


Breaking the trend

The land behind the river embankments is becoming more heavily used and populated. More houses are being built and afflu-

ence was extremely high and the dikes just managed to hold their own. Extremely high river discharges will occur more frequently in the future. We need to find a way for rivers to cope with greater volumes of water in a safe manner.

In 2006 the Cabinet drew up the Spatial Planning Key Decision on the River Rhine (SPKD) (*Planologische Kernbeslissing Ruimte voor de Rivier*) which has three objectives:

- ~ in 2015 the Rhine branches will safely cope with an outlet capacity of 16,000 cubic metres of water per second;
- ~ the measures implemented to achieve the above will also improve the quality of the environment of the river basin;
- ~ the extra space the rivers will need throughout the coming decades



Once Parliament has approved the SPKD Room for the River, implementation of the measures can begin. Several steps must still

