

**EUR-OPA MAJOR
HAZARDS AGREEMENT**



San Marino, 12 December 2003

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OPEN PARTIAL AGREEMENT ON THE PREVENTION OF, PROTECTION
AGAINST, AND ORGANISATION OF RELIEF IN MAJOR NATURAL AND
TECHNOLOGICAL DISASTERS

**RECOMMENDATION
ON RISK PREVENTION**

adopted at the 10th Ministerial Session of
the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement
Valdragone, Republic of San Marino, 12 December 2003

The Ministers,

1. Having regard to the absolute priority accorded by the 9th Ministerial Session of the Agreement held in Bandol (3 and 4 October 2002) to the contribution by the Agreement to encouraging reinforcement of risk reduction policies in the member States of the Agreement and to facilitating the implementation of the relevant Euro-Mediterranean programmes;

2. Welcoming the holding in Madrid (6-8 October 2003), at the invitation of the Spanish Authorities, of the Euro-Mediterranean Forum on Disaster Reduction, organised with the co-operation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) Secretariat and the Executive Secretariat of the Agreement, and the *Declaration of Madrid* adopted on this occasion, which stressed that:

“Disaster reduction is one central element of sustainable development and the associated integrated disaster risk management is a primary responsibility of governments. Such risk management should be based on a holistic approach to risk prevention and reduction combining scientific knowledge, vulnerability assessment and the competencies of disaster managers”;

3. In the light of:

- the lessons drawn from comparative analysis of legislation on risk management carried out under the Agreement,
- the results obtained in alerting children to risk reduction and ensuring safety at school,
- the setting up of the Euro-Mediterranean Master’s Network in the field of Risk Sciences in a number of universities,

Request:

- reinforcement in member States of the interdepartmental approach to implementing risk reduction policies,
- widespread implementation of programmes for alerting children to risk reduction by introducing compulsory civic education classes in schools incorporating the principles of:
 - education in citizenship,
 - human rights,
 - solidarity,
 - sustainable development
 - risk reduction
- the development of programmes to ensure safety in schools,
- encouragement for the setting up of school and university safety observatories in member States,
- reinforcement of the Network of Universities participating in the Master Programmes on “Risk Sciences”, leading to the Euro-Mediterranean Doctorate in Risk Sciences,

- promotion of the implementation of Research and Development programmes on decision-making assistance mechanisms in the field of risk management, such as:
 - the use of the EUR-OPA Extremum Disaster Management Programme for real time assessment of consequences of disastrous earthquakes as well as elements for prevention and preparedness planning coordinated by an international experts panel from the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement,
 - the research programme for evaluation and benchmarking of existing software and exchange of information procedures for forecasting of health and environmental effects of industrial accidents;

4. Welcome the implementation of:

- the pilot projects in Casablanca (Morocco) and Seine-Saint-Denis, (France) on contributing to making schools safe and children aware of risk prevention,
- the project for the training of inspectors for industrial security and the environment in Morocco and other countries as well as the organisation of a seminar on this issue in Bucharest at the beginning of 2004,
- the proposal following the comparative analysis of legislations on risk prevention concerning an in-depth study on the importance of an interministerial approach in the field of risk prevention policy and the creation of a data base grouping the existing national legislations including bilateral and transfrontier agreements;

5. Request that the network of 26 Euro-Mediterranean Centres of the Agreement help to implement these programmes;

6. Request that the assessment of these above initiatives be presented in collaboration with the ISDR Secretariat as a contribution of the Agreement to the United Nations World Conference on Disaster Prevention planned for 18 –22 January 2005 in Kobe-Hyogo, Japan, under the patronage of ISDR;

7. Welcome the increasing climate of co-operation between the Agreement, the European Commission, ISDR and UNESCO and encourage the continued search for articulation and co-operation between the four entities and other international partners looking for the development of euro-mediterranean programmes concerning risk prevention.