

Nicosia, 28 July 2020

Forest Fire Prevention Webinar

The European Commission will highlight the EU policies for fire prevention and the importance of coordination and cooperation during a webinar on 'Forest Fire Prevention' organised as part of the European Green Deal Campaign. The webinar will be held on Wednesday, 29 July 2020 from 11:00 to 12:30 via Zoom and EU Infopoint Facebook page.

During the webinar **Prof. José M. Moreno**, Professor of Ecology, University of Castilla-La Mancha from Spain and **Prof. Dr. Ömer Küçük**, Professor of Forest Fires, Kastamonu University in Turkey will discuss the EU policies for fire prevention, best practices in the EU and Mediterranean region and the importance of coordination and cooperation in combating forest fires. They will also address the effects of wildfires in protected areas.

Forest fires constitute a serious and increasing threat throughout Europe, and particularly in the Mediterranean region. Forest fire prevention, preparedness and response activities are closely intertwined. Long, dry spells increase the risk of forest fires breaking out. Weather conditions, such as rain and wind, vegetation, the layout of the terrain as well as forest management practices are factors that have a huge bearing on the scale of forest fires. The risk of fire is expected to further increase due to climate change and will be increasingly characterised by massive fires that cost lives and burn areas that take longer to fully recover.

Background:

The European Green Deal is EU's new growth strategy. It will help cut emissions while creating jobs. The European Green Deal is about improving the well-being of people. The EU will become climate-neutral by 2050 - an economy with net-zero greenhouse gas emissions. Reaching this target will require actions by all sectors of our economy. This objective is at the heart of the European Green Deal and in line with the EU's commitment to global climate action under the Paris Agreement. The transition to a climate-neutral society is both an urgent challenge and an opportunity to build a better future for all.

The EU supports and complements prevention and preparedness efforts by focusing on areas where a joint European approach is more effective than separate national actions. These include risk assessments to identify the disaster risks across the EU, encouraging research to promote disaster resilience and reinforcing early warning tools.

For more information:

<https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/indicators/forest-fire-danger-3/assessment>

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