



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
RESEARCH DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Directorate I - Environment
Environmental Technologies and Pollution Prevention

Brussels,
RTD/I.2/AT/JHB D(2005)

Dear Sir/Madam,

It is my pleasure to present you the report “Contaminated Sediments in European River Basins”. The report summarises the results of the European Sediment Research Network (SedNet).

SedNet was funded by EC DG-Research under the 5th RTD Framework Programme as a Thematic Network aimed at setting up a functioning research network in the field of ‘assessment of fate and impact of contaminants in sediment and dredged material and at sustainable solutions for their management and treatment’. Between 2002 and 2004 more than 150 members subscribed to the network (see ‘who-is-who’ at www.SedNet.org). In that same period, scientific, policy and management aspects of contaminated sediments and dredged material were addressed by the network in 17 workshops and 3 conferences. Europe’s leading scientists and major sediment managers contributed to these activities.

In the report you will find a state-of-the-art overview of the main scientific, policy and management issues on contaminated sediments. In 2005 the comprehensive scientific results of SedNet will be published as a series of four books by Elsevier publishers. Furthermore, the booklet explains the following main recommendations for science, technological development and policy essential to reach a sustainable management of sediment and dredged material in Europe:

- *European policy developers*: further develop and eventually integrate sustainable sediment management into the European Water Framework Directive and related policy and legislation.
- *Sediment managers*: find management solutions that carefully balance social, economic and environmental values and are set within the context of the whole river system.
- *Researchers*: improve our understanding of the relation between sediment contamination (hazard) and its actual impact to the functioning of ecosystems (ecological status) and develop strategies to assess and manage the risks involved.

Although the EC funded SedNet project is completed, SedNet will continue as self-supporting European Sediment Network. Information on future activities can be found on SedNet's website (www.SedNet.org) and in the May 2005 issue of the SedNet E-newsletter.

I congratulate SedNet with its new phase in its existence, which is another indicator that the seed-money, given by the Commission to set up the network, is well spent.

I hope that you will enjoy reading the SedNet report and that it will inspire you to progress in tackling sediment policy, management and/or research challenges.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrea Tilche', with a stylized, cursive script.

Andrea Tilche
Head of Unit