

Strasbourg, 30 April 2019

AP/CAT(2019)02

EUROPEAN AND MEDITERRANEAN MAJOR HAZARDS AGREEMENT

MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT CORRESPONDENTS VIA TELECONFERENCE

29 April (9:00-12:00)

MEETING REPORT

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

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**Meeting of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents
via Teleconference
29 April 2019**

Participants:

Ana Freitas (AF) Chair of the Bureau
Jeyhun Isgandarli (JI)
Nataša Holcinger (NH)
Gianluca Silvestrini (GS)
Pauline Cadeac (PC)
Catherine Emezie (CE)

1. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA [AP/CAT\(2019\)OJ01](#)

The Bureau members were informed of the aims of the meeting. The agenda was adopted with addition of GS summary remarks about EUR-OPA's contribution to the European Forum for DRR in November 2018 and the Global Platform for DRR in May 2019 under item 5. Any other business.

2. STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Bureau members were updated on the political and financial situation at the Council of Europe, and the degree to which the withholding of the Russian Federation's payment is impacting heavily on EUR-OPA given its major contributor status (42% of EUR-OPA budget).

3. PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES 2019

3.1. Statutory meetings [AP/CAT\(2018\)16](#)

The Report of the Joint meeting of Permanent Correspondents and Directors of Centres held on 6-7 November 2018, in Zagreb, Croatia was presented. CE shared some salient points recorded in the meeting report.

Bureau members shared their views on the last joint meeting and on the structure for future meetings.

NH found the format easier to follow than previous meetings given the less heavy agenda.

Decisions:

- The Committee meeting of the Permanent Correspondents will continue to be held together with the Directors of the Centres in its current format to give the possibility to the two networks to discuss the programme of activities and exchange information.
- The Directors of Specialised Centres will continue presenting their project proposals and achievements in line with the priorities decided by the Permanent Correspondents.

3.2. Specialised Centres AP/CAT(2019)01

The Bureau members were informed of the projects funded in 2019. Despite the budget cut, the Secretariat was able to provide funds to all projects to ensure the finalization of the activities and deliverables. CE gave a quick overview of the funding of projects and their expected results.

3.3. Operational Activities

a. **BeSafeNet project:** Olympiad on “Better knowledge against disasters”

[Factsheet](#)

[Note to the press](#)

PC informed the Bureau members about the organisation and results of the BeSafeNet Olympiad targeting secondary school children in EUR-OPA member States. The Award ceremony will be held in Strasbourg on 12 June 2019 during the Steering Committee meeting dealing with Culture, Heritage and Landscape to give visibility to the BeSafeNet knowledge platform and the importance to promote risk culture at all level. It was suggested that the competition could be repeated and the geographical scope widened, given the keen interest of EUR-OPA non-member State countries too.

b. **Technical assistance project on delivering Good Governance in Greece**

The project aims to provide support for the improvement of emergency sheltering of victims of natural disasters. PC briefly presented the:

- project context and EUR-OPA contribution to the project led by the Centre of Expertise for Good Governance of the CoE;
- request for a peer review in Athens on 18-19-20 June 2019 from Portugal, Croatia and other countries. NH explained that Croatia would not be able to participate due to the ongoing restructuring exercise of the relevant ministry. Portugal has already provided the contact of the expert for the peer review;
- EUR-OPA will collaborate on one aspect of the questionnaire on good practices in EUR-OPA member States.

c. **Conference on vulnerable groups and disaster risk reduction**

Baku, Azerbaijan

Jl informed the Bureau members about the concept and aims of the event.

- Workshop title: Human Rights and Disasters; inclusion of certain vulnerable groups in DRR. The protection of rights of vulnerable groups will be addressed in the framework of the EUR-OPA agreement and projects implemented by the specialised centres which relate to this topic.
- Partners: Main stakeholders will include international organisations (UNICEF and IOM Baku offices), government agencies, societies for the people with disabilities, local NGOs and INGOs currently in Azerbaijan, countries with concrete experience and best practices (e.g. Portugal, Greece, Italy and Turkey, specifically AFEM) as well as experts who contributed to the preparation of the toolkit for people with disabilities.
- Focus: The needs of the most vulnerable groups and challenges faced i.e., people with disabilities, migrants (the internally displaced in the context of Azerbaijan) and

children. EUR-OPA activities in these areas, any publications, recommendations and guidelines and activities and initiatives of other relevant international partners.

- Take stock of existing instruments, mechanisms, procedures related to human rights and DRR.
- Identify new initiative(s) based on the outcome of any needs assessment/future project to be outlined between stakeholders.
- Aim for concrete output e.g. guidelines, instruments and or recommendations that could be useful to other member States. A similar conference model could be replicated in other member States.

Decisions:

- JI will share a draft concept note and agenda as soon as possible with the Secretariat and Bureau members.
- Another teleconference will be organised in order to discuss these documents and the practical organisation of the Workshop scheduled for the end of September.

4. PROGRAMME OF WORK 2020-2021 [AP/CAT\(2018\)05](#)

AF recommended to consider all priority topics identified in the document AP/CAT(2018)05 for the programme of activities 2020-21, as all the issues were relevant, and to prioritize them.

NH suggested dealing with priority topics that were not being addressed yet.

JJ advised to keep working on the protection of cultural heritage as this issue should be further promoted. It was suggested to organise a national workshop to discuss this topic.

EUR-OPA could lay emphasis on increased cooperation among decision-makers at national level.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- A new contact person will be officially nominated as Permanent Correspondent for Croatia. An official letter would be sent once this information becomes available.
- GS gave a brief summary of the EFDRR meeting held in Rome in November 2018 and the forthcoming Global Platform meeting to be held 13-17 May 2019 in Geneva.

6. DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Strasbourg, 10 October 2019