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**EUROPEAN AND MEDITERRANEAN MAJOR HAZARDS AGREEMENT
(EUR-OPA)**

**65TH MEETING
OF THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT CORRESPONDENTS**

**COUNCIL OF EUROPE OFFICE
PARIS, FRANCE**

27-28 NOVEMBER 2014

CONCLUSIONS

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1. WELCOME AND ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA

As an opening statement, the Chair, Mr. Feider (Luxembourg), welcomed the Permanent Correspondents (see Appendix 2 for the list of participants) and pointed out that it had been a long time since the last meeting. He then invited the newly nominated Permanent Correspondents to introduce themselves, namely Mr. Veselov (Russian Federation), Mr Altentus (Turkey), Ms Gurguliani (Georgia) and Ms Raeva (Bulgaria). The Albanian representative, Ms Kasa, informed that she represented the newly appointed Permanent Correspondent, Mr. Prençi, as he could not participate in the present meeting.

Due to previous commitments of Ms Albrito (UNISDR) in the afternoon, the Chair proposed to move point 6 of the agenda (devoted to the 3rd World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction) to just after point 3 in order to discuss with her the implications of the Sendai Conference for the Agreement. The proposed change in agenda was adopted (cf. appendix 1 for the final agenda).

The Chair pointed out that the 12 month time lapse between two meetings is a concern for the involvement of Permanent Correspondents in the follow-up of the Agreement's activities. He proposed to consider reverting to two meetings per year to better involve them in the implementation of the projects. The Executive Secretary recalled that the decision to reduce to one single meeting per year was linked to the reduction in resources associated to the withdrawal of France. Nevertheless, the Executive Secretariat will evaluate the economic feasibility of holding two shorter meetings of one day (one in Spring and another in Autumn) instead of a single meeting of two days (in Autumn).

The Executive Secretary briefly recalled some developments within the Council of Europe pertinent to the Agreement. The Secretary General of the Council of Europe had been re-elected and consequently there was little change in its priorities: a reduction of 2% of the overall budget is expected and the Agreement will have to follow the general rules in terms of financing, a point to be taken into account when considering the feasibility of a second meeting of the Permanent Correspondents. Concerning the Agreement's activities, he remarked that the Medium Term Plan 2011-15 was implemented primarily through the technical projects developed by the Centres, which act now in synergy. He also stressed that the work on vulnerable people is a success and highlighted the importance of addressing the specificities of migrants even for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Finally, he recalled that the preparation of Sendai Conference outcomes is essential to accordingly adjust the future agenda of the Agreement. As Permanent Correspondent of Luxembourg, the Chair suggested that instead of trying to cover several subjects, focus should be made on fewer topics in order to increase the effectiveness of the work of the Agreement and its external visibility.

Following a question on the next Ministerial Session which should endorse this future agenda, the Executive Secretariat hoped that it could take place in 2015 or early 2016 and made a call to member States to candidate for its hosting.

2. INVOLVEMENT OF THE EUR-OPA AGREEMENT IN THE POST-2015 FRAMEWORK PROCESS

Ms Paola Albrito recalled the main past and future steps leading to the Sendai conference. She recalled the main topics highlighted in the zero draft: ensuring that no new risks are created; a better understanding of risk; addressing the governance issues; considering economic implications; anticipating the climate change impact.

The Second Preparatory Committee held recently was devoted to the collection of the national comments on this zero draft and much work remains to be done to obtain a final draft before the 31st January 2015. The working group on indicators is also exploring how to make the proposed indicators usable for all stakeholders.

Apart from the ministerial session, the Major Groups session will be devoted to such topics as people-oriented approach, ecosystem-based approach, scientific component or coherence with SDG and CCA and Humanitarian Forum. Other important topics to be discussed at the conference will be the link with economic aspects, such as the data losses collection and the risk aspects included in financial exchanges.

Following a question by the Belgian delegate on the actual representation of the Council of Europe at the WCDRR, the Executive Secretariat informed that, due to the specificity of the topic addressed, the EUR-OPA Agreement will represent the Council of Europe at the Sendai Conference, making a statement supporting the new post 2015 framework and participating in several parallel technical meetings (on human rights, on people with disabilities and on nuclear safety).

In order to formalize that support to the new framework, the Executive Secretariat presented the main aspect included in the Resolution 2014 – 1 of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents on the support to the Post 2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction proposed for adoption by the Committee of Permanent Correspondents. The content of the resolution will serve as basis for the statement delivered at the forthcoming World Conference on DRR. As no major comment on its content emerged, the Chair proposed to collect any additional comments on the resolution through e-mail to avoid any lengthy discussion on actual drafting (see appendix 3 for the final version incorporating all comments received).

Ms Paola Albrito welcomed the adopted resolution and recalled the voluntary commitment component of the Sendai conference: she suggested formulating the Agreement's support in that way. In order to publicize the commitments associated to the adopted resolution, the Executive Secretary proposed to prepare a publication to be distributed in Sendai on what has been done in the past by the Agreement and presenting the above commitments. All participants agreed to this idea and the Executive Secretariat confirmed that it will examine the most satisfactory way of compiling such a publication.

The Executive Secretariat also informed on the participation in other activities developed by partner organizations in view of the Sendai conference. A meeting on Human Rights and Disasters hosted in Paris by UNESCO prepared a session on this topic to be held in Sendai. The Global Risk Forum also held a meeting in August to propose guidelines for the post 2015 Framework and the work on people with disabilities promoted by the Agreement was extensively discussed at the 2nd WCDRR Preparatory Committee in November in Geneva. Finally, as partner in the PEDRR initiative, the Agreement has contributed to the effort to include eco-system based approaches in the post 2015 Framework.

3. SPECIAL SESSION: EVACUATION

As an introductory remark, the Chair pointed out that evacuation issues are sometimes underestimated and especially important where small countries are concerned. As an example, he recalled that Luxembourg considers that in the event of a nuclear disaster in its neighbourhood, it can only host a very small part of the affected population. He also highlighted the lack of information in such situations.

- ***Natural hazards: May 2014 floods in Serbia***

Mr Ivan Maric recalled that Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina suffered the greatest damage from the floods in May 2014. Even if the weather forecast was accurate, the actual rainfall was the heaviest in 120 years of recorded weather measurements. As a consequence, 32 000 persons were evacuated in Serbia housing, road infrastructure and the health sector suffered extensive damages. To deal with this disaster, the Civil Protection gathered together all related entities capacities: the Serbian Red Cross was involved in the evacuation process.

He recalled that the existing law on emergency situations defines priorities for some groups of people in case of evacuation. Serbia also received assistance from 14 countries, both through the EU civil Protection Mechanism and bilateral relations (such as the one with Russia), as well as support from non EU countries and other international organizations. The main lessons learned are the need to improve prevention and early warning while developing further activities on population awareness.

The Executive Secretary pointed out that the Council of Europe Development Bank can help the affected countries through loans and these loans can also be used for prevention measures. Mr Maric informed that a special meeting on that topic had been held in Belgrade and he emphasized that needs in terms of staff and logistics and international help are also important in such situations. He also informed that landslides proved to be even more dangerous as mines emerged in the fields and the handling of such a new risk source had to be addressed.

The Armenian delegate asked about the actual implementation of special evacuation plans for institutions with persons with disabilities while the Chair extended this question to the case of hospitals, jails, ... Concerning the wider discussion on people with special needs, Mr Maric informed that such special plans had only been established in 2013 and it was planned to complete their deployment by the end of 2015: 80% of the concerned institutions had not yet implemented them, reinforcing the importance of prior prevention measures.

The Bulgarian delegate highlighted the importance of specific procedures for some groups but raised the more general issue of who is responsible in case of refusal of evacuation by someone, a point linked to legal aspects of evacuation also raised by the representative of the AFPCN. Mr Maric recognized that evacuation is a huge issue for people, and especially for most poor people who do not want to leave their home and belongings.

In answer to the question of the representative of the European Forum of Local Authorities on the specific role developed by local authorities in this disaster, Mr Maric confirmed that most cities have done well but they should place special emphasis on respective responsibilities of various services, an easier task in bigger cities. He once again insisted on the absolute need of good previous planning for evacuation as the necessary coordination cannot be done on the spot during the disaster.

- ***Technological hazards: Chernobyl and Fukushima accidents***

Mr Victor Poyarkov presented the evacuation aspect in case of nuclear accident based on the experience of two major accidents knowing that 116 000 persons were evacuated after the Chernobyl accident and 70 000 after the Fukushima accident. The main problem with radiological hazard is that the risk is not visible and it makes the evacuation decision and its implementation more difficult. It consequently requires very precise advance planning to coordinate the different actors involved. To define a common methodology, good international practices can be used.

Ideally, an evacuation decision should take place in advance to the actual radiological release. To consider if people can live in less contaminated areas, a system for monitoring large surfaces is necessary and Mr Poyarkov questioned whether such monitoring capacity exists in each country. He also recalled the potential trans-boundary aspect of evacuation as many nuclear power plants are close to national borders and may affect various countries. Transportation is clearly a crucial aspect for evacuation but in the case of radiological accident, the transportation means used are also contaminated. Finally, he remarked that special training for doctors is needed to enable them to cope adequately with the associated health problems.

Another major problem concerning radiological hazard is that people often do not believe the information provided: people must be informed in advance of the nature of the hazard. To be efficient, countermeasures and alarm signals used must be diffused even if confidentiality of some critical data has to be preserved: the main aspects of emergency management must be identified and diffused.

- ***General discussion***

After the two presentations, the Chair opened the floor to a more general discussion on evacuation issues. The Azeri delegate took the floor and presented a film on their experience on evacuation during the floods in 2010. He emphasized the means used to mitigate the impact on the population by carrying out a preventive evacuation of the villages at most risk and setting up tent camps to resettle temporarily affected people before a programme for the reconstruction of houses was launched.

The Chair asked him about the need for international help and recalled that Bosnia and Herzegovina had benefited from assistance from Luxembourg for the evacuation during the May 2014 floods. The Azeri delegate confirmed that they managed it nationally with their own financial means to cover compensation and house renovation and he proposed to use that case as a good practice. The Executive Secretariat also asked about the potential role devoted to the private sector, recalling that in Italy private means can be requisitioned to manage the disaster. Both the Serbian and the Azeri delegates confirmed that the private sector has been much involved in the respective interventions.

In the light of the various presentations, the Chair noted the importance of taking into account the collateral effects of evacuation when examining whether evacuation is necessary or whether sheltering is sufficient. He also remarked that the psychosocial aspect is often the most overlooked aspect of evacuation. The Executive Secretariat proposed to circulate a questionnaire on the actual situation in member States to obtain a state-of-the art and then to develop a working group on issues identified by means of this questionnaire.

In view of all the comments, the Chair remarked that the evacuation issue requires further concrete work. Given that the existing EU recommendation adopted in 2013 does not propose associated actions, the Chair suggested adding evacuation as a major topic in the biennial work of the Agreement.

4. VULNERABLE GROUPS AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

- **PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

The Chair recalled the progress made in this sector over the last year. He emphasized that very little material already exists on the topic thus making it quite an innovative domain having actually reached a significant status in the Sendai Conference agenda. However, he remarked that the lack of

good practices renders the work somewhat incomplete and he pointed out that specific tools for the persons with disabilities are needed.

The Executive Secretary confirmed that it is a new issue to be handled by authorities but also by the associations of persons with disabilities. At the last meeting of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents, a recommendation was adopted based on a report and guidelines prepared by two experts. The book “Major Hazards and People with Disabilities: Their Involvement in Disaster Preparedness and Response” was presented at the Global Risk Forum in Davos in August 2014 where two sessions on the topic were organized: one dedicated to the specific work of the Agreement and a more general session on Disaster Risk Reduction for more vulnerable groups.

The final goal is to provide Civil Protection Services with some tools to help them to handle such specific situations. In principle, the work will come to a close with the conference organized in Brussels in December under the Belgian presidency of the Council of Europe with over 100 participants. On this occasion, a toolkit will be presented as a result of the work developed by a working group on the basis of information collected through questionnaires to member States and other stakeholders. Due to the delay in the compilation of this data, the version of the toolkit will be only be a first draft and not the final document: this toolkit is intended to be a “work in progress” that will be updated regularly as more contributions for partners are expected.

The Georgian delegate suggested involving more institutions working in the field, providing training sessions and developing regional strategies. The Armenian delegate supported this last proposal through the diffusion of the material of the conference to promote the collaboration of other countries. He also remarked that emergency services could engage people with disabilities to inform them more accurately.

The Executive Secretary recalled that we wish to promote a common approach including all the needs of people and new technologies can help to develop this kind of work. The Monegasque delegate pointed out that the main merit of the questionnaire is the identification of the issues and he confirmed that technological solutions (using Skype for example) can improve emergency calls, in particular when dealing with persons with disabilities. In fact, the resilience of persons with disabilities requires to a great extent the support of those without disabilities and the Chair suggested contacting the private sector to explore their potential participation in such an effort.

- **MIGRANTS**

The Chair recalled that a workshop on migrants, asylum seekers and refugees was organized in June in cooperation with the Intercultural Cities Initiative of the Council of Europe and with the support of the Japan Foundation. The Executive Secretariat recalled that some interesting aspects were raised, such as the possibility for migrants to join the competent services. It also informed that a meeting on the topic will take place during the Sendai conference in March 2015 and a working group (with the expected participation of the European Commission) is also planned for 2015.

Even if the problem of the accurate definition of the concerned population is important, the Chair proposed to raise the awareness of member States to this question in view of the workshop follow-up. In that sense, the Executive Secretary recalled that tourists and expatriates are more and more numerous and can face similar problems to other migrants: their specific needs can also be addressed by the work initiated on migrants.

5. EXAMINATION OF THE CENTRES' ACTIVITIES

After informing on the conclusions of the meeting of the Directors of Centres, the Executive Secretariat made a brief report on the results obtained during the biennium 2012-13 and briefly presented the new projects supported in 2014-15.

It reviewed some of the main final results of the projects supported during 2012 and 2013:

Line of action 1: Information

Study of optical fibre technology usage and multi-sensors monitoring for the development of a landslides' early warning framework; Surviving disasters booklet (available in several languages); Preparation of guidelines for international cooperation on fire management.

Line of action 2: Knowledge

Draft guidelines on defence of rural population against forest fires; Development of real time telemetric monitoring system of large constructions; Methodology definition and national assessment of landslide susceptibility in 3 countries; Draft on structural interventions design for seismic protection of monuments; Development of risk/vulnerability maps of tsunami and sea level rise for 2 coastal areas; Study on regional variability of source parameters on ground motion variation; Terrestrial and marine data collection through 2 coastal areas' studies; Analysis of the links between Climate Change and development in the Arctic region.

Line of action 3: People

Launch of the multilingual Besafenet website and leaflet; Final version of special tests for assessment of schools' safety; Revised version of the booklet on nuclear hazard information; Methodology and data collection for the socio-economic impact of tsunami risks on coastal areas; Collection of pertinent data in 4 countries affected by Vrancea earthquakes; Test of draft material for disabled people in a specialized centre; Identification of principles to involve communities in emergency situations.

The topics covered by the new projects for 2014-2015 were also briefly recalled:

Line of action 1: Information

Geophysical Monitoring of Landslides and Man-Made Structures: search of forerunners; Methodology for creation of the complex emergency alerting system; Contribution to the care of a potential risk: heat waves.

Line of action 2: Knowledge

Fire Management in Natural and Cultural Heritage Sites and Protected Areas; Contribution to fundamental studies in seismic processes; Knowledge diffusion on nuclear safety based on lessons from Chernobyl and Fukushima; Vulnerability assessment of Historical Centres and safe evacuation in case of earthquake; Distance Automatic On-line Monitoring of Buildings and Engineering Frames; : Integration of Triggering Factors in European Landslide Hazard Mapping; Assessing drought recurrence using nonlinear approach; Global change, cultural heritage and smart cities; Coupling terrestrial and marine datasets for coastal hazard assessment and risk reduction.

Line of action 3: People

National Strategies for alerting authorities and population in the Balkans; Measures to solve trans-boundary heavy pollution of Kur river; Be Safe Net: protect yourself from hazard; Identification and risk awareness of pupils in case of flood; Public Awareness and Education Tools for Disaster Risk Reduction and Preparedness to Earthquakes; Inform and involve population in seismic and tsunami risks prevention; Involvement of citizens in decision-making process against man-made disasters;

Informative material concerning Earthquake Protection Measures for People with disabilities; Involving people with disabilities in disaster planning and preparedness; Soft skills in disaster preparedness and relief.

The Belgian delegate emphasized the importance of being able to mobilize experts on concrete topics and the need to better dialogue with them to implement their general conclusions to specific situations. The Executive Secretary confirmed that the future activities will consider such needs.

6. PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR 2015

The Executive Secretariat presented the draft budget for 2015 and remarked that there is no major change with respect to 2014 except for zero nominal growth which has now become the usual constraint imposed by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. As for the previous year, the associated adjustment will be made on operational expenses in order to preserve the amounts devoted to activities.

Concerning the activities developed by the Executive Secretariat, the Chair recalled that the work on vulnerable groups will be continued in 2015. The Executive Secretariat confirmed that the work on the revised toolkit will be continued in the first semester of 2015. As the Latvian presidency of the European Union has chosen to also address this topic, it is planned to organize a joint seminar in May 2015 to present the revised toolkit. The later follow-up will be discussed with the other partners and links with other initiatives will be explored. On the topic of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees, a conference is planned to take place before the end of 2015. The development of the specific project related to children and disaster risk reduction will be initiated.

A major task for 2015 will be the preparatory work for the 2016-19 Medium Term Plan and the associated 2016-17 programme of activities. The Executive Secretariat emphasized the need to involve both the Permanent Correspondents and the Directors of Centres and consequently suggested to set up an extended drafting group consisting of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents and certain Directors of Centres. Some already identifiable topics for the new Medium Term Plan, such as the emerging themes in the Sendai final documents, evacuation issues or safety of children, were raised by the participants.

The Executive Secretariat recalled that it needs a clear mandate by the competent ministers of the member States to implement the new Medium Term Plan: this mandate has always been obtained through the adoption of the Medium Term Plan by way of a resolution at a Ministerial Session. Consequently, a call for candidatures to host the forthcoming Ministerial Session was launched and the Executive Secretariat will provide any pertinent information to the interested countries.

In order to reinforce the involvement of Permanent Correspondents in the work of the Agreement, the Committee gave a clear mandate to the Executive Secretariat to consider the possibility of re-establishing a first meeting of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents before summer and a second meeting as usual in autumn. The Executive Secretary remarked that this additional meeting in 2015 would be very timely to inform the member States on the implications of the Sendai conference before the future Medium Term Plan could be discussed during the autumn session.

7. ELECTION OF THE CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIRS OF THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT CORRESPONDENTS

The Chair, Michel Feider (Luxemburg), recalled that he became Chair when the previous Chair Damir Cemerin (Croatia) very sadly passed away. Mr Feider announced that due to his duties related to the

forthcoming Luxembourgish presidency of the European Union, he will consequently not stand for a second mandate. He wished to thank everybody for their support in his task. Both the Executive Secretary and other Permanent Correspondents thanked him for his personal involvement in the projects promoted under his chairmanship.

Tony Varo (Monaco) was elected as Chair and Victor Poyarkov (Ukraine) and Irma Gurguliani (Georgia) as Vice-Chairs.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was raised.

9. DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Following the discussion on the possibility to hold two annual meetings, the Executive Secretariat proposed to maintain a meeting in October or November and it will explore the financial feasibility to hold a prior meeting in June in Paris to inform on the outcomes of the Sendai conference and to discuss the main topics to be included in the new Medium Term Plan.

APPENDIX 1

AGENDA

THURSDAY, 27 NOVEMBER

1. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA

AP/CAT (2014) OJ 08: Draft Agenda

2. RECALL OF THE LAST MEETING OF THE PERMANENT CORRESPONDENTS

AP/CAT (2013) 15: Report of the 64th Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents, 24-25 October 2013, Paris

3. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR, THE DELEGATIONS AND THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

4. INVOLVEMENT OF THE EUR-OPA AGREEMENT IN THE POST-2015 FRAMEWORK PROCESS

- European Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction: “Towards a Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters”, 8 July 2014, Milan, Italy
Outcome of the European Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction
- 5th meeting of the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction, 6-8 October 2014, Madrid
Outcomes of the Meeting
- Results of the meetings of the Preparatory Committee of the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, 14-18 March 2015, Sendai, Japan
Post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction: Zero draft submitted by the Co-Chairs of the Preparatory Committee
- Towards the implementation of the post-2015 framework process
Presentation by Ms Paola ALBRITO, UNISDR Europe
- Official statement of the EUR-OPA Agreement at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, 14-18 March 2015, Sendai, Japan
AP/CAT (2014) Res 01: Support to the post-2015 framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

5. SPECIAL SESSION: The role of evacuation before and after the disaster

- Evacuation in case of natural hazards: the recent Balkan floods experience
Presentation by Mr Pedrag MARIC, Serbia (TBC)
- Evacuation in case of technological hazards: the Chernobyl and Fukushima experiences
Presentation by Mr Viktor POYARKOV, Ukraine
- Open discussion on the evacuation issues

6. VULNERABLE GROUPS AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

- Workshop on Civil protection in diverse societies: migrants, asylum seekers and refugees in the context of major risks prevention and management
AP/CAT (2014) OJ 08: Report on Civil protection in diverse societies: migrants, asylum seekers and refugees in the context of major risks prevention and management

- A. Special Sessions at IDRC 2014, 24-28 August 2014, Davos, Switzerland
"Major Hazards and People with Disabilities. Their Involvement in Disaster Preparedness and Response", by David Alexander and Silvio Sagramola, Council of Europe, EUR-OPA, 2014
- Preparation of the Toolkit for Planning and Action
AP/CAT (2014) 09: Report of the 3rd Meeting of the Working Group for the implementation of the Guidelines and the Recommendation on Including People with Disabilities in Disaster Preparedness and Response, 1-2 October 2014, Strasbourg, France
 - Conference for Including People with Disabilities in Disaster Preparedness and Response, 4-5 December 2014, Brussels, Belgium
AP/CAT (2014) OJ 05: Draft Programme

FRIDAY, 28 NOVEMBER

7. EXAMINATION OF THE CENTRES' ACTIVITIES

- Meeting of the Directors of Specialised Centres of the Agreement, 25-26 November 2013, Strasbourg
AP/CAT (2014) 06: Conclusions of the meeting
- Brief evaluation of the 2012-2013 activities and advancement of the 2014-2015 programme of activities
AP/CAT (2014) 10 bil.: Activities developed within the Coordinated Programmes for 2012-2013
AP/CAT (2014) 01 bil.: Activities supported within the Coordinated Projects for 2014-15

8. PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR 2015

- Draft budget for 2015
AP/CAT (2013) 08: Draft budget for 2014-2015
- Initiatives on vulnerable groups and disaster risk reduction
AP/CAT (2012) 16: Improving DRR in certain vulnerable groups
- Activities developed within the Coordinated Projects
AP/CAT (2014) 01 bil.: Activities supported within the Coordinated Projects for 2014-15
- Preliminary discussion of the 2016-2020 Medium Term Plan and Guidelines for the 2016-17 programme of activities
AP/CAT (2010) 05: Medium Term Plan 2011 – 2015: Working together in Europe and the Mediterranean for the prevention of disasters, preparedness and response
AP/CAT (2013) 02: Guidelines for the 2014-2015 programme of activities

9. ELECTION OF THE CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIRS OF THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT CORRESPONDENTS

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11. DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING

APPENDIX 2

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APPENDIX 3

Resolution 2014 – 1 of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents on the support to the Post 2015 framework for Disaster Risk Reduction to be adopted at the 3rd United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

adopted at the 65th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents of the European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA), Paris, France, 28 November 2014

The Committee of Permanent Correspondents,

- A. Noting the increase, both in extent and frequency, of natural and technological disasters occurred in Europe and the Mediterranean region during the last years.
- B. Expressing their concern for the increase in the negative effects (economic, social and environmental) on communities affected by those disasters.
- C. Noting that many of those disasters are linked to extreme weather conditions, (such as floods, coastal hazards and forest fires), threats which are all likely to increase with climate change.
- D. Valuing the successful cooperation and synergy between the Council of Europe (European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement, EUR-OPA) and the United Nations Office for Disaster Reduction (UN-ISDR).
- E. Noting the success of the European Forum on Disaster Risk Reduction grouping European National Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction and Hyogo Framework of Action Focal Points and its close cooperation with the EUR-OPA Agreement.
- F. Warmly thanking the UN-ISDR Secretariat for the excellent preparatory work of the Post 2015 framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the involvement of the EUR-OPA Agreement in it.
- G. Confirming that the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-15 main messages are still pertinent and its goals still require further work to be fully achieved;
- H. Taking note with interest of the draft Post-2015 framework for Disaster Risk Reduction submitted by the co-chairs of the Preparatory Committee of the Preparatory Committee.
- I. Highlighting the importance of the Post 2015 framework to complement and deepen previous work associated to the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-15;

RESOLVE to:

1. confirm the Council of Europe's commitment, through its Major Hazards Agreement, to participate to the implementation of the Post 2015 framework in its regional area and within its specific mandate;
2. adopt the Post 2015 framework for Disaster Risk Reduction priority areas as additional guidance for its disaster risk reduction activities – including prevention, preparedness and efficient response to emergencies – over the next years;
3. emphasize in its future work the importance of the human dimension of disaster risk reduction recognised in the Post 2015 framework, in particular in what concerns the involvement and care of most vulnerable groups;

4. take account in future activities of the need expressed in the post 2015 framework to further prepare societies to the challenges of increased risks from climate change and to new threats on sustainable development;
5. reiterate in its future action the crucial role of scientific knowledge and expertise on risks to better assess them and propose innovative solutions to tackle them, as highlighted in the Post 2015 framework;
6. reinforce the future involvement of the Agreement in playing the specific role devoted to international organizations in the success of the Post 2015 framework implementation both at national and international levels;
7. instruct the Executive Secretariat of the Agreement to follow the implementation of activities related to the Post 2015 framework, adapting them as required to new circumstances and making proposals and recommendations to improve their effectiveness;
8. instruct the network of twenty-six Specialised Centres of the Agreement to support, in their respective spheres of competence, the implementation of sound, coordinated programmes in line with the Post 2015 framework priorities;
9. increase collaboration with the United Nations, the European Commission and other appropriate organisations and fora concerned with disaster reduction and relief in Europe and the Mediterranean region in deploying the international aspects of the Post 2015 framework;
10. invite European and Mediterranean States which are not part of the Partial Agreement to also contribute to that common effort by creating a coherent European and Mediterranean approach to disaster risk reduction, in particular by joining its co-operation structure.