



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Eidgenössisches Departement des Innern EDI
Bundesamt für Meteorologie und Klimatologie MeteoSchweiz
Federal Department of Home Affairs FDHA
Federal Office of Meteorology and Climatology MeteoSwiss

Single Official Voice

Swiss Concept and Situation

2nd International Workshop DKKV-ISDR
Severe Storms over Europe
A Cross-Border Perspective of Disaster Reduction

27th March 2007



Single Official Voice

Why at all?

Answer was given yesterday by Mads Ecklon
(Danish Emergency Management Agency)

- **The information**
(on High Impact Weather and its possible consequences)
provided to the
 - **authorities** (via the appropriate channels)
 - **general public** (via the media)**must be coherent** (consistent).

→ **Best to have information from one source only**
Second best to have it from sources that co-operate



Single Official Voice

the Concept

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| • Single Voice
means one voice only | MONOPOLY |
| • Official Voice
means authorised voice | GOVERNMENTAL |
| • Single Official Voice
means one authorised voice only | GOVERNMENTAL
MONOPOLY ? |
| • Single Official Voice
means one authorised voice only | GOVERNMENTAL
EXCLUSIVITY ? |
| • Single Official Voice
means the only authorised voice | GOVERNMENTAL
LABEL |
| • Single Official Voice
allows for unauthorised voices | UNLABELED |



Single Official Voice

the Concept

- **Single Official Voice**
means the only authorised voice
- Single Official Voice **with respect to**
 - **Warnings** YES
 - **Weather Forecasts** NO NEED
 - **Information** NO NEED
- Single Official Voice for **warning who?**
 - Help and Rescue/Civil Protection YES
 - General Public YES
- Single Official Voice
must be heard and recognised as the Official Voice
by the general public
 - Keyfactor **Media**



Single Official Voice

the Swiss Situation

- Legal Basis
 - MetLaw, para 1-c:
Confederation issues warnings in case of dangerous weather conditions → Task of MeteoSwiss
- Warning Help and Rescue/Civil Protection
 - Decret on Alarms, para 9:
MeteoSwiss is the authority for High Impact Weather
Federal Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research ...
and
issue the official Warnings to Civil Protection Authorities
(on Cantonal level, indirectly also on Community level)
- Challenged recently by private met providers who offer cheap observation network and warning services



Single Official Voice

the Swiss Situation

- Warning the General Public
 - Decret on Alarms, para 9:
MeteoSwiss is the authority for High Impact Weather
Federal Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research ...
and
issue **Information** and general **recommendations** on
what to do and what not to do (not mandatory)
- Challenged by private met providers who issue warnings and recommendations to the general public via mass media and mobile communication channels
- Challenged by the fact that High Impact Weather Bulletins issued by MeteoSwiss are not widely spread by all appropriate media (especially in German speaking areas)



Possible Solutions

- Build up and further improve relations to mass media
- Agree upon a Code of Conduct with the private sector
- Improve the legal basis for warning the general public