



Restoring Europe's Rivers

PRESS RELEASE

Restoring Belgium's Rivers

We need to rethink our relationship with rivers.

As cities have grown and agricultural practices have developed we have culverted, diverted and polluted our rivers.

Over the past ten years, Europe suffered more than 175 major floods, causing deaths, the displacement of people and large economic losses. At the same time drought is increasing across Europe with the number of countries affected almost doubling between 1971 to 2011. (EEA, key facts 2010 and 2012).

RESTORE, a partnership of European river professionals, has an innovative vision for tackling the problems of Europe's rivers by restoring them to a more natural state.

By removing concrete channels and reinstating natural floodplains we can actually reduce flood risk, increase water quality and quantity, enhance animal and plant life and improve the quality of life for city dwellers. River restoration can also be about smaller improvements such as improving drainage and encouraging more diverse habitats for fish, plants and animals.

As part of this new approach two Belgian river professionals, Yves Herbert principal designer at Joining Nature and Cities and Martine LeJeune of RIOU/ AMICE, will be talking at a **RESTORE lunchtime seminar on 27th February** about the role urban regeneration and development is playing in deliver river restoration projects. They will look in particular at projects in Park Deule and in the Belgian Ardennes.

Given the high profile of water front projects such as MAS and the Antwerp Port building, as well as the increasing demand for more natural surroundings, improved access to rivers, clean water and pollution control, this subject will be of interest to both the public as well professionals in the development and water related sectors.

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SEMINAR

*Restoring Europe's
Rivers*

27th February 2013

RESTORE lunchtime seminar, which will be at the Hotel Silken Berlaymont, Boulevard Charlemagne 11- 19, B-1000 **BRUSSELS** - <http://www.hoteles-silken.com/hotel-berlaymont-brussels/en>.

- This event is free, **Register for this event**

Speakers

- Toni Scarr, Project Manager, **RESTORE**
- Martin Janes, Managing Director, **UK River Restoration Centre**
- Yves Herbert, partner and principal designer at **Joining Nature and Cities**
- Martine Lejeune, **RIOU/AMICE**

This lunchtime talk, sponsored by **EU Life+ RESTORE partnership**, will examine how Europe is working to reconnect our river channels with their natural floodplains, and look at the role that **urban regeneration and development** is playing in helping to deliver river restoration projects.

It follows a workshop by the European project **REFORM**

For more information please visit our website