategy for 2030 \(europa.eu\)](#)
- Proposal for Nature Restoration Law [https://environment.ec.europa.eu/publications/nature-restoration-law\\_en](https://environment.ec.europa.eu/publications/nature-restoration-law_en)
- Convention on Biological Diversity <https://www.cbd.int/>
- [European Commission EU Ecolabel Tourist Accommodation Commission Decision 2017/175/EC](#)



## Landscape insertion of tourist facilities

- **Main policy provisions**

Most of the regulations in the fields of land management, soils and landscapes are managed by the Member States. Nevertheless, the **European landscape convention** adopted at the Council of Europe in 2000 has been signed by almost all EU countries. It encourages public authorities to adopt policies and measures at local, regional, national and international level for protecting, managing and planning, outstanding and ordinary landscapes, throughout Europe. Various types of action are encouraged, from strict conservation through protective measures to training of stakeholders and policy makers.

- *Soil protection management*

In 2021, the European Commission launched its **Soil Strategy for 2030**, aimed at the conservation and protection of soil quality, controlling artificialization, and preserving natural soils. This strategy provides guidance and is not legally binding, but it proposes some provisions, such as the necessity to assess requirements for the sustainable use of soil and prepare a set of sustainable soil management practices.

- *Urbanism and landscape insertion*

On an EU level, the conservation of natural and wooded areas is based on the above mentioned birds (79/409 / EEC) and habitats (92/43 / EEC) directives (see Biodiversity).

Member States must prevent, by appropriate contractual, regulatory or administrative measures, the deterioration of the natural habitats and the habitats of the species present on those sites. Protection measures are not listed by European law but at the level of each Member State, the European Commission reserving the right to sanction States which have not taken the appropriate measures.

European regulations do not set specific restrictions for human activities, including tourist activities: it is the national authorities who must ensure that activities do not harm the conservation of sites, and prohibit them if necessary.

On natural or cultural sites that are listed as **UNESCO World Heritage Sites**, the development of tourist activities must be compatible with the management and protection axes integrated into the site management plan.

Some specificities of our countries' **landscapes** are also **protected by the UNESCO**. Even if these classifications are not leading to binding disposition, they encourage all stakeholders to preserve and restore when needed these important sites of our landscapes.

- The technics of **Dry stones walling**, so common in the Greek rural areas, was inscribed in 2018 on the Representative List of the Intangible **Cultural Heritage of Humanity**
- The **Gorges du Verdon**, in France, have been designated as **Biosphere reserve**

See: <https://whc.unesco.org/>

- **Current reforms**

In 2023, the European commission prepared a new law aiming to address key soil threats such as erosion, floods and landslides, loss of soil organic matter, salinisation, contamination, and others. Member States will have to take measures to regenerate degraded soils and define practices which should be banned or implemented to prevent soils degradation.

- **Sources**

- [Council of Europe Landscape Convention](#)
- [Convention concerning the protection of the world cultural and natural heritage \(1972, November 16\)](#)
- [EU Soil Strategy for 2030](#)
- [Project of new Directive for soil monitoring and resilience](#)



## Exposure to natural hazards

There is no single EU regulation covering all natural hazards. Regulations are mainly issued by Member States. However, with climate change provoking extreme weather events, the EU is supporting member States with monitoring and information systems, guidelines and cooperation to improve natural risks management.

Together with the member States, the EC identified 5 goals to pursue collectively, each with specific objectives:

5 goals for risk management	
<b>1. Anticipate</b>	To improve risk assessment, anticipation, and disaster risk management planning.
<b>2. Prepare</b>	To increase risk awareness and preparedness of the population to reduce the impact of disasters.
<b>3. Alert</b>	To ensure that warning messages across the national, regional and local levels reach the right people on time.
<b>4. Respond</b>	To enhance the EU Civil Protection Mechanism response capacity.
<b>5. Secure</b>	To ensure a robust civil protection system, operational 24/7, during and after disasters, when they are most needed.

In addition, the [EU Civil Protection Mechanism](#) is a mechanism facilitating cooperation among EU member states and participating countries in disaster response and provides a framework for mutual assistance during emergencies, including natural disasters.

- **Floods**

In 2007, the EU adopted the [directive 2007/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2007 on the assessment and management of flood risks](#). This directive aims to establish a **common framework for the prevention and management of natural disasters** in Europe to protect human life, the environment and material assets. It applies to all natural hazards, such as floods, landslides, earthquakes, storms and forest fires.

The directive includes the adoption of **disaster management plans (DMPs) at the national and regional levels**, which define the actions to be taken in the event of a natural disaster. These plans must include prevention, preparedness and crisis management measures aimed at mitigating the impacts of these disasters on people and infrastructure, including tourist infrastructure.

It provides for the establishment of **flood management plans at the national and regional levels**, as well as the drawing up of flood risk maps. This document should be taken into account when setting up a hotel in a remote area as it provides the necessary information to prevent and avoid these risks, particularly in flood-prone areas.

- **Forest fires**

The European union created the [EFFIS - European Forest Fire Information System](#) – to support national services in charge of the protection of forests against fires in the EU and neighbor countries. It also gathers information on forest fires in the EU.

In addition, an open access data base provides citizen with information on current fires and risks of fires: [EFFIS - Current Situation \(europa.eu\)](#) of the Copernicus program of the European Commission.

To learn more about the European regulation impacting the tourism sector, you can consult:

- [The regulation of tourism activity in Europe \(europa.eu\)](#)
- European Commission, [Transition pathway for tourism \(2022\) \(europa.eu\)](#)