

Review of the current EU framework on adaptation to climate change and assessment of the relative adaptation framework in Cyprus

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Abstract

The aim of this paper is to review the progress made so far at European level in establishing a European framework on adaptation to climate change and in integrating climate change and adaptation considerations into existing and new European sectoral policies, strategies, plans and legislation. Furthermore, the advances made in Cyprus up to this point with respect to mainstreaming European policy on adaptation in its national policy, strategies, plans and legislation is assessed, while potential barriers to implementing adaptation measures, such as legal and policy-level inadequacies or inconsistencies, are identified. The analysis begins with the overall framework on adaptation and continues with the different policy areas where adaptation actions have been identified. These policy areas are: water resources, biodiversity, forests, soil resources, agriculture, fisheries & aquaculture, marine areas, coastal zones and public health. The study revealed that a solid framework for promoting and enhancing adaptation action is being systematically developed during the last decades in the European Union. However, although a rich set of recommendations for promoting adaptation at European level has been elaborated, the framework has not yet been sufficiently transformed into legally binding goals. As far as Cyprus is concerned, several plans, strategies and policies that take into account adaptation have been developed and proposed, but, until now, none of them has actually been put into practice.

Keywords

Climate change; adaptation; European Union; Cyprus; sectors