



Federal Ministry for the
Environment, Nature Conservation
and Nuclear Safety

 EU 2007 DE



Time To Adapt

Climate Change and the European Water Dimension

Vulnerability – Impacts – Adaptation



Berlin - 12 to 14 February 2007
Programme



Umwelt
Bundes
Amt 
Für Mensch und Umwelt



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**TIME TO ADAPT – CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE EUROPEAN WATER DIMENSION
BERLIN, 12 TO 14 FEBRUARY 2007**



Climate change is a reality. It is occurring more rapidly than even climate researchers expected. In

view of the concentration of climate gases already in the atmosphere, even if the concentration is stabilised at this level, a further rise in the average global temperature can no longer be prevented, merely limited. Only marginal uncertainties remain in predictions on the temperature increase and we are therefore on relatively firm ground with this statement. The effects of climate change can already be felt today. In the coming decades these impacts will be massive if we do not make every effort to counter them.

The rise in the frequency and intensity of extreme natural events and the dramatic impacts these have on humans have repeatedly shaken the world: floods, heavy storms, heat waves and droughts are increasing.

Less obvious but no less dramatic are the long term changes, such as the shift in climatic zones, which has regionally varying, at times huge impacts on the water balance, water supply and on the availability of water for important sectors of industry, from agriculture to electricity generation and tourism.

Nevertheless, we are not helpless in the face of climate change. We can contain the causes for which we ourselves are responsible and thus limit the effects. We must adapt ourselves better to those consequences which are already unavoidable. Adapting to the impacts of climate change will only be possible, however, if we limit global warming to a level which still allows adaptation at acceptable social and ecological cost. The Stern

Report commissioned by the British government proved emphatically that in economic terms too there is no alternative to such a combined strategy. Therefore, resolute measures for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, limiting climatic changes and developing adaptation strategies are not alternatives, but necessary and complementary components of a responsible climate policy.

In the framework of the German EU Presidency, the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, together with the European Commission's Directorate-General Environment and in close cooperation with the Directorate-General Research, the European Environment Agency and the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission, is organising the symposium "Climate Change and the European Water Dimension: Vulnerability – Impacts – Adaptation" from 12 to 14 February 2007.

With the symposium we aim to strengthen awareness of the impacts and risks which climate change entails also in Europe for the water balance, the aquatic environment, water management as a whole and water-dependent sectors of industry. At the same time, we want to initiate discussions on how to improve adaptation in water management and water-dependent sectors of industry. Where are the starting points for the development of adaptation strategies, which framework conditions must be changed or created in order to facilitate and accelerate adaptation processes? I invite all participants in the symposium to be actively involved in the working groups and to introduce their own experience and ideas into the discussion.

Sigmar Gabriel

Federal Environmental Minister



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**Dear
participants,**

Climate change is already happening and its impacts are expected to become progressively more severe as temperatures rise further. Europe should take the lead internationally to ensure that

climate change does not exceed 2°C. Beyond this threshold, the impact on our ecosystems will be irrevocable. This is the objective of the climate and energy package adopted by the Commission on the 10th of January. To reach this objective, the Commission is proposing an ambitious target for developed countries with a 30% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and an independent commitment for the EU of 20%, even if an international agreement does not materialise.

Even if we succeed in limiting climate change to 2 °C, Europe is expected to face many climate change impacts with possibly severe economic, environmental and social consequences.

These consequences are often related to the water cycle. For example, the frequency and magnitude of floods is predicted to increase in the next century. In addition, noticeable changes in water availability are likely to occur, for example leading to more frequent and more severe droughts.

The dry winter we have been experiencing this year in some parts of Europe is only one example. Moreover, sea level rise will have significant con-

sequences for one third of the European population living within 50 km of the coast. Impacts on the marine environment are also predicted to be significant, resulting in major species shifts and changes in fish distribution with notable consequences on the lives of the many people that live on fishery.

These changes will not only influence river basin management, water supply and sanitation, but they will also affect water-dependent sectors such as Agriculture, Tourism, Energy and Navigation.

It is therefore very important to discuss the likely impacts of climate change on these sectors and the Symposium "Climate Change and the European Water Dimension: Vulnerability – Impacts – Adaptation" in February 2007 in Berlin offers an excellent opportunity.

At this Symposium, interactions between water and science and policy on climate change will also be addressed.

I am confident that the outcomes of the Symposium, together with the publication of a Green Paper on adaptation to climate change and of a communication on water scarcity and droughts, will enable the EU to further develop concrete actions in this area in the near future.

I wish all of you a very fruitful Symposium and I am looking forward to the conclusions and recommendations on options for adaptation in water-dependent sectors.

**Stavros Dimas - Commissioner for
Environment**



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Welcome

to the Symposium “Time to adapt - Climate Change and the European Water Dimension: Vulnerability – Impacts – Adaptation”

Time to adapt – that sounds dramatic. It implies that we already reached a point of no return with climate change. In fact there is sufficient scientific evidence that even with continued and enhanced efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions the observed trends of a changing climate and increasing global mean temperatures are going to continue, and this will result in considerable impacts on weather conditions, the water cycle, the environment and the society. Even if the EU policy target of a maximum of 2°C global temperature increase above pre-industrial levels was achieved, the associated impacts on the environment, human lives, economic activities and societies will be a major challenge to cope with. While developing countries are particularly vulnerable to the projected changes and impacts, European countries also have to consider the likely impacts of climate change and the options to strengthen their adaptive capacities and resilience. There has been political recognition of this need at global and EU levels, for example at the Environment Council in 2005 and at the UN climate change conference in Nairobi, November 2006, where a five-year work programme on “impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change” was agreed.

Why do we place the focus on water? Because the impacts of climate change on water resources and the water cycle will have wide-ranging effects on European societies. Availability of water in sufficient quantity and quality, which is vital to sustain human life and many human activities, may be threatened by climate change impacts. Additionally, deteriorating water quality and increasing frequency and intensity of floods could pose major challenges.

Although single extreme events like the floods in several parts of Europe during the last decade or the drought periods in recent years in parts of Europe cannot be linked directly to climate change, they fit into a more and more consistent pattern of climate change impacts on the water cycle. Beside



the more frequent occurrence of extreme events, gradual effects on the qualitative and quantitative status of European water resources can already be observed and should receive enhanced attention.

Changing seasonal and regional rainfall patterns will influence the availability of water resources for water abstraction both from surface and groundwater. Problems will increase in European areas that are already water-stressed today, and more areas may become water stressed. Reduced water availability due to drought periods will negatively affect the quality of water and the ecology of rivers, lakes and aquifers in many cases.

More frequent floods may increase risks not only to property and economic activities but to public health and the environment. More frequent alternation between dry periods and heavy rainfall may become a particular challenge in some regions in Europe.

The report “Climate Change and the European Water Dimension” prepared by the Joint Research

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Centre of the European Commission as well as recent studies in several Member States show that water resources are a critical factor for a wide range of socio-economic sectors, including the water supply and sanitation sector, agriculture, industry, inland waterway transport and tourism, as well as for human health and the environment. Therefore, the vulnerability of water resources to the impacts of climate change should be a major concern and should score a higher priority on the political agenda.



Water managers seek to match the forecasted future demand for water by different users, including households, agriculture, navigation, electricity production, industrial activities and tourism development, with the supplies that can be made available on a sustainable and environmental sound basis from rivers, lakes and aquifers. Without climate change and under stable conditions, water engineers and hydrologists could confidently design water management systems that would deliver dependable supplies throughout the year using past records of rainfall and river flows, and would only have to moderate the effects of seasonal fluctuations. However, climate change will alter conditions in the long term, and fluctuations have gone off the regular resulting in a higher degree of uncertainty for the design and development of the infrastructure and other measures which will

be needed to cope with future requirements. It should be explored how and to what extent the key piece of European water legislation, the Water Framework Directive, with its iterative planning cycle approach can provide a framework for dealing with these uncertainties, recognising that the impacts of climate change are affecting the relevant quality elements defining the good status of water bodies.

However, it is not only the water sector which faces the challenge. As the water sector as a supplier and service provider interacts with other sectors and water is an essential resource for many economic activities the actors and stakeholders on the demand side are equally called upon to assess their vulnerability to the impacts of climate change on the water resources and to consider options for strengthening their adaptive capacities. In this context also the interactions and trade-offs between different sectors in relation to the use of water need to be taken into account. Without combined efforts on the demand and supply side there is a risk of more and more regions in Europe running into water scarcity problems and increasing water stress. Similarly, water-related extreme events will affect all assets and infrastructures located in risk areas, and thus lead to economic losses in different sectors.

Yet whilst increasing evidence is becoming available about the possible water related impacts in various sectors, only a few European Member States have systematically examined the need for adaptation to reduce vulnerability and to increase resilience to the water related effects of climate change. The purpose of the Symposium is therefore to raise awareness on the impacts of climate change on water resources and the water environment, and to provide a forum to policy-makers and stakeholders to discuss and develop adaptation approaches.

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After the opening speeches, the first day of the Symposium will provide an overview of the most recent scientific results on observed and projected climate change impacts on water resources, the water environment and the occurrence of water related extreme events at global, European and regional scale (Block 2). Secondly the symposium will look at the vulnerability of individual regions and selected water dependent economic sectors and point to potential adaptation strategies in water management and the selected sectors. To this end the Symposium allows for intensive discussions in five working sessions on the second day (Block 4 and 5), each dedicated to one sector (water management, electricity production, inland waterway transport, agriculture, tourism). Participants are invited to share experiences and start to build a process that can collectively fill gaps and identify best practices for dissemination. Particular attention should be paid to the interactions between the sectors and the need for integrated cross-sectoral approaches. The working groups will be followed by another plenary session on the third day, which will bring together the results of the working sessions, and will provide the opportunity to consolidate sectoral adaptation approaches into a co-ordinated and integrated strategy.

The Symposium has a European focus, which will be reflected by presentations pointing at possible elements of an EU policy framework for adaptation (Block 3). A keynote by the Executive Director of UNEP, Mr Achim Steiner, will broaden the view beyond the EU and highlight the tremendous adaptation needs in a large number of developing countries (Block 6). Reference will also be made to the inspiring findings of the Stern-Review on the economics of climate change (Block 7). A high-level panel will reflect on the conclusions and recommendations developed through the Symposium and on the best strategy of transferring the message of the Symposium into policy development at

European, national and international policy levels (Block 8).

The scientific evidence sends a clear message: there is an urgent need for European societies to adapt to and enhance resilience against water related impacts of climate change. Therefore, adaptation concerns need to be integrated effectively into different policies – from the EU to national and local level. Adaptation to the consequences of climate change is not just an issue for environment departments at all levels, but also a challenge to other Directorates of the European Commission, national ministries, regional and local government departments. While it may not primarily be necessary to create new policies, it should be ensured that adaptation is incorporated into existing policy schemes. Stakeholder institutions at all levels have to be involved in the process. Industries will have to develop their capacities to adapt. Also adaptation efforts by private individuals will have to be bolstered in a variety of ways, inter alia by government support. The development and implementation of adaptation strategies will require defining the roles and responsibilities of different actors and organisations, including the private sector. The regulatory and financial framework for adaptation will need to be improved, awareness needs to be raised, information exchange improved and research gaps filled.

This Symposium aims to create momentum for these processes and steps necessary for developing adaptation strategies for Europe. It brings together scientists and representatives from different policy and business areas, and thus provides the prerequisites for cross-sectoral discussions and the development of integrative approaches. We are convinced that the outcomes of the conference will make an essential contribution to adapting the management of European waters to a changing climate.



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Programme

Monday, 12 February 2007

11:30-13:00 Registration

13:00 Block 1 – Opening Session

Sigmar Gabriel – Federal Environmental Minister - Germany

Francisco Nunes Correia - Environmental Minister - Portugal

Mogens Peter Carl - Director – General DG Environment - European Commission

14:00-18:00 Block 2 – Climate Change and Water Resources: Setting the Scene

14:00-15:30 Moderator: Wolfram Mauser - Germany

Nigel Arnell - United Kingdom

“Climate Change and Water Resources: Observed and Projected Global Trends”

Daniela Jacob - Germany

“Climate Change and Water Resources: Observed and Projected Trends at Regional Scale in Europe”

Pavel Kabat - The Netherlands

“Climate Change and its Impacts on Water Resources: Long Term and Gradual Changes”

Axel Bronstert - Germany

“Climate Change and its Impacts on Water Resources: Extreme Events”

15:30-16:00 Discussion

16:00-16:30 Coffee break

16:30-17:30 Annette Menzel - Germany

“Climate Change and Water Resources: Impacts on Water Related and Water Dependent Ecosystems and Biodiversity”

Elisabeth Lipiatou - European Commission

“Climate Change and its Impacts on Water Resources, Water Management and Related Adaptation Strategies: Research Gaps and Priorities”

Jaqueline McGlade - European Environment Agency

“What does the scientific Diagnosis mean to Politics? Observations and Question Marks.”

17:30-18:00 Discussion

20:00 Evening event (Dinner)

Poster – Exhibition takes place at the conference centre



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Tuesday, 13 February 2007

9:00-10:30 **Block 3 – Towards an EU Policy Framework for Adaptation**

- 9:00-10:00** *Moderator: André Weidenhaupt* - Luxembourg
David Grant Lawrence - European Commission
“Framework of an EU Adaptation Strategy”
Jaqueline McGlade - European Environment Agency
“Climate Change and Water – Assessments and Responses in EU Member States – an Overview”
Manfred Grasserbauer - European Commission
“Climate Change and the European Water Dimension: Tools for Improved Risk Management”

10:00-10:30 **Discussion**

10:30-11:00 **Coffee Break**

11:00-13:00 **Block 4 – Impacts on Selected Sectors and Adaptation Challenges**

- 11:00-12:45** *Moderator: Peter Gammeltoft* - European Commission
Gernot Klepper - Germany
“Climate Change and Water Resources – Socio-economic Consequences”
Introduction of background information on climate change impacts and adaptation challenges as well as of preliminary recommendations and conclusions on options for adaptation strategies and measures with regard to the following sectors:
Karl Schwaiger - Austria
“Water Management : Impacts, Adaptation Challenges and Options”
Marco Bindi - Italy
“Agriculture: Impacts, Adaptation Challenges and Options”
Michel Colombier - France
“Energy Industry (Electricity): Impacts, Adaptation Challenges and Options”
Hans Moser - Germany
“Inland Waterway Transport: Impacts, Adaptation Challenges and Options”
Gabor Vereczi – World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)
“Tourism: Impacts, Adaptation Challenges and Options”

12:45-13:00 **Questions** (comprehension)

13:00-14:15 **Lunch Break**

Poster – Exhibition takes place at the conference centre

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**14:15-18:00
incl.
coffee break**

**Block 5 – Working Sessions
Adaptation Strategies: Options for Selected Sectors**

14:15-18:00

Working Session A: Water Management



Moderator: Karl Schwaiger – Austria , Rapporteur: Merylyn McKenzie Hedger – EEA

José Ramón Picatoste – Spain - “The Spanish Adaptation Plan to Climate Change and the Water Resources Sector”

Luis Veiga da Cunha – Portugal - “Adaptation Strategies Related to Water Management: An Example of the Situation in Southern Europe – a Case Study of Portugal”

Joost Buntsma - Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Water Management - The Netherlands - “Water and Flood Risk Management in Response to Climate Change- the Dutch Experience”

David King – United Kingdom - “Water Management in the UK: Integrating Adaptive Responses to Climate Change”

Pamela Taylor – United Kingdom - “How the Water Sector is Already Adapting to Climate Change Impacts”

14:15-18:00

Working Session B: Agriculture



Moderator: Marco Bindi – Italy, Rapporteur: Jørgen E. Olesen - Denmark

Bernard Seguin – France - “Adaptation of Agriculture to Increased Drought Risk Induced by Climate Change in Southern Europe”

Ana Iglesias - Spain - “Climate change, Water and Adaptation in Agriculture”

Horst Gömann – Germany - “Perspectives for Agriculture in Central Europe under Changing Climate and Water Supply Conditions”

14:15-18:00

Working Session C: Energy/Electricity



Moderator: Michel Colombier - France, Rapporteur: Nils R. Sælthun - Norway

Sten Bergström – Sweden - “A Northern European Perspective: Climate Change and the Hydropower Industry”

Sylvie Parey – France - “Water Related Impacts of Climate Change on the French Electricity Sector”

Otto Pirker – Austria - “Climate Change and Hydropower”

14:15-18:00

Working Session D: Inland Waterway Transport



Moderator: Hans Moser - Germany , Rapporteur: Bruno Schädler - Switzerland

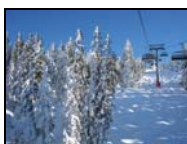
Gábor Bálint – Hungary - “Low Flows and Navigation Conditions”

Henk van Hoorn - The Netherlands - “Inland Navigation, Climate Change and Possible Measures (policy focus)”

Gunther Jaegers - The Netherlands - “Inland Navigation and Adaptation to Changing Hydrological Conditions”

14:15-18:00

Working Session E: Tourism



Moderator: Gabor Vereczi, World Tourism Organisation, Rapporteur: Wolfgang Seiler – Germany

David Viner – United Kingdom - “The Environment, Climate and Tourism: They are Changing!”

Tanja Cegnar – Slovenia - “The Impacts of Climate Change on Tourism and Potential Adaptation Responses in Coastal and Alpine Regions”

Tamara Ratz – Hungary - “The Role of Climatic Factors in Hungarian Lake Tourism Development”

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Wednesday, 14 February 2007

9:00-9:20 **Block 6 – Climate Change Impacts on Water Resources and Adaptation Strategies in Developing Countries- a Case for Development Co-operation**

Keynote: **Achim Steiner**, Executive Director of United Nations Environment Programme

9:20-9:40 **Block 7 – Climate Change and the Economic Relevance**

Terry Barker - United Kingdom,
“After Stern: the Economics of Avoiding Dangerous Climate Change”

9:40-10:30 **Block 8 – Presentation of Results from Working Sessions in the Plenary**

Moderator: **Peter Gammeltoft**, European Commission

Summary from the sessions (Rapporteurs)

10:30-11:00 **Questions / Discussion**

11:00-11:30 **Coffee break**

11:30-13:00 **Block 9 – Panel Discussion**

Moderator: **Alfred Thorwarth** - Germany

Panellists:

Achim Steiner - United Nations Environment Programme

Astrid Klug – Germany

David Grant Lawrence - European Commission

Tony Long – WWF International

Pedro Cunha Serra - Portugal

Daniela Jacob - Germany

Terry Barker – United Kingdom

13:00-13:20 **Block 10 – Presentation of Conclusions and Recommendations**

Fritz Holzwarth - Germany

Peter Gammeltoft - European Commission

13:20-13:30 **Concluding Remarks**

Astrid Klug - Germany Parliamentary State Secretary in the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

– End of symposium –

13:30 **Farewell Snack**



List of Speakers, Moderators and Rapporteurs in Alphabetical Order

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This symposium is organised by Ecologic in co-operation with the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research. For further information, please visit: www.climate-water-adaptation-berlin2007.org.



Federal Ministry for the
Environment, Nature Conservation
and Nuclear Safety

 2007 DE



TIME TO ADAPT – CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE EUROPEAN WATER DIMENSION
BERLIN, 12 TO 14 FEBRUARY 2007

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**TIME TO ADAPT – CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE EUROPEAN WATER DIMENSION
BERLIN, 12 TO 14 FEBRUARY 2007**

ORGANISATIONAL DETAILS

Conference Venue:

Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology
(BMWi)
Invalidenstr. 48
10115 Berlin
Phone: +49 (0) 30-2014-9 /
Fax: +49 (0) 30-2014-7010

A conference secretariat will be set up providing the possibility to send fax or e-mail, take copies or print documents.

How to get around

The conference venue is located next to the Hauptbahnhof (Berlin Main Station).

Participants need to get off at the following public transport stations depending on the hotel of their choice. Participants staying at Hotel Park Inn Berlin need to get off at Alexanderplatz, and all participants staying at Hotel Albrechtshof, Hotel Allegra or Hotel Augustinenhof, get off at Friedrichstraße. To get to Hotel Augustinenhof or to Hotel Mercure Berlin an der Charité, it is necessary to change for the U6 to Alt-Tegel and get off at Oranienburger Tor or Zinnowitzer Straße respectively.

The environmentally sound organisation of the symposiums „Time To Adapt – Climate Change and the European Water Dimension“ is a great concern to us.

For this, we need your assistance!

The main impact on the environment and the climate during the Symposium are the CO₂-emissions caused by the participants' journeys to and from the venue. In addition to this there are also environmental impacts caused by transfers within Berlin.

We recommend the compensation of unavoidable CO₂- emissions.

Compensation means the offsetting of unavoidable CO₂ - emissions through support of climate-protection projects in developing countries. Detailed information about offsetting measures and projects are available at the following internet portals:

www.500ppm.com/en/company/news_retail/index.html and www.atmosfair.de

For your mobility in Berlin we recommend the Berlin's public transport system. For further information www.bvg.de

Thank you for your Cooperation!

For further information see www.climate-water-adaptation-berlin2007.org



**TIME TO ADAPT – CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE EUROPEAN WATER DIMENSION
BERLIN, 12 TO 14 FEBRUARY 2007**

If you arrive at Airport Schönefeld:

Use the Regional Express line 7 or 14 from Airport Schönefeld to Dessau or Nauen respectively and get off at Berlin Hauptbahnhof. The Express operates at an interval of about 30 minutes.

Duration: 30 minutes

If you arrive at Airport Tegel:

Use the Bus TXL starting from Tegel Airport to Berlin Hauptbahnhof. The Bus operates at an interval of 10 minutes.

Duration: 20 minutes

If you arrive at Airport Tempelhof:

Use the U6 from Platz der Luftbrücke in direction of Alt-Tegel. Get off at Zinnowitzer Str. From there, it is a 5-10 minute walk or one station with the bus line 245 in direction of Zoologischer Garten. The U6 operates at an interval of 5 minutes. The bus departs every 10 minutes.

Duration: 30 minutes.

Public transport tickets and taxi:

Single tickets

This ticket is valid for two hours on the buses, trams, urban rail and metro trains, regional trains, regional express trains, and ferries of all participating transport companies.

You may make as many stops or transfers as you like during the two-hour period of validity, but your ticket is not valid for return or round trips.

Price: 2,10€ in the fare zones AB (city area)

Short-trip tickets - Price: 1,20€

If you are traveling a maximum of 3 urban rail (S-Bahn) or metro (U-Bahn) stations, or 6 bus or tram stops, then you should take advantage of the short-trip fare.

Day-Pass - Price: 5,80€

A day pass (Tageskarte) is valid for as many trips as you like until 3:00 AM the following day. It is valid for the date already printed on the ticket, or for the date that is stamped on your ticket when you validate it.

All tickets can be purchased at the ticket booths on all stations or at the bus driver.

For all question concerning the public transportation system in Berlin, please have a look at the Website of the www.bvg.de - All information is available in English.

Taxi fees

From Airport Tegel to Berlin Hauptbahnhof it costs about 16€ for a small room taxi. From Airport Schönefeld to Berlin Hauptbahnhof, the price will be about 30€. From Airport Tempelhof, the price will be about 15€.

Dinner at 12 February 2007

Restaurant Theodor Tucher

Pariser Platz 6

10117 Berlin - Mitte

030-22489464

S-Bahnhof Unter den Linden S 1, S2, S 25

