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Or. French

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

**REPORT OF THE BUREAU
OF THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT CORRESPONDENTS**

**16 February 2017 (9:00-17:30)
Strasbourg, Council of Europe, Palais, Room 16**

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

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1. Adoption of the draft agenda

AP/CAT(2017)OJ01 For adoption

The meeting was opened by Eladio Fernández-Galiano, Head of the Department of Culture, Nature and Heritage, who welcomed the participants and introduced Gianluca Silvestrini, new Executive Secretary of the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement since 1 January 2017.

Tony Varo, Chair, and Ana Freitas, Vice-Chair, welcomed the 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. They also stressed the importance of enthusing the Permanent Correspondents and involving them in the different initiatives taken by the Agreement.

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.

2. Discussion on the work programme 2018-2019

- Medium term plan 2016-2020	AP/CAT (2015)12 rev	For information
- Note to the Secretariat of EUR-OPA Agreement on the first proposal for the Medium term plan 2016-2020	AP/CAT(2017)4	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 and to the memorandum addressed to the Secretariat in 2015 by Luxembourg, Monaco and Belgium and presented the document "thematic priorities proposed for the 2018-2019 work programme" for discussion and decision.

The Bureau noted that 40% of the Permanent Correspondents had replied to the Secretariat's survey and had given their thematic priorities for 2018-19. The Bureau 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.

It asked the Secretariat to distribute the document to all of the Permanent Correspondents and observers and to ask them for any comments the further proposals they might have before 3 March so that they could be discussed at the meeting of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents that would be held in Monaco on 14 and 15 March.

3. Programme of Activities 2017

3.1. 70th Meeting of the Permanent Correspondents, Monaco, 14-15 March 2017

- Draft Agenda of the 70th Meeting of the Permanent Correspondents AP/CAT(2017)OJ02 For discussion and decision
- Programme of the 30th Anniversary of EUR-OPA AP/CAT (2017)3 For discussion and decision

The Bureau examined the agenda of the next meeting of the Permanent Correspondents and decided to devote more time to preparing the 2018-2019 work programme so as to collect, discuss and adopt member states' proposals for future activities.

The Vice-Chair said that it was possible that the State Secretary of his country would attend the Monaco meeting.

The Bureau approved the draft Programme for the 30th anniversary of EUR-OPA.

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

The Bureau 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.

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

- 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
- Activity planned if financial resources are provided by the CoE migration office

Joint Workshop IOM/MICIC - EUR-OPA on Migrants in Turkey (place and date tbc), in collaboration with the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration and Refugees

The Bureau took note of the state of preparation of publications and of the possible organisation of a workshop on migrants in Turkey, on the condition that the necessary funding could be obtained from the CoE Migration Office.

3.4. 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 Bureau took note of the Secretariat's participation in international initiatives to ensure the contribution of EUR-OPA, publicise the initiatives taken by the Agreement and strengthen co-operation and interaction with partner organisations.

4. Conferences held in October 2016

4.1. Conference 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

4.2. 13th Ministerial Conference - EUR-OPA

- Oral statement by Eladio Fernandez Galiano, Head of Department Culture, Nature and Heritage, Council of Europe
- Agenda of the EUR-OPA 13th Ministerial Conference AP/CAT(2016)OJ2 For information
rev

Le Bureau 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.

5. Examination of the 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 Bureau 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 8 of the agenda) so that Permanent Correspondents and the Directors of the centres could get to know each other and align their efforts.

The Bureau 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. Election of the new Bureau

AP/CAT(2017)05

For discussion

The Secretariat presented the document for the election of the members of the Bureau.

The Bureau took note of the need to elect a new Chair and two new Vice-Chairs at the next meeting of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents in Monaco.

7. Any other business

None

8. Date and place of the next meeting

The Secretariat proposed that a joint meeting of the Permanent Correspondents and the Directors of the specialised centers 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 Bureau 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 Bureau asked the Secretariat to kindly organise the presentations of the directors of the centres, following the structure of the 2018-19 work programme, and to ask them to use photos, short videos, or PowerPoint to enliven their presentations. The time allocated to each centre should be no more than 10 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. During November the Secretariat should identify the dates which would suit both parties.

APPENDIX I

List of participants

Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents – 16 February 2017

Bureau Members

Colonel Tony VARO, Monaco

President of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents
Chief of the Monaco Fire and Emergency Service

Ana FREITAS, Portugal

Vice-President of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents
National Authority For Civil Protection

Secretariat

Eladio FERNANDEZ GALIANO

Head of the Culture, Nature and Heritage Department
Directorate General of Democracy- Council of Europe

Gianluca SILVESTRINI

Executive Secretary of EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement

Pauline CADÉAC

Secretariat of the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement
Directorate General of Democracy - Council of Europe