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EUROPEAN AND MEDITERRANEAN MAJOR HAZARDS AGREEMENT (EUR-OPA)

Conference on Including People with Disabilities in Disaster Preparedness and Response

4 December, 9.00 – 18.00 and
5 December 2014, 9.00 – 13.00

Warwick Barsey Hotel, Brussels, Belgium

DRAFT PROGRAMME

The Conference is organised in cooperation with



CONFERENCE OF INGOs
OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONFERENCE DES OING DU
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



Organiser: The Council of Europe, under the auspices of the Belgian chairmanship to the Committee of Ministers.

Who should attend the conference?: Policy makers, representatives of local, regional and national governments, agencies, voluntary associations (mainly in civil protection and care of assistance to disabilities), academics, and all stakeholders working with people with disabilities and disaster risk reduction.

Background and aim of the Conference: The Council of Europe through its *Disability Action Plan 2006-2015: promote the rights and full participation of people with disabilities in society*¹ strives to promote the perception of persons with disabilities as holders of rights in the same way as all other citizens, considering disability to be part of human diversity. Through its EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement, the Council of Europe is promoting improvements in emergency planning, disaster response and risk mitigation of and for people with disabilities. The Resolution on "[Ethical principles relating to disaster risk reduction and contributing to people's resilience to disasters](#)", adopted in 2011, was the basis for the current work programme². A state-of-the-art [report](#), [guidelines](#) for action and a declaration with [recommendations](#) for action have been issued by the Council of Europe and adopted by its member States³. The Council of Europe has convened a working group to produce a survey of current developments in Europe and has commissioned a toolkit for civil protection professionals at local, regional and national level to provide practical guidance for the improvement of services, plans and assistance to people with disabilities in the light of risks, crises, emergencies and disasters. The Conference on Including People with Disabilities in Disaster Preparedness and Response will assess the state-of-the-art in this field across Europe, in the member States of the Council of Europe and of the EUR-OPA Agreement. It will profile the Council of Europe's EUR-OPA initiatives on including people with disabilities in disaster preparedness and response. It will discuss the results of surveys of EUR-OPA member States and will present the first results of the Council of Europe toolkit project. Discussion will focus on how to take forward initiatives in this field in order to improve the quality of services designed to support people with disabilities who are confronted with emergencies or disaster risk. The results of the Conference will be fed into the preparation of the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction to be held in Sendai City (Japan) in March 2015, where a session on Including People with Disabilities in Disaster Preparedness and Response is scheduled.

Working languages: English and French

Market Place: Possibility to display material during the Conference

¹ Council of Europe 2006. *Council of Europe Action Plan to promote the rights and full participation of people with disabilities in society: improving the quality of life of people with disabilities in Europe 2006-2015*. Strasbourg, 44 pp, cf also the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN-CRPD).

² *Ethical Principles on Disaster Risk Reduction and People's Resilience*, Michel Prieur, Council of Europe, 2011.

³ *Major Hazards and People with Disabilities. Their Involvement in Disaster Preparedness and Response*, David Alexander, Silvio Sagromola, Council of Europe, July 2014.

THURSDAY, 4 DECEMBER 2014

09.00-09.30 Registration

Opening of the Conference

09.30-10.15 Welcome speeches

- ❖ Mr Eladio FERNANDEZ-GALIANO, Head of the Democratic Initiatives Department, Acting Executive Secretary, European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA), Directorate General II, Council of Europe
- ❖ Ms Isabelle MAZZARA, Secretary General of the Federal Public Service Home Affairs, Belgium
- ❖ Dr Ádám KÓSA, Member of the European Parliament
- ❖ Ms Paola ALBRITO, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, Europe Office
The post-2015 Framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2), leading to the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR), Sendai, Japan, 14-18 March 2015
- ❖ Mr Giampiero GRIFFO, European Disability Forum (EDF)
Inclusion of persons with disabilities in emergency and humanitarian aids

Major Hazards and People with Disabilities:

1. Political commitment, co-ordination and continuity

10.15 – 10.45

- ❖ Mr Hans DAS, Head of Unit A/5, Civil Protection Policy, Directorate General Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection – ECHO, European Commission
Disabilities in disaster preparedness and response: reflection from the EU perspective
- ❖ Ms Inmaculada PLACENCIA-PORRERO, Deputy Head of Unit, Rights of Persons with Disabilities, European Commission
EU disability policies and their coordination
- ❖ Mr Badaoui ROUHBAN, Global Risk Forum Davos
Enhancing commitments to disaster preparedness and resilience of people with disabilities

10.45-11.15 Coffee break

11.15-11.45 **Keynote Speech**

- ❖ Prof. Ilan KELMAN, University College London and the Norwegian Institute for International Affairs
Disability and Disaster: Voice from the people.

11.45-12.00 Open floor discussion

12.00-12.45

- ❖ Mr Panagiotis KOUROUMPLIS, Member of the Hellenic Parliament
Planning for disasters in times of crisis
- ❖ Mr Josef NEUMANN, State Parliament of North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany, Vice Chair of the Current Affairs Committee, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe
Empowerment of people with disabilities in disaster management
- ❖ Ms Irena KOWALCZYK, Head of Unit, Anti-discrimination and Social Cohesion Department, Directorate General II, Secretary to the Council of Europe's Committee of experts on the Rights of People with Disabilities (DECS-RPD)
Council of Europe as a guardian of human rights in all situations
- ❖ Mr Dimitris NIKOLSKY, Chair of the Council of Europe's Committee of experts on the Rights of People with Disabilities (DECS-RPD)
Being prepared means fighting discrimination

12.45-13.00 Open floor discussion

13.00 -14.30 Lunch break

Major Hazards and People with Disabilities: 2. Networking and Ethics

14.30-15.30

- ❖ Ms Greet VAN GOOL, attachée aux Relations multilatérales auprès du SPF Sécurité sociale, Belgium
Exposé sur les articles 11 et 32 de la Convention des Nations Unies sur les droits des personnes avec un handicap
- ❖ Mr Luk ZELDERLOO and Ms. Giulia QUARTA
European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities (EASPD)
Unlocking specialized knowledge available
- ❖ Ms Magda ROOZE, European Federation of Psychologists' Associations (EFPA):
OPSIC – a web based application for psychosocial support, reflecting with end-users and victims
- ❖ Dr Stepan VYMETAL, Ph.D., Ministry of the Interior, Czech Republic
- ❖ Dr Barbora BALKOVÁ, Psychologist, DG Fire Rescue Service of the Czech Republic
- ❖ Fst. Lt. Petr VODICKA, Fire brigade, Prague, Czech Republic
Crisis communication with disabled people - training of first responders (good practice from the Czech Republic)

- ❖ Ms Claudia SCHEDLICH, European Network for Psychosocial Crisis Management: *Assisting Disabled in Case of Disaster (EUNAD)*

15.30-15.45 Open floor discussion

15.45-16.00 Coffee break

Major Hazards and People with Disabilities:

3. Strategic planning

16.00 -18.00

Development and current state of the EUR-OPA initiative “Major Hazards and People with Disabilities”

- ❖ Ms Mechthilde FUHRER, EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement, Directorate General II, Council of Europe
- ❖ Prof. David ALEXANDER, Mr Silvio SAGRAMOLA, Members of the Working Group
- The publication “*Major Hazards and People with Disabilities. Their Involvement in Disaster Preparedness and Response*”

Open floor discussion

- A Toolkit for Planning and Action

Open floor discussion

- ❖ Mr Jean-Luc SIMON, Chair of the Europe Region of the World Organisation for Disabled People (OMPH/DPI)
Networking and ethical aspects
- ❖ Dr Maria KETT, Assistant Director, Leonard Cheshire Disability and Inclusive Development Centre, University College London
Relevance of the Toolkit for planning and action

19.00 Cocktail reception

FRIDAY, 5 DECEMBER 2014

09.00-09.15 Opening statements

- ❖ Ms Mechthilde FUHRER, EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement, Directorate General II, Council of Europe
Summary of the previous day's proceedings

Major Hazards and People with Disabilities:

4. Knowledge management and Optimisation of resources

09.15-10.45

- ❖ Priv.-Doc. Dr Elke M. GEENEN, ISOKIA and Dr Reinhard STRANGMEIER, ISOKIA
Empowering personal disaster preparedness and self-help of people with disabilities
- ❖ Mr Alexander STAZHADZE and Ms Sopio ANDGULADZE, Project Coordinators at Save the Children Georgia Office
Risk Management during Natural Disasters and Inclusive Education
- ❖ Experiences from Belgium

Ms Mieke BROEDERS, Association « Enter », Belgium
The importance of accessibility in the case of disaster

Mr Vincent SNOECK, Gamah, Belgium
Accessibility: an imperative component for a good prevention policy

Mr Thierry DAVIER, Project Leader of BE-Alert Project, Belgium
Be-Alert's « best practices » and their accessibility for disabled people (deaf and hearing impaired)
- ❖ Ms Vaia ARSENOPOULOU, Greece
Earthquakes: guidelines for people with intellectual disabilities using the Easy to Read Method and Makaton symbols
- ❖ Prof. Stefanos DRITSOS, Greece
'Design for all': earthquake preparedness including people with disabilities

Open floor discussion

10.45-11.00 Coffee break

11.00 -11.30

- ❖ Mr Michel FEIDER, Civil Protection, Luxembourg, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents of the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement
Crises management and governance: Luxembourg's approach

- ❖ Dr Dirk BOENKE, Team leader Traffic & Environment, Rehabilitation International (RI)
- ❖ Dr Regina ERNST, National Secretary for Germany, Rehabilitation International (RI)
Disasters in street tunnels: consideration of the needs of people with disabilities

Open floor discussion

11.30 – 11.50

Major Hazards and People with Disabilities:

5. Enlarging the vision

- ❖ Mr Alexander MAUZ, ASB
Disaster Risk Reduction in Georgia, Indonesia, Nicaragua and Haiti
- ❖ Ms Alba GONZALEZ and Ms Charlotte AXELSSON, CBM
Disaster Risk Reduction and humanitarian aid for persons with disabilities in developing countries

Open floor discussion

12.00-13.00 Concluding remarks and closure of the conference

- ❖ Mr Eladio FERNANDEZ-GALIANO, Head of the Democratic Initiatives Department, Acting Executive Secretary, European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA), Directorate General II, Council of Europe
Presentation of the Conference Statement