



News

Winter storm Burglind / Eleanor in Europe, January 2018

The first winter storm of 2018, Burglind/Eleanor swept across Europe on 3 January 2018. The storm was named “Burglind” in German-speaking Europe and “Eleanor” across Western and Southern Europe. Switzerland recorded maximum wind gusts of 201 km/h, Germany 120 km/h and the UK 160 km/h. These were the highest recorded wind speeds since winter storm Lothar in 1999. The storm first reached Ireland and the UK early on 3 January and then moved south-east across continental Europe with France, the Netherlands and Switzerland most affected.

The storm led to widespread disruptions in road and train traffic due to blockages from toppled trees. In Germany, a train derailed after crashing into a fallen tree; in Switzerland, strong winds derailed a railcar. Numerous flights had to be cancelled across European airports and shipping lines were partly shut down. Damaged power lines left thousands of people without power. At least three people have died across Europe mostly due to fallen trees with dozens more injured.

The storm also caused some flood damage in coastal towns and flood warnings are active along coasts and rivers across Europe as the next days are expected to bring additional rainfall. News from all over Europe report of damaged roofs, scaffoldings and damages caused by fallen trees. While strong winds are expected to continue at least until Thursday evening, the strongest wind gusts – categorized as “gale-force winds” – have subsided.

Based on continuous analysis with the proprietary Europe Wind Tool (see storm footprint attached), the portfolio manager estimates that insured losses from this storm could end up between EUR 1 billion and EUR 2 billion. This would make Burglind/Eleanor the most expensive winter storm since Xynthia in 2010. However, loss estimates this shortly after the event still include considerable uncertainty.

Europe wind is one of the main exposures in CSA ILS / CSA ILS Fixed. It is too early for a detailed impact assessment but based on the initial loss range estimate and the exposure in CSA ILS / CSA ILS Fixed, the portfolio manager would not expect a significant impact from this storm. We will monitor the developments and will keep you updated of any significant developments.

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