

Big Jump Flash N° 14 (July 10, 2005)

- Only one week to the Big Jump on July 17 ! Everything is progressing well The first BJ will be a success, a real European river swimming day.... Close to 200 actions in 30 rivers in 10 European countries have been confirmed !

- Big News: Big Jump on the Jordan River: One week prior to the European events (July 10), EcoPeace / Friends of the Earth Middle East organized a water and peace event to clean up the Jordan River. Mayors from Palestinian, Israeli and Jordanian communities, together with local citizens, Roberto Epple (Big Jump Initiator), Gidon Bromberg and other members of Ecopeace / Friends of the Earths made a common Big Jump into the Jordan. A call to save the Jordan River, a river holy to millions of people around the world. The good efforts of the Big Jump has now added a new message with our rivers -- peace. The event has been covered by many international medias. (See also press our release www.bigjump.org).

More Highlights : The TID (international Danube Canoe Trip) has called upon thousands of its participants to take part in the Big Jump along the Danube. The Danube has never experienced such an event. Portugal, which is currently experiencing a serious draught, has extended its Big Jump events to five sites. Spanish NGOs are launching Big Jumps in Alicante, Sevilla, Madrid, Tortosa (Ebrodelta), Zaragoza, and other places. In Poland, the Vistula River, which is very polluted, will welcome swimmers once again, and a community event will be held for the local citizens. In the Czech Republic, 18 events will be held along the Labe and its tributaries, and in Germany, more than 40 swimming sites will participate in the celebration of the second international Elbebadetag.

In Belgium, which is not known for its clean rivers, 20 Big Jumps will be organized in Wallonie, including one event for handicapped people in the underground water caves of Grotten.

A last event from a much longer list : On the french / german stretch of the Rhine River at Breisach (Germany) / and Vogelgrun (France) a transboundary Swim event with a huge associated program is planned as a part of the First Rhine Swimming Day. !

All events, managed by the impressive and diverse list of our regional partners are demanding clean and living rivers (Give the beaches back..., Swimming with the salmon, Clean Rivers now...New Water Culture) and the accelerated implementation of the European WaterFrame Directive in order to meet the ecological good status in 2015 for a maximum of rivers. 2015, the year of the very Big Jump !

- The media are responding very well and during the next week many national press conferences will be held. (Hamburg, Berlin, Prague, Karlsruhe, Zürich, Brussels, Paris and others). Many VIPs, like the German Minister for Environment, announced their participation !

- It is not too late to join the Big Jump ! Organize little events, even if you cannot swim there, and demand clean and living rivers, so that we can enjoy our beaches... ! Please inform us about every event ! We will relay your action.

- Please visit our daily updated webpages www.bigjump.org to keep yourself informed. .

Your Big Jump Coordination Team (European Rivers Network)