3.2.4 Characteristics of Disasters in Europe:

As we know, the year 2002 was devastating for Europe. As can be seen from the following figures, heavy rains and subsequent floods caused severe human and economic loss in the region. According to Figure 31, the majority of the disasters in 2002 were windstorms and floods as these two account for almost 80% of the total disasters. The majority of the human loss was due to extreme temperatures, floods, slides, and windstorms. All of these disasters caused about 90% of the total human loss in the region in 2002. Further, as seen in Figures 32 and 33, 96% of the totally affected people were affected by floods and windstorms. Thus it can be concluded that the year 2002 was tumultuous for Europe, as hydro meteorological disasters once again caused severe damage.

**Figure 31:**

![Number of Disasters in Europe (2002)](source: ADRC, Japan and CRED-EMDAT, Universite Catholique de Louvain, Brussels, Belgium, 2002)
Figure 32:

Number of People Killed in Europe (2002)

Source: ADRC, Japan and CRED-EMDAT, Universite Catholique de Louvain, Brussels, Belgium, 2002

Figure 33:

Number of Totally Affected People in Europe (2002)

Source: ADRC, Japan and CRED-EMDAT, Universite Catholique de Louvain, Brussels, Belgium, 2002