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Developments of the European Flood Awareness System (EFAS)

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EFAS (http://www.efas.eu) is an operational system for flood forecasting and early warning for the entire Europe, which is fully operational as part of the Copernicus Emergency Management Service since 2012. The prime aim of EFAS is to gain time for preparedness measures before major flood events – particularly in trans-national river basins – strike. This is achieved by providing complementary, added value information to the national and regional services holding the mandate for flood warning as well as to the ERCC (European Response and Coordination Centre). Using a coherent model for all of Europe forced with a range of deterministic and ensemble weather forecasts, the system can give a probabilistic flood forecast for a medium range lead time (up to 10 days) independent of country borders. The system is under continuous development, and we will present the basic set up, some prominent examples of recent and ongoing developments (such as the rapid impact assessment, seasonal outlook and the extended domain) and the future challenges.