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EUROPEAN AND MEDITERRANEAN MAJOR HAZARDS AGREEMENT  
(EUR-OPA)

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

Council of Europe, Strasbourg

## REPORT

## **1. Opening of the Meeting**

The meeting was opened on 1 October 2014 at 9.00 by Ms Mechthilde FUHRER, Deputy to the Executive Secretary, EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement. She welcomed the participants of the meeting (cf. appendix 1) and recalled the context and importance of this third and last meeting of the Working Group on the implementation of the Guidelines and the Recommendation on Including People with Disabilities in Disaster Preparedness and Response. The joint meeting with the Committee of experts on the Rights of People with Disabilities (DECS-RPD), as well as the joint hearing with this committee with the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination of the Parliamentary Assembly was a highlight of this Working Group meeting.

## **2. Adoption of the Draft Agenda**

The Draft Agenda was adopted (cf. appendix 2). The members of the Working Group introduced themselves and specified their field of expertise.

## **3. Update since the 2nd Meeting of the Working Group (London, 15 March 2014) and the informal Working Group Meeting (Davos, 24 and 25 August 2014)**

Ms FUHRER recalled the main tasks of the Working Group, as specified in its mandate. One of these tasks consists in the development of a toolkit, another one in the preparation of the Conference on “Including People with Disabilities in Disaster Preparedness and Response, Warwick Barsey Hotel, Brussels, 4-5 December 2014.

Members of the Working Group presented the work carried out in the current EUR-OPA programme of activities on people with disabilities and disaster risk reduction at the 5th Global Risk Forum in Davos, Switzerland, 24-28 August 2014, where EUR-OPA chaired two sessions: a special panel on “Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction” and a session on “Disaster Risk Reduction for the Most Vulnerable”. Taking advantage of the presence of several members of the Working Group, informal meetings of the group were organised on 24 and 25 August 2014. On the agenda of these meetings was the exchange on the aims and the framework of the Toolkit for Planning and Action and the organisation of the forthcoming Brussels Conference. The Toolkit should follow the 7 success factors outlined in the Guidelines for Assisting People with Disabilities during Emergencies, Crises and Disasters and include the 4 phases of the disaster cycle.

Ms FUHRER also presented the results of the conferences she attended recently in Zagreb (OPSIC) and in Cologne (EUNAD). Based on new research and analysis of Psychosocial Support guidelines, best practices and the long-term psychosocial impact of crisis, Operationalising Psychosocial Support in Crisis (OPSIC) will design and develop a web based comprehensive operational guidance system that will operate as a common shared platform and single point of reference for Psychosocial Support in crisis management. The EUNAD project aims towards implementing and preparing EU human rights-related assistance programmes for disabled survivors of disasters on the basis of existing guidelines. Both projects could contribute to the Toolkit.

### **Presentation of the book “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**

Mr Silvio SAGRAMOLA, one of the authors, presented this publication, which was launched at the Global Risk Forum in Davos. He recalled the methods applied for the information collection through a Questionnaire. The replies revealed on the one hand good intentions but on the other that special needs for people with disabilities were not taken into consideration.

Rescue services need to be prepared for their tasks in the context of demographic changes to assist people with different needs. He then recalled the 7 success factors of the Guidelines for Assisting People with Disabilities during Emergencies, Crises and Disasters and stressed that in the diversity of the political systems, it is important to identify the essence of good practice and how to develop strategies.

#### **Presentation of the results of the three different Questionnaires circulated in spring 2014 (EUR-OPA, DPI, EASPD)**

Whereas the aim of the first Questionnaire on Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (Spring 2013) was to collect good practice, the second Questionnaire on Good Practice in Disaster Risk Reduction (Spring 2014) approached the issue of disaster risk reduction in a holistic way, with concerns such as assessment, identification, emergency and post response. Mr SAGRAMOLA recalled that the majority of the replies received from 12 member States were incomplete. They reflected that there is a readiness for the topic but at the same time a lack of concerted action and networking. Many ideas were partial. Training materials as well as strategies ought to be developed. The aim of the Toolkit is to contribute to filling these gaps.

Mr Mohamed HANNAN, DPI, then introduced the Questionnaire Including People with Disabilities in Disaster Preparedness and Response developed by DPI and distributed to their network. His organisation has drafted and submitted several projects on the involvement of people with disabilities in the framework of EU 2020. Prof. David ALEXANDER, the second author of the publication “**Major Hazards and People with Disabilities. Their Involvement in Disaster Preparedness and Response**”, stressed the need for evidence-based research, lacking in the field.

Mr Luk ZELDERLOO, EASPD, introduced the Questionnaire on Disaster Preparedness and Response developed by EASPD and distributed to their network. The three main conclusions were: most rescue workers are not aware of the specific support people with disabilities might need; most service providers are not involved in the design of disaster risk planning and intervention and the organisations providing support and assistance to people with disabilities wish to work on the further development of strategies. He highlighted that this work clearly comprises a human rights issue.

Ms FUHRER also indicated that UNISDR has published the results of the 2013 Survey on Living with Disabilities and Disasters Questionnaire ([www.unisdr.org](http://www.unisdr.org)).

The members of the Working Group then exchanged on the results of the Questionnaires and on how to educate people to adopt a correct behaviour in case of disasters (rescuers and people with disabilities).

#### **4. Preparing the Toolkit for Planning and Action**

The first draft of the toolkit, drawn up with a human rights approach, sets a political, ethical and legal framework (making references to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), as well as to the 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). It aims at being very practical. Its structure follows the 7 success factors, the disaster cycle and the principle of design for all (cf. appendix 3). It is meant to be an on-going process, an evolving instrument, with a regular update on the EUR-OPA website. Practical sheets should be printable (also country specific).

Mr Michel FEIDER, Director, Rescue Service Administration, Luxembourg and Chair of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents (EUR-OPA), welcomed this approach and suggested to include in this Compendium of good practices not only good examples, but also returns of experiences which did not work out well. He further suggested that a Power Point Presentation with the main messages of the Toolkit for the users should also be available through the website. Mr HANNAN stressed the importance of also producing an easy-to-read version of the Toolkit.

An exchange of views took place on the outline of the toolkit (e.g. preamble), the legal aspects, resources (financial and need for networking), partnerships, knowledge, procedures, structures, its addressees (decision makers and practitioners), education and training. Ms FUHRER recalled that training sessions accompanying a drill should address all these aspects in order to allow the rescuers to be operational in the case of a disaster.

When discussing the issue of an Action Plan, Mr Francesc PLA, Deputy to the Executive Secretary, EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement, pointed out that different stakeholders have different objectives. Therefore prior to creating a transversal grid for action, different aspects ought to be identified and actions should be associated to each factor, specifying the stakeholder.

Dr Elke GEENEN, NOHIA, stressed the need for national holistic strategies, difficult to be put into place in a federal system, such as Germany, for example. Prof. Stefanos DRITSOS, European Centre on Prevention and Forecasting of Earthquakes (ECPFE), Athens, voiced the absolute need for a European political commitment, which would then be followed by a national one. Mr SAGRAMOLA stated that with the changing habits and needs of society, the Toolkit requires more examples, especially in the field of civil protection.

Mr Antoine GOFFINET, Federation of the French Civil Protection, underlined the importance of a two-fold toolkit: on the one hand it should be practical, including pictograms, on the other hand there is a need for an interactive web site to enable the sharing of good experiences. Persons with disabilities are full members in the federation which obviously facilitates the understanding of their difficulties in crisis situations. A drill, including people with disabilities and dogs, will be carried out in a school in Strasbourg on 2 November 2014.

## **5. Agenda of the Conference for Including People with Disabilities in Disaster Preparedness and Response (Brussels, 4-5 December 2014)**

The members of the Working Group discussed the draft agenda and drew up the revised version (cf appendix 4). They insisted on the need for a strong political message thus enabling the work started to continue. People with disabilities and their organisations will be associated throughout the process.

Mr Helmut HEINEN, Director, Office of the German speaking community for persons with disabilities in Belgium, taking part in the DECS-RPD meeting, joined briefly the meeting. He pointed out the importance for seeing the adaptations for any kind of disabilities in the frame of the management of disasters and hazards. He expressed his willingness to support the organisation of the Conference.

Dr GEENEN suggested including a short cultural event at the Conference, e.g. a concert by people with disabilities during the cocktail. Providing there is sufficient space, an exhibition could also be organised at the Conference venue. Another option to be considered could be a speech during the lunch or a side event, aiming to install a network of people interested in continuing the work on people with disabilities and disaster risk reduction.

The question was discussed whether the key ethical question, triage, should be tackled at the conference. What happens if rescue workers have to prioritise? Testimonies of people who have had to face this choice would be interesting. Furthermore, should insurance companies be invited to participate in the Conference?

**6. Exchange of views with the Council of Europe Committee of Experts on the Rights of People with Disabilities – DECS-RPD (former CS-RPD) on work carried out by other Council of Europe bodies relevant to disability issues**

Ms FUHRER introduced the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement with the work carried out on ethical and human rights related issues and the project on people with disabilities and disaster risk reduction. Mr SAGRAMOLA presented the results of the Questionnaire and the Draft Toolkit for Planning and Action in his presentation "Successful disaster risk management 'for all' ". Prof. David ALEXANDER completed the presentations by underlining that evidence based information was missing and that a serious multinational research project was needed to describe the situation of people with disabilities in emergency situations.

The Chairperson of this Committee, Mr Dimitris NIKOLSKY, welcomed the transversal approach taken by EUR-OPA. He stressed that this project, tackling the human rights issue related to persons with disabilities, was very important for all of them. Education was a key for change. Concerning legislation, he invited the Committee to ensure dissemination of comprehensive information on this project in order to make it become a reality in the member States. He was keen to discover the toolkit at the Conference in Brussels on 4-5 December 2014. He voiced the question of the follow up to this project and suggested to add it to the considerations on evaluation to be conducted by the Committee. He also suggested that the Questionnaire be sent again to all member States.

The Committee proposed that its Chairperson attend the Conference in Brussels on 4 and 5 December 2014.

Several delegations took the floor.

**Italy** stressed the difficulty to establish contacts with civil protection.

**Belgium** welcomed this project. They announced the Conference at the OCHA meeting in Geneva a couple of days ago. Sign language, being the fourth official language in Belgium, should be added as a working language of the Conference.

**Moldova** said that they have replied to the Questionnaire and that they were keen to attend the Conference. They suggested that the Toolkit be translated into languages other than French and English.

**EASPD** recalled the important work done over the past months with the publication "Major Hazards and People with Disabilities" and that the work of this Working Group will come to a halt after the Conference. He asked the Chairperson and the Bureau to include the work of this Working Group in their own activity, stressing that this project with its positive outcome and results should not be brought to a stop but rather deserves a place in the work programme of the Committee for the years to come.

**EDF** stressed the need for emergency organisations to get in touch with DPOs in disasters. Design for all, accommodation and the environment where people with disabilities live have to be considered, as well as access to on-going and life-long education.

The **European Commission** thanked Ms FUHRER for the offer of cooperation. She stressed the importance to support this project and to link it to the other activities (external action; internal issues).

**Germany** underlined the importance of coordination and networking, especially in a state organised with federal structures. All kinds of disabilities are relevant. He quoted the example of good cooperation on a local level with fire rescue services to raise awareness on the needs of people with disabilities.

**San Marino** mentioned the work of the European Centre specialised in disaster medicine in San Marino.

**Mr Badoui ROUBHAN**, Global Risk Forum Davos, took the floor to voice the particularity of this specific Working Group and how it is the only one to work on vulnerable groups and disaster risk reduction in view of contributing to the international structure on disaster reduction. The conference in Brussels and the conference organised in Sendai, Japan, in March 2015 will be milestones.

## **7. Contribution to the post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction**

Mr ROUBHAN recalled the process of the drafting of the documents preparing for the Sendai conference. He stated that it is an achievement that disability was already included in Pre-Zero Draft on post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (mentioned twice), released in August 2014 and open for consultation. At the PrepComm meeting in Geneva on 17-18 November 2014 the Zero Draft will be presented. Only member States will be allowed to intervene. The disability issue should be kept in mind. He invited the Secretariat to check at the PrepComm the issue of a commitment of the Council of Europe, in partnership with other organisations, in view of announcing a commitment in Sendai. He concluded by mentioning that 30 November 2014 was the dead-line for Registration for the Sendai Conference.

The European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction will organise its 5th Annual Meeting in Madrid, Spain, from 6-8 October 2014. At this meeting the Pre-Zero Draft will be discussed.

## **8. Attendance together with the Council of Europe Committee of Experts on the Rights of People with Disabilities at the Side-Event during the Parliamentary Assembly Session of the Council of Europe in collaboration with the Parliamentary Assembly Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination and the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights**

The Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe, Mr Nils MUIZNIEKS, gave a talk on the violation of rights and stated the rights of people with disabilities to autonomy and to life in the community. The experts Ms Karina CHUPINA, senior trainer for the European Youth Culture, considered the issue from the youth angle. Ms Gabrielle BATTAINI-DRAGONI, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, outlined the evolution of the work carried out within the Council of Europe in the field of disabilities. This work has covered the handicapped, the promotion of people with disabilities and independent living, while considering today the rights of people with disabilities.

Ms Mechthilde RAWERT, Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on disability and inclusion, Parliamentary Assembly, suggested a change of wording, rhyming with a change of mentality: she suggested using "persons with special needs". Mr Dimitris NIKOLSKY, Chairperson, DECS-RPD, presented the work of his Committee and Prof. Gerad QUINN, Director of the

Disability Law and Policy at the University of Galway, Ireland took up the issue of the rights of people with disabilities.

A debate took place with the parliamentarians and the public. In that context Prof. ALEXANDER took the floor to present the Toolkit for Planning and Action and the Conference on “Including People with Disabilities in Disaster Preparedness and Response”. His contribution was well received.

## **9. The mandate of the Working Group**

The members of the Working Group read through the mandate, which comes to an end with the Brussels Conference (cf document AP/CAT (2010) 04, report of the first meeting of the Working Group held at Unesco, Paris on 15.1.2014). However, work is still to be finalised (cf appendix 5) both for the Toolkit and the Brussels Conference on “Including People with Disabilities in Disaster Preparedness and Response”.

The members of the Working Group wish to meet during the Conference to envisage how work could and should be continued.

The Working Group identified a policy issue and as such the EUR-OPA Committee of Permanent Correspondents should take a decision: what follow up should be given to the work on people with disabilities and disaster risk reduction? Should a Task Force be put into place in order to perpetuate the project?

Mr HANNAN suggested inviting the members of the Working Group to the meetings of his networks.

## **10. Closure of the Meeting**

Ms FUHRER thanked the members of the Working Group for their involvement in the project and closed the meeting on 2 October 2014 at 17.00.

## APPENDIX 1

### LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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## APPENDIX 2

### DRAFT AGENDA

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Working Group, Strasbourg, 1-2.10.14

**1 October 2014**

**9.00 – 18.00**

9.00 Opening of the Meeting

- Adoption of the Draft Agenda
- Update since the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Working Group (London, 15 March 2014) and the Informal Working Group Meeting (Davos, 24 and 25 August 2014)
- Presentation of the book "*Major Hazards and People with Disabilities. Their Involvement in Disaster Preparedness and Response*", Council of Europe, EUR-OPA, 2014
- Presentation of the results of the three different Questionnaires circulated in spring 2014 (EUR-OPA, DPI, EASPD)

10.30-10.45 Coffee break

- Setting up of the Agenda of the Conference for Including People with Disabilities in Disaster Preparedness and Response (Brussels, 4-5 December 2014)

13.00 Opening of the Photo Exhibition "Images sur les personnes à besoins spécifiques", organised by the Permanent Representation of Luxembourg to the Council of Europe (Agora entrance area)

13.30-14.30 Lunch break

14.30-18.00 Afternoon Session

- Preparing the Toolkit for Planning and Action
- Setting up of Training activities in order to implement the Recommendation on "Including People with Disabilities in Disaster Preparedness and Response"

15.30-15.45 Coffee break

- Preparation of the Exchange of views with the Council of Europe Committee of Experts on the Rights of People with Disabilities – DECS-RPD (former CS-RPD) on Work carried out by other Council Of Europe bodies relevant to disability issues

18.00 End of the session

20.00 Dinner

## **2 October 2014**

### **9.00 – 12.00**

9.00-10.00 Exchange of views with the Council of Europe Committee of Experts on the Rights of People with Disabilities – DECS-RPD (former CS-RPD) on Work carried out by other Council of Europe bodies relevant to disability issues (Meeting Room G03, Agora)

- 2 presentations by Working Group members, followed by a debate

10.00-10.30 Coffee break

10.30-12.00 Contribution to the post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

12.00-13.30 Lunch break

### **13.30 – 18.00**

13.30-15.30 Attendance together with the Council of Europe Committee of Experts on the Rights of People with Disabilities of Disability of the *Side-Event* during the Parliamentary Assembly Session of the Council of Europe in collaboration with the Parliamentary Assembly Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination and the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights (Meeting Room 5, Palais)

15.30-15.45 Coffee break

- Any other business
- Upcoming dates

17.00 Closure of the Meeting

## APPENDIX 3

### Toolkit for Civil Protection Professionals



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Toolkit\_v01\_pages1-:

## APPENDIX 4

### 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

**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 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 programme<sup>1</sup>. 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 States<sup>2</sup>. 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

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<sup>1</sup> *Ethical Principles on Disaster Risk Reduction and People's Resilience*, Michel Prieur, Council of Europe, 2011

<sup>2</sup> *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), Council of Europe
- ❖ Ms Isabelle MAZZARA, Présidente du Comité de Direction du Service Public Fédéral Intérieur, Ministère belge de l'Intérieur (tbc)
- ❖ Ms Paola ALBRITO, United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction UNISDR: *the post-2015 framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (HFA2), leading to the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (UN WCDRR), Sendai, Japan, 14-18 March 2015 (tbc)*
- ❖ European Disability Forum (EDF) (tbc)

### **Major Hazards and People with Disabilities:**

#### **1. Political commitment, co-ordination and continuity**

10.15 – 10.45

- ❖ Mr Claus SORENSEN, Director General, ECHO-Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection, European Commission (tbc)
- ❖ Ms Inmaculada PLACENCIA-PORRERO, Directorate General Justice, European Commission "*EU disability policies and their coordination*" (tbc)
- ❖ Mr Badaoui ROUHBAN, Global Forum Davos

10.45-11.15 Coffee break

11.15-11.45 **Keynote Speech**

- ❖ Prof. Ilan KELMAN, University College London and NUPI  
*Disability and Disaster: Voice from the people.*

11.45-12.00 Open floor discussion

12.00-12.45

- ❖ Mr P. KOUROUMPLIS, Member of the Hellenic Parliament (tbc)
- ❖ 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*
- ❖ Chair of the Council of Europe's Committee of experts on the Rights of People with Disabilities (DECS-RPD)
- ❖ Mr Luk ZELDERLOO (EASPD): *Unlocking specialized knowledge available*

12.45-13.00 Open floor discussion

13.00 -14.30 Lunch break

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

14.30-15.15

- ❖ 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 Jaromir PESEK and Ms Jana HRDA, Fire brigade, Prague, Czech Republic  
*Registration of people with disabilities (tbc)*
- ❖ Dr Stepan VYMETAL, Ministry of the Interior, Prague, Czech Republic, *Crisis communication with disabled people - training of first responders" (good practice from the Czech Republic)*
- ❖ Ms Magda ROOZE, European Federation of Psychologists' Associations (EFPA)  
*Operationalising Psychosocial Support in Crisis*
- ❖ Ms Claudia SCHEDLICH, European Network for Psychosocial Crisis Management, *Assisting Disabled in Case of Disaster (EUNAD)*

15.15-15.30 Open floor discussion

15.30-16.00 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, 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 to the floor for discussion

18.00-19.00 *Cocktail dinatoire (tbc)*

## **FRIDAY, 5 DECEMBER 2014**

09.00-09.15 Opening statements

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

## **Major Hazards and People with Disabilities:**

### **4. Knowledge management and Optimisation of resources**

09.15-10.15

- ❖ Dr Elke GEENEN, ISOKIA and Dr Reinhard STRANGMEIER  
*Empowering personal disaster preparedness and self-help of people with disabilities*
- ❖ Mr Alexander STAZHADZE and Ms Sopio ANDGULADZE, Georgia  
*Save the Children, Training*
- ❖ *Experiences from Belgium:*  
Ms Mieke BROEDERS, Association « Enter », Belgium, *L'importance de l'accessibilité en cas de désastres* and Mr Vincent SNOECK, Gamah, Belgium, *L'accessibilité comme élément incontournable d'une bonne politique de prévention*

- ❖ Ms Vaia ARSENOPOULOU, Greece  
*Earthquakes: guidelines for people with intellectual disabilities using the Easy to Read Method and Maketon symbols*
- ❖ Prof. Stefanos DRITSOS, Greece  
*Design for all: earthquake preparedness including people with disabilities*

Open floor discussion

10.15-10.45 Coffee break

10.45 -11.15

- ❖ Mr Michel FEIDER, Civil Protection, Luxembourg, Chair of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents of the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement
- ❖ Mr Thierry DAVIER, Project Leader of BE-Alert Project, Belgium  
*Exposé sur les « best practices » en matière de BE-Alert et leur accessibilité aux personnes handicapées (sourds et malentendants)*
- ❖ Dr Dirk BOENKE, Dr Regina ERNST, Rehabilitation International (RI) *(tbc)*

Open floor discussion

11.30 – 11.50

***Major Hazards and People with Disabilities:  
5. Communication***

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

Open floor discussion

12.00-13.00 Concluding remarks and closure of the conference

## APPENDIX 5

### TASKS TO BE CARRIED OUT BY THE WORKING GROUP

#### 1. Toolkit for Planning and Action

Since the replies to the Questionnaire on Good Practice in Disaster Risk Reduction (April 2014) were not complete, further information is required. Therefore the Questionnaire should be circulated again, with replies (evidence-based examples) to be received by 24 October 2014. Mr FEIDER underlined that new technologies were not sufficiently present. The OPSIC and EUNAD projects might contribute examples in this field.

TASKS TO BE CARRIED OUT BY ALL MEMBERS OF THE WORKING GROUP:

- Provide input, interesting examples of good practice related to contents (e.g. earthquakes, floods), by 24 October 2014.

TASKS TO BE CARRIED OUT BY:

- **Mr Silvio SAGRAMOLA:** drafts a mail, following the suggestions of the DECS-RPD: adds the list of member States who have replied (e.g.: Italy, no, Moldova: yes; we miss examples from..., invite other countries to add examples), together with the Questionnaire to the Secretariat, by 3 October 2014.
- **Prof. David ALEXANDER:** completes this message to be sent with the Questionnaire (invite the recipients of the Questionnaire to fill it and to pass on the Questionnaire to the grass roots; set indicators and say what matters), by 3 October 2014.
- **Secretariat:** circulates the Questionnaire to the DECS-RPD, as requested by them, together with the mail; a copy should be sent to the EUR-OPA Permanent Correspondents, 24 October 2014 being the dead-line for replies, 6 October 2014.
- **Mr Silvio SAGRAMOLA and Michel FEIDER** will analyse the Questionnaires, the work will be completed by **Prof. David ALEXANDER:** draft version of the Toolkit to be sent to the Secretariat, by 30 October 2014.

#### 2. Conference “Including People with Disabilities in Disaster Preparedness and Response”

TASKS TO BE CARRIED OUT BY ALL MEMBERS OF THE WORKING GROUP:

- Send concrete suggestions for a cultural event at the Conference.
- The Secretariat would then contact the Belgian authorities to request support.

TO BE DONE BY:

- **Prof. DRISTOS:** check availability of Mr Kouroumplis to speak on national policies. If he is not available, **Mr SAGRAMOLA:** contact Mr Stephen Barns (who returned the Questionnaire from the United Kingdom).
- **Mr Luk ZELDERLOO:** contact EDF (advocate organisation, to speak on regional and local level policies): check availability of the President of EDF at world level, Mr Janis Verdakastanis. He should attend and speak on the UN Convention, on the Post 2015 Framework. If he is not available, the Secretariat will contact Mr Griffo.
- **Mr Luk ZELDERLOO:** contact the European Foundation Center, who should be invited (they fund emergency activities).
- **The Secretariat:** contacts with the European Commission.