

8 August 2013

Dear ,

Rivers in Europe are in critical state, as exemplified in the recent Central Europe floods. How can more natural rivers help reduce flood risk? How can river restoration and green infrastructure help meet Europe's demands for water, energy, food, and increasing pressures from climate change and infrastructure development?

Find out how at the [5th European River Restoration Conference](#) where we will bring together key policy makers and experts from across Europe to discuss opportunities for healthier rivers to contribute to social and environmental benefits.

Free attendance for accredited press

The programme features distinguished keynote speakers, [stimulating sessions](#), [inspiring field excursions](#) and the 1st [inaugural Riverprize](#). All sessions will be recorded and featured [online](#). Accredited press are invited to send a photographer/reporter and will be granted free admission into all conference sessions, field excursion and Riverprize Gala. All other expenses are at own cost.

Featured speakers

Janez Potočnik, European Commissioner for Environment
Hans Bruyninckx, Executive Director, European Environment Agency - *TBC*
Lucia Varga, Romanian Environment Minister - *TBC*
Mag. Carl Manzano, Director of the Donau–Auen National Park
Alastair Driver, UK Environment Agency
Klement Tockner, Professor at Free University Berlin
Fred Pearce, Author and environmental consultant at the New Scientist

European Riverprize Award Ceremony and Gala

2013 is the first year that a European Riverprize will be awarded by the International River Foundation (IRF).

The winner of the [IRF European Riverprize](#) will be announced at the Riverprize Gala Dinner on Thursday 12 September at Aula de Wissenschaften, Vienna.

Riverprize Finalists:

- Orbigó River - Spain
- Mura/Drava/Danube – Austria, Croatia, Hungary, Serbia, Slovenia
- River Rhine – Switzerland, France, Germany, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Austria, Liechtenstein, the Belgian region of Wallonia and Italy
- Upper Drau (Drava) – Austria

Note to editors

For conference registration, please [click here](#). Accredited press may contact alizia.kamani@wetlands.org for press registration code and to arrange attendance and interview opportunities.

We look forward to having you join us from 11-13 September in Vienna.

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