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AP/CAT(2017)09
Or English

EUROPEAN AND MEDITERRANEAN MAJOR HAZARDS AGREEMENT
(EUR-OPA)

70TH MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT CORRESPONDENTS

MEETING REPORT

14-15 MARCH 2017
MONACO

Welcome speeches

- Statement by Gilles Tonelli, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Monaco
- Statement by Eladio Fernandez Galiano, Head of the Culture, Nature and Heritage Department of the Council of Europe

Mr Gilles Tonelli, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Monaco, welcomed the participants and opened the 70th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents. He pointed out the importance of the EUR-OPA cooperation platform to exchange good practices on disaster risk reduction and the need to invest in public awareness and education activities to develop population resilience.

Mr Eladio Fernandez Galiano, Head of the Culture, Nature and Heritage Department of the Council of Europe, greeted the participants and presented the Council of Europe priorities: fight against populism and terrorism and manage migrants. He underlined that the Civil Protection plays an important role in intervening in the aftermath of terrorism attacks and in the management of migrants. He introduced Gianluca Silvestrini, new Executive Secretary of the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement since 1 January 2017.

1. Adoption of the draft agenda

AP/CAT(2017)OJ2
For adoption

The Chair, Tony Varo, welcomed the Permanent Correspondents and new Executive Secretary and stressed the need to give fresh impetus to the EUR-OPA Agreement by developing new working methods and proposing new tools.

The new Executive Secretary, Gianluca Silvestrini presented the new format of the agenda, whereby documents were divided into three categories: "for information", "for discussion and decision", and "for adoption". More time would be allocated to the examination of documents presented in the "for decision and adoption" category than to information documents. Depending on the time available, the Secretariat would not automatically make a detailed presentation of information documents but more time would be devoted to questions from the Permanent Correspondents so as to make any necessary clarifications or answer any requests for further information.

The Secretary suggested that the meeting should begin with the analysis and discussion of an important point: "thematic priorities proposed for the 2018-2019 work programme" and then to consider, in the opposite chronological order, the 2017 programme of activities and the results obtained in 2016. He stressed the importance of highlighting the specific role and added value of the EUR-OPA Agreement compared to other platforms of international co-operation.

The list of participants appears in Appendix I.

*Document prepared by the Secretariat
of the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement*

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2. Meeting of the Bureau of Permanent Correspondents AP/CAT(2017)7
For information
- Report of the meeting of the Bureau of Permanent Correspondents of EUR-OPA Agreement, 16 February 2017, Strasbourg - France

The Committee took note of the report of the meeting of the Bureau of Permanent Correspondents held on 16 February in Strasbourg.

3. 13th Ministerial Conference - EUR-OPA and last meeting of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents
- Oral presentation by Eladio Fernandez Galiano, Head of Department Culture, Nature and Heritage, Council of Europe AP/CAT(2016)OJ02rev
For information
 - Agenda of the EUR-OPA 13th Ministerial Conference
 - Report of the 69th meeting of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents, 25 October 2016, Lisbon – Portugal AP/CAT(2016)13
For information

Mr Eladio Fernandez Galiano, recalled the results of the successful 13th Ministerial Conference held in Lisbon on 26 October 2016; the adoption of Resolution (2016)1 “Building more disaster resilient societies in Europe and the Mediterranean region: Priorities for Action” and Recommendation (2016)1 on the Inclusion of Migrants, Asylum Seekers and Refugees in disaster preparedness and response. He pointed out the innovative work of the Council of Europe on vulnerable groups and disaster risk reduction, which inspired the Sendai Framework.

4. Work programme 2018-2019
- Medium term plan 2016-2020 AP/CAT (2015)12rev
For information
 - Thematic priorities proposed for the Work Programme 2018-2019 AP/CAT (2017)2
For discussion and decision

The Executive Secretary referred to the adoption of the medium-term plan, presented the document “thematic priorities proposed for the 2018-2019 work programme” for discussion and decision, and asked for Correspondents’ comments.

The Committee noted that almost 50% of the Permanent Correspondents had replied to the Secretariat’s survey and had given their thematic priorities for 2018-19. The Committee expressed its satisfaction with the new structure of the programme and with the Secretariat’s proposals, which combined the need to consider the priorities of both member states and of the Council of Europe in an integrated approach.

Participants agreed on the need to prioritise actions based on three main criteria:

- 1) select topics of common interest to all member states;
- 2) identify thematic priorities for which the Council of Europe/EUR-OPA Agreement has an added value and a niche;
- 3) feasibility to implement selected projects in 2018-19.

On the basis of the selected criteria, the following three main projects were identified:

- a) Social networks serving to inform the population and vulnerable groups in the management of major hazards:
 - Prevention (training in “risk culture”).
 - Intervention (informing the population and participation of the population).
- b) Identification of good governance practices in the management of natural catastrophes and cross-border technology: Two concrete cases:
 - nuclear station (Luxembourg, Belgium, Germany);
 - natural hazards (Monaco, France).
- c) Protection of cultural heritage in the context of major hazards (cycle of major hazards management).

The Chair summarised the discussion and recalled the decisions taken. The Committee adopted the revised Work Programme 2018-2019.

The Executive Secretary will revise the Programme of Work 2018-19 by clustering Correspondents' proposed actions under each of the three selected projects as well as other projects for which the majority of members have expressed their support. The revised Programme of Work will be distributed, together with the template prepared by the Secretary for the new projects, to the Directors of the Specialised Centers and the Permanent Correspondents with the request to submit their new project proposals for 2018-19. The new activities will be discussed at the next meeting of the Committee in November together by the Permanent Correspondents and the Directors of the Specialised Centres.

Ceremony to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the EUR-OPA Agreement

See specific programme – AP/CAT(2017)03

Jean Pierre Massué, Executive Secretary of EUR-OPA Agreement (1998 – 2004) presented:

- the chronological history of the EUR-OPA foundation since the political inception phase of the Agreement;
- two outstanding examples of EUR-OPA achievements in non-member states of the Council of Europe;
- two suggestions for possible future activities to:
 - o sensitization of migrants, particularly the youth, on the importance of cultural and natural heritage;
 - o develop ethic and nano-medicine.

Eladio Fernandez-Galiano, Executive Secretary of EUR-OPA Agreement (2015-2016) recalled his endeavors to initiate EUR-OPA initiatives in line with Council of Europe principles and priorities, such as the integration of vulnerable groups (migrants, people with disabilities) in disaster risk reduction, the important work on ethic and major hazards, and on cultural heritage and climate change. He also promoted the creation of the European Forum on Disaster Risk Reduction and set up its secretariat composed by the Council of Europe, UNISDR and the European Commission.

Gianluca Silvestrini, Executive Secretary of EUR-OPA Agreement (2017 – Current):

- thanked his predecessors for having recalled the history of the EUR-OPA because it is important to bear in mind the past and where we come from, in order to better understand and decide of our future;
- pointed out the need of improving communication and collaboration between the institutional/political network of the Permanent Correspondents and the scientific network of the Directors of Specialised Centres;
- stressed the necessity to encourage a wider participation of the Permanent Correspondents in the Committee meetings in order to ensure the political guidance and support to EUR-OPA;
- underlined the importance of reinforcing the cooperation with UNISDR, UNESCO and the European Commission, and of identifying activities of common interest in order to develop synergies;
- informed the Committee of his bilateral meetings with the Permanent Representatives at the Council of Europe of Italy, Slovenia, Hungary and Slovak Republic to invite these countries to join the EUR-OPA Agreement.

Alfonso Andria, President of the European University Centre for Cultural Heritage, recalled the history of the foundation of the Ravello's Centre in 1983 to promote the protection of cultural heritage in areas at risk and the subsequent establishment of the EUR-OPA Agreement in 1985. He evoked the great variety of studies developed by the Centre on the vulnerability of cultural heritage, the importance of vernacular heritage, and the need to protect monuments and archeological sites in seismic prone areas. The President emphasized the need to permanently provide training and he expressed the availability of the Ravello's Centres to work in collaboration with other interested Specialised Centres.

Wednesday 15 March 2017

4. Work programme 2018-2019

5. Centres' results in 2016 and activities planned in 2017

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| - Report of the Meeting of the Directors of Specialised Centres of the Agreement (Paris, 30 November - 1 December 2016) | AP/CAT(2016)14
For information |
| - Results of the Coordinated projects in 2016 | AP/CAT(2017)01
For information |
| - Coordinated Projects supported in 2017 | AP/CAT(2017)06
For information |

The Committee took note of the report on the Meeting of the Directors of specialised centres and on the activities implemented in 2016, and of their continuation in 2017.

The Executive Secretary drew attention to not only the quality but also the diversity, in terms of format and length, of the activity reports. He suggested the introduction of standard models so as to better organise and harmonise the required information and proposed a new model to facilitate the presentation of future projects.

The Secretariat would also consider the possibility of developing a technological tool to facilitate the collection of information from the centres on an electronic medium and to improve the visibility of their initiatives on the Internet.

The Executive Secretary also proposed that guidelines be drafted for the preparation of new projects by the centres in 2018-2019, which would be presented at the next meeting of the directors in November. On this occasion, a short training session would also be held to ensure that the next projects proposed were in keeping with the new models and the administrative and financial rules of the Council of Europe.

The Executive Secretary also noted that there was no communication between the Directors of the specialised centres and the Permanent Correspondents, who were often not informed of the others' activities. The institutional and scientific network seemed to operate in parallel, without real dialogue or exchange. The Secretariat proposed that a joint meeting be held (see item 9 of the agenda) so that Permanent Correspondents and the Directors of the centres could get to know each other and align their efforts.

The Committee endorsed the Secretariat's proposals, which would give more visibility to the important work done by the specialised centres and stimulate collaboration and synergies between the Permanent Correspondents and the Directors of the centres.

6. Programme of Activities 2017

6.1 Colloquy on "Cultural Heritage and Climate change", 18-19 May, Ravello – Italy

The Committee took note of the state of preparation of the Colloquy and stressed the importance of refocusing the discussions on climate change and cultural heritage, fields in which EUR-OPA was a pioneer, and on drawing stakeholders' attention to civil security.

The Chair observed that civil protection had a culture of managing operations as emergencies and could play a major role in preserving and protecting the cultural heritage, provided it was trained in the necessary procedures.

6.2 Work on migrants, asylum seekers and refugees in the context of major risks prevention and management

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| - Report on the Conference, 14 October 2016, Lisbon - Portugal | APCAT(2016)15
For information |
| - Preparation of Publications | |
| ▪ Major Hazards and Migrants, Asylum Seekers and Refugees guidelines | |
| ▪ Compilation of good practices on the inclusion of Migrants, Asylum Seekers and Refugees | |

The Committee took note of the “Report of the Conference on Migrants, Asylum-seekers and Refugees in the context of the prevention and management of Major Hazards” and of the outcome of the 13th EUR-OPA Ministerial Conference.

The Permanent Correspondents took note of the state of preparation of publications in cooperation with the International Organisation for Migration.

6.3 Involvement in international initiatives

- Annual meeting of the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction, 26-28 March, Istanbul - Turkey
- Global platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, 22-26 May, Cancun - Mexico
- Intercultural City Network on Migrants and Refugees, 30-31 March, Setúbal - Portugal
- International Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, 25-27 November, Sendai – Japan

The Committee took note of the state of preparation of the EFDRR: the participation of the Director of Democratic Governance in the Opening Ceremony and in the High-Level Session, and the organisation by the Secretariat of the Technical Session on migrants, asylum seekers and refugees and its contribution to the conclusions of the Forum.

The Secretariat will also present the contribution of the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement to the Sendai priorities.

A High-Level Communiqué on the results of the EFDRR will be presented to the Global UN Forum in Cancun. The Executive Secretary will contribute as speaker to some sessions and present the EUR-OPA programme of activities.

7. Election of the new Bureau

AP/CAT(2017)05
For discussion and decision

The Committee of Permanent Correspondents elected the following Bureau members :

Chair: Ana Freitas, Portugal;

Vice-Chair: Arabela Vahtanic, Croatia;

Vice-Chair: Jeyhu Isgandarli, Azerbaijan.

The term of office of the Chair and Vice-Chairs shall be one year and may be renewed once.

The Committee expressed its warmest thanks and gratitude to Colonel Tony Varo for his excellent work and enthusiastic dedication as a Chair, and cordially welcomed the new Chair Ana Freitas and the new Bureau members.

8. Any other business

None.

9. Date and place of the next meeting

The Secretariat proposed that a joint meeting of the Permanent Correspondents and the Directors of the specialised centres be held so that they could get to know one another better, by means of direct communication and discussions on their respective activities. This would give the Directors of the Centres the opportunity to present the outcome of the projects carried out in 2017 and the new activities planned for 2018-2019.

The Committee endorsed the Secretariat’s proposal to help improve mutual awareness and dialogue between the members of the institutional and scientific network by improving the visibility of the work done by the specialised centres and at the same time facilitating the evaluation of future activities.

The Secretariat will organise the presentations of the Directors of the Centres, following the structure of the 2018-19 work programme, and it will ask them to use photos, short videos, or PowerPoint to enliven their presentations. The time allocated to each centre should be no more than 5 minutes for the

presentation of results achieved in 2017 and a further 10 minutes to present a new project planned for 2018, as that would make it possible to organise a suitable agenda.

In this way, the Permanent Correspondents would have the opportunity to get to know and to evaluate the work done by the centres directly through the presentations made by the Directors, thereby facilitating some degree of interaction with the possibility of asking questions on past and future projects.

The Permanent Correspondents Committee agreed to meet with the Directors of the Specialised Centres in Paris on 6-7 November.

10. End of the meeting

APPENDIX I. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

14-15 MARCH 2017
(8.45 - 18.00 AND 9.00 – 12.30)

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