



Commission Expert Group on Forest Fires (EGFF) and European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS)

Expert Group on Forest Fires

The EGFF includes forest fire experts from 41 countries from Europe, Middle East and North Africa. Most of its members come from the national environmental and/or forestry administrations. This year it celebrates its 20th anniversary, and its mission seems more relevant than ever.

The EGFF network meets regularly to:

- review the forest fire occurrence of the year;
- discuss the Commission's annual 'Forest Fires in Europe, Middle East and North Africa' report;
- discuss common issues such as criteria for forest fire risk assessments or prevention measures.

The EGFF is also a key contributor to the European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS). The EGFF is set up as a sub-group of the Commission's wider Expert Group on Forest Information, and it is jointly managed by the Commission's ENV and JRC Directorates-General.

EFFIS

Launched almost 20 years ago with the support of the EGFF, this GIS based information system provides data on pre-fire conditions, fire occurrences, and post-fire damage.

EFFIS gives fire danger forecasts up to 10 days ahead of time and monitors active fires through satellite imaging. It also includes data on burned areas and fire damages in Europe. For some countries – such as Portugal, Spain and Italy- this data is also fed directly into national fire databases.

EFFIS has proven to be an invaluable help in many respects. At the EU level,

- it informs Europe's Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC), thereby supporting EU emergency response through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism;
- it allows monitoring wildfire effects on protected areas such as Natura 2000;
- it informs and support climate adaptation policies and projects;
- it helps assessing wildfire damage for the EU Solidarity Fund;
- it supports the implementation of forest measures in the Common Agricultural Policy.

Learn more:

- **EFFIS** (European Forest Fire Prevention System):
<http://effis.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>
- **EGFF**: <http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regexpert/index.cfm?do=groupDetail.groupDetail&groupID=416>
- **Annual forest fire reports**:
<http://effis.jrc.ec.europa.eu/reports-and-publications/annual-fire-reports/>