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English

EUROPEAN AND MEDITERRANEAN MAJOR HAZARDS AGREEMENT  
(EUR-OPA)

MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT CORRESPONDENTS  
3 OCTOBER 2017

Council of Europe office, Paris

MEETING REPORT

## 1. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA

AP/CAT(2017)OJ04 for adoption

The Executive Secretary of the European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement, Mr Gianluca Silvestrini, welcomed Ms Ana Freitas, Portugal, Chair of the Bureau and Ms Arabela Vahtaric, Croatia, Vice-Chair. Apologies were received from Mr Jeyhun Isgandarli, Azerbaijan, the second Vice-Chair for his unavoidable absence. The Bureau members were informed on the aims of the meeting and adopted the agenda.

The list of participants can be consulted in Appendix I.

Mr Silvestrini also announced the new operational structure within the Directorate General II (since 1 October 2017): Democratic Citizenship and Participation. EUR-OPA, being directly related to the Education Sector, intends to strengthen the educational projects developed in the framework of its specialised centres.

He also recalled the new way of presenting and structuring the information of the draft agendas.

## 2. PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES 2017

### 2.1. Statutory meetings

70th Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents, Monaco on 14-15 March 2017 [AP/CAT\(2017\)09](#) for information

Mr Silvestrini recalled the salient points of the 70<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents and 30th Anniversary of EUR-OPA, which took place in Monaco on 14-15 March 2017.

Following up on the meeting report, he recalled what has been developed within the Agreement since this meeting took place: the setting of priorities of the work programme, the introduction of a new template to prepare the Specialised Centres contributions, together with the Guidelines on how to prepare new projects and the new technological tools. All this is aimed at strengthening collaboration and synergies between the Committee of Permanent Correspondents and the Directors of the Specialised Centres.

The members of the Bureau took note of this information.

Joint Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents with the Directors of the Specialised Centres, Paris, 6-7 November 2017

AP/CAT(2017)OJ05 for discussion and decision

Mr Silvestrini then introduced the Draft Agenda and the objectives of the Joint Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents with the Directors of the Specialised Centres, Paris, 6-7 November 2017. This joint meeting is organised in order to strengthen cooperation and synergies between the two bodies, as well as to improve the access to scientific and technical information on disaster risks for the decision makers.

The Directors will present the results of the work carried out by their respective Centre in 2016-17 (5 minutes) and they are invited to introduce the project proposals for 2018-19 (5 minutes). The Bureau members then exchanged on the suggestions for the joint meeting and finalised its draft agenda and working documents.

## Appointment of a Gender Equality Rapporteur (GER)

[Role of GERs \(13 October 2016\)](#) for discussion

Ms Mechthilde Fuhrer, Deputy Executive Secretary of the European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement, introduced the gender equality mainstreaming policies within the Council of Europe, outlining the importance of integrating a gender equality perspective in the EUR-OPA programme of activities through a Gender Equality Rapporteur. The Bureau showed great interest in this role and asked the Secretariat to provide them with further documents, allowing them to discuss further and make a decision. Following this, a Gender Equality Rapporteur will be appointed at the joint meeting in November.

## 2.2 Operational Activities

International Workshop "Cultural Heritage Facing Climate Change: Increasing Resilience and Promoting Adaptation", Ravello, Italy, 18-19 May 2017

[APCAT\(2017\)REC02](#) for information

Climate change is a growing threat to cultural heritage. The International Workshop, organised in Ravello, therefore took stock of work carried out in that field within EUR-OPA since 2009. As a result of the conclusions, a "Draft Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to member States on cultural heritage facing climate change: increasing resilience and promoting adaptation" was drawn up.

Ms Fuhrer informed the Bureau about the administrative procedures until the adoption of the Recommendation and its possible follow-up work. The Committee on Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP) has already given feedback on the draft document. Now the Committee of the Permanent Correspondents is invited to come up with comments and to adopt this document at its November meeting, before the CDCPP and the Committee of Ministers then formally adopt this Recommendation. This aims to tighten cooperation between the CDCPP and EUR-OPA.

## Possible Joint Activities EUR-OPA and Bern Convention

[T-PVS\(2017\)19](#) for information

Mr Silvestrini shared the results of the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Restricted Group of Experts on Biodiversity and Climate Change, Paris, 14-15 June 2017 and on possible synergies between the Bern Convention and EUR-OPA, files that he is responsible for. Both departments are oriented towards nature-based solutions and mitigation and communication on climate change is also an important issue. A second joint meeting is scheduled for 2018.

## Possible Joint Activities EUR-OPA and Faro Convention

[AT\(2017\)126](#) for information

Mr Silvestrini announced a new workshop in which he will participate in Fontecchio, Italy, 9-12 October 2017 on "The Faro Convention in research-action: community involvement in a post-disaster heritage revitalisation".

### 3. PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES 2018-2019

#### 3.1. Thematic priorities

Examination of the 2018 - Projects of the Specialised Centres: draft compilation of project proposals

[APCAT\(2017\)12](#) for information

After informing the Bureau about the 2017 Programme of Activities progress and accomplishments, Mr Silvestrini guided the Bureau through the compilation of the projects, prepared by the Directors of the Specialised Centres for 2018-2019. Yet, this document still needs to be completed. He then explained the new structures of the budgetary grid and the respective country contribution to proposed project priorities, as well as the envisaged budget allocation per proposed priorities.

The Bureau took note of the presentation of the new project proposals and discussed these. They welcomed the upcoming joint meeting, because it would allow the Permanent Correspondents to get more insight into project details of the projects run by the Specialised Centres.

Directors of Specialised Centres: revised template, guidelines and training for 2019 Projects

[APCAT\(2017\)13](#) for information

Mr Silvestrini introduced the new template to present the 2018-19 projects, which is more structured and in line with the Council Europe rules and procurement procedures.

A training for Directors of the Specialised Centres will be organised in the framework of this joint meeting by Mr Silvestrini and Ms Catherine Emezie, financial assistant in the EUR-OPA team.. It will help them to fill in the different fields of the new template and to comply with the administrative and financial requirements of the Council of Europe.

#### 3.2. Operational Activities

For discussion and decision

The new proposals for the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction in other sectors as adopted in the Programme of Activities 2018-2019 will be conducted in the following fields:

- vulnerable groups and risk management (*monitoring implementation of recommendations on migrants / activities for children*)
- environment, climate change and risk management (*possible collaboration and synergies with the Bern Convention and PEDRR*)
- cultural heritage and risk management (*research and recommendations on heritage and community-based approach for risk reduction*)

These themes were adopted at the last meeting in Monaco as priority themes.

The Bureau exchanged opinions on possible new activities to be carried out in 2018-19. They invited the Secretariat to carry out a survey on the monitoring of the implementation of EUR-OPA Recommendations and their impact, followed by a workshop to take stock and identify actions to be taken forward, as well as to organise a workshop on migrants in connection with climate change.

### 4. SPONSORSHIP - PERMANENT CORRESPONDENTS

Criteria for Sponsorship of Member States' Participation in Committee of Permanent Correspondents meetings

[APCAT\(2017\)15](#) for discussion

Mr Silvestrini introduced this document and invited the Bureau members to consider the GDP per capita income as the criteria for sponsorship of member States' participation in the Committee of Permanent Correspondents meetings. The Bureau agreed to that approach.

## 5. PUBLICATIONS AND VISIBILITY

EUR-OPA/IOM Publication on Migrants in Disaster Risk Reduction: Practices for Inclusion for information

Ms Fuhrer recalled the excellent cooperation between MICIC/IOM and EUR-OPA since 2016. In that context a common publication on good practices with examples from all over the world has been prepared. She informed the Bureau members on the launch event of that publication that took place in the framework of the International Dialogue on Migration "Understanding migrant vulnerabilities: A solution-based approach towards a global compact that reduces vulnerabilities and empowers migrants", IOM, Geneva, Switzerland, 18-19 July 2017. At the joint meeting in November all participants will receive a copy of this outstanding publication. Furthermore she invited the Bureau members to promote the publication.

Publication on Migrants, Asylum Seekers and Refugees and Major Hazards: Their inclusion in Disaster Preparedness and Management for information

Ms Fuhrer also introduced the newly released publication *Migrants, Asylum Seekers and Refugees and Major Hazards: Their inclusion in Disaster Preparedness and Management*, result of the project conducted on Migrants, asylum seekers and refugees in the context of major risk prevention and management. It includes Recommendation 2016 - 1 of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents on the Inclusion of Migrants, Asylum Seekers and Refugees in disaster preparedness and response, adopted at the 13th Ministerial Session of the European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA), Lisbon, Portugal, 26 October 2016, as well as Guidelines and practical examples.

All participants at the joint meeting will receive a copy of this publication. Bureau members were invited to promote the publication.

Information tools: Collaborative platform for the Specialised Centres, EUR-OPA Website, Facebook and interactivity for information

The Secretariat has invested much effort in aiming to give more visibility to the work carried out within the Agreement. Mr Silvestrini informed the Bureau about existing and planned communication and visibility tools (e.g. Facebook, templates, and a collaborative platform for the Specialised Centres).

## 6. INVOLVEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

Annual Meeting of the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction, Istanbul, Turkey, 26-28 March 2017 [Istanbul Outcomes](#) for information

Mr Silvestrini introduced this activity, jointly organised by UNISDR, the European Commission and the Council of Europe. The Turkish government, chairing, hosted this event. Mr Silvestrini participated in the Drafting Committee, managing to include references to the Council of Europe work done by EUR-OPA on people with disabilities and disaster risk reduction, the EUR-OPA Medium Term Plan and the importance to include the protection and enhancement of cultural heritage in disaster risk management policies and actions. Ms Fuhrer was invited to coordinate, in a participative process, a Technical Session on Migration, Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience with renowned members on the Panel and good results, which were included in the conference results. The Bureau members welcomed the results achieved at the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction.

International Conference: Risks, Security and Citizenship, Setubal, Portugal, 30-31 March 2017 [Proceedings](#) for information

Ms Fuhrer reported the outcomes of this international conference and quoted in particular the Declaration of Setubal and the constitution of the Setubal Platform, a permanent forum for monitoring, investigation and discussion in matters related to the goals of the Sendai Framework of Action 2015-2030 in Portugal. The goal is the biannual organisation of the International Conference: Risks, Security and Citizenship, the next one taking place in spring 2019.

Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, Cancun, Mexico, 22-26 May 2017 [High level Communiqué](#) for information

Mr Silvestrini shared the results of the Global Platform, where he participated in the special session for European countries. The results of the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction, Istanbul, were presented. He contributed as a keynote speaker to the Working Session on "Cultural Heritage and Indigenous Knowledge for Building Resilience". He also had the chance to present the new EUR-OPA/IOM publication on Migrants in Disaster Risk Reduction: Practices for Inclusion.

International Dialogue on Migration 2017

Understanding Migrant Vulnerabilities: A solution-based approach towards a global compact that reduces vulnerabilities and empowers migrants, Palais des Nations Geneva, Switzerland, 18-19 July 2017 [Summary of Conclusions](#) for information

The International Organisation for Migration held its first session of the International Dialogue on Migration 2017 on 18-19 April 2017 at the United Nations in New York on the theme "Strengthening international cooperation on and governance of migration towards the adoption of a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration in 2018". This Second Dialogue Meeting offered member States and other relevant actors the opportunity to explore all aspects of policy, cooperation and practical perspectives with regard to the protection and assistance of migrants in vulnerable situations. Ms Fuhrer, who attended this high-level conference upon invitation by IOM, reported on this event, where she had a chance to present the activities the Council of Europe is carrying out in the field of migration. The Summary of Conclusions of the session reports on the specific Council of Europe contribution. EUR-OPA was invited to further contribute to the global compact.

EUR-OPA contribution to the International Day for Disaster Reduction – 13 October 2017

The Secretariat has invited the Permanent Correspondents to contribute to the International Day for Disaster Reduction, coordinated by UNISDR. Bureau members were invited to discuss the proposals received, which will be sent to UNISDR and published on the EUR-OPA website and Facebook page for the occasion.

7. BUDGET FOR 2018 [APCAT\(2017\)14](#) for information

Mr Silvestrini introduced the Budget for 2018, as well as the detailed 2018 contributions of EUR-OPA member States. As requested by the Committee of Ministers, EUR-OPA will have to report at the end of the year how the Recommendations adopted by the Committee of Permanent Correspondents have generated a concrete impact on national legislations and strategies for disaster risk reduction (cf. item 3.2).

The Bureau members took note of the 2018 Budget adopted by the Committee of Ministers.

## 8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Ms Fuhrer informed the Bureau about the call launched to set up a joint list of experts for EUR-OPA and the Bern Convention.

## 9. DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING for decision

The dates and venue of the next meetings were discussed.

The Joint Meeting with the Committee of Permanent Correspondents and the Directors of the Specialised Centres will take place in Paris on 6-7 November 2017.

The Bureau agreed to meet twice in 2018, in April and in October. They also agreed to organise another Joint Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents and the Directors of the Specialised Centres, possibly at the beginning of November 2018. This meeting could either be held at the Council of Europe headquarters in Strasbourg or in Croatia, in the framework of the Croatian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers. The exact dates and venues are to be decided on 7 November 2017.

## 10. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

## APPENDIX I

### List of Participants Meeting of the Bureau of Permanent Correspondents, 3 October 2017

#### BUREAU MEMBERS

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