

Lisbon, 26 October 2016

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

**Resolution 2016 – 1 of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents “Building more disaster resilient societies in Europe and the Mediterranean region: Priorities for Action”, adopted at the 13th Ministerial Session of the European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA), Lisbon, Portugal, 26 October 2016**

### **The Ministers,**

- A. Warmly thank the government of Portugal for the excellent preparation and hosting of the 13<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Session of the European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA).
- B. Express their concern for the continuous increase in the effects of disasters having occurred in Europe and the Mediterranean since they last met in Saint Petersburg in September 2010 and extend their sincere condolences and sympathy to the communities affected by those disasters.
- C. Note that such trend is unfortunately likely to continue as climate change fosters threats such as extreme weather conditions, coastal hazards and forest fires, and as goods and persons at stake increase due to always more intensive land use and urbanization;
- D. Highly praise the continuous cooperation between the Council of Europe (European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement, EUR-OPA) and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) in promoting safer societies through the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 and in the future through the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030;
- E. Emphasize the importance of the adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 as a renovated commitment of all countries to substantially reduce disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries
- F. Highlight the importance of Disaster Risk Reduction in preserving progresses in development and climate adaptation, contributing by the way to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change also adopted in 2015;
- G. Endorse the European Forum on Disaster Risk Reduction Road Map as an effective mean to prioritize the actions in addressing the Sendai Implementation in Europe.

H. Take note with interest of the implementation of the Medium Term Plan 2011-15 adopted at the last Ministerial Session held in Saint Petersburg in September 2010 and express their satisfaction for the way in which it has been steered by the Committee of Permanent Correspondents, supported as appropriate by the Executive Secretariat of the EUR-OPA Agreement.

**RESOLVE to:**

1. emphasize the political importance of promoting disaster risk reduction – including prevention, preparedness and efficient response to emergencies – at all levels of government, in close collaboration with all other pertinent public and private stakeholders;
2. stress the crucial role played by international cooperation to prepare societies to the challenges of increased risk from climate change and other hazards;
3. adopt the Medium Term Plan 2016-2020 (document AP/CAT (2015)12rev) of the European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA) as guidelines for priority action in this field over the next five years;
4. support, through the specific Agreement's actions developed within that Medium Term Plan 2016-2020 and an increased collaboration with all organisations and platforms concerned with disaster reduction and relief (notably the European Union and the United Nations), the achievement of the seven targets of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in the region,
5. instruct the Committee of Permanent Correspondents of the Agreement to follow the implementation of the Medium Term Plan, adapting it as required to new circumstances and making proposals and recommendations to improve its effectiveness;
6. instruct the network of Specialised Centres of the Agreement to support, in their respective spheres of competence, the implementation of the priorities set in the Medium Term Plan, working in a cross-sectoral manner, pooling their expertise in the accomplishment of sound, coordinated programmes;
7. invite European and Mediterranean States which are not part of the Partial Agreement to join this co-operation structure so as to increase the synergies allowing to achieve more resilient societies.

Furthermore

**REQUEST**

The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to support as appropriate the implementation of the Medium Term Plan 2016-2020 of the European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA) and to encourage the member States of the Council of Europe which are not party to the Partial Agreement to consider joining this intergovernmental co-operation framework