

# Facilitating EFAS communication -Modification of the EFAS Conditions of Access

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COPERNICUS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SERVICE

#### **Frequently Asked Questions section!**

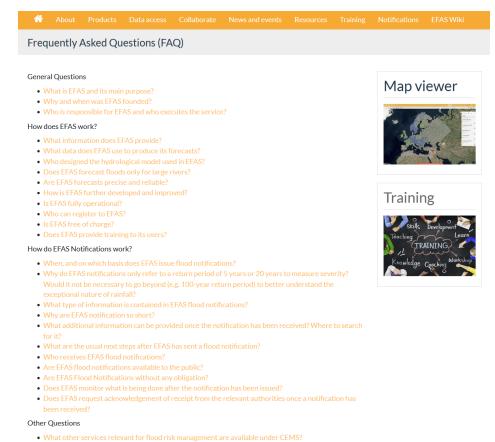
- Collection of questions from media about EFAS
- Can be used by EFAS partners/third parties in case questions about EFAS come to you!
- Will be continuously updated



GET ANSWERS FOR FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT EFAS

#### https://www.efas.eu/en/faq





- Do satellite images help in forecasting floods or do they only serve coordination efforts?
- Who is responsible for preventing, preparing and responding to natural and man-made disasters in EU Member States?
- On what basis is the European Commission supporting Member States in the field of early warning?



## 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





## First proposal (discussed at the 17<sup>th</sup> EFAS Annual Meeting)

• Reduce the 30 day embargo for EFAS real-time forecasts to 15 days

#### **Outcomes at the 17th EFAS Annual Meeting:**

- Majority of EFAS partners in favor, however, 6 EFAS partners raised concerns
- Agreement to find a compromise solution with the 6 EFAS partners to be then discussed and voted at 18<sup>th</sup> EFAS Annual Meeting





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#### New proposal

- 30 day embargo for EFAS real-time forecasts remains
- Add the following sentence to the EFAS CoA:
  - [...] "The European Commission with the support of the EFAS centres may share EFAS products and data not older than one month for the general public in specific situations (e.g. communication requests) and in coordination with the relevant EFAS partner(s). " [...]

#### **Feedback & Clarifications:**

- No negative opinion
- Clarification on what "specific situations" are: intentionally not defined precisely to be able to respond to unforeseen specific situations. However, all requests in relation to these specific situations will coordinated and agreed with the relevant EFAS partner(s)!
- Clarification on "in coordination with the relevant EFAS partner(s)": It is confirmed that this means that EFAS partners and JRC agree on the sharing of products for the specific situation and if there is no agreement nothing will be shared.
- Remark on communication "in coordination with" after flood events as these are typically very busy periods for the EFAS partners: It should be noted that these situations are an exception/will not occur frequently and that the JRC aims to be as brief and concise as possible to avoid any major additional burden on EFAS partner side





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