

Strasbourg, 20 February 2025

AP/CAT(2025)01
Or. English

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

**MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT
CORRESPONDENTS**

VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

20 FEBRUARY 2025

MEETING REPORT

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

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PARTICIPANTS:

Bureau members:

Dominika Reynolds (DR): Chair

Ana Freitas (AF): Vice-Chair

Anton Micallef (AM): Vice-Chair

Mikaella Mala (MM): Ex-Chair

Council of Europe (CoE) Secretariat:

Krzysztof Zyman (KZ): EUR-OPA Executive Secretary

Catherine Emezie (CE): EUR-OPA Secretariat

1. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA AP/CAT(2025)OJ01

The Executive Secretary welcomed the participants and proceeded to share the aims of the meeting. The agenda was adopted without amendment.

2. STATEMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

The Executive Secretary, Mr. Krzysztof Zyman, gave an update on EUR-OPA's activities and recent developments.

The secretariat is examining project proposals submitted by Specialised Centres with a view of signing grant agreements shortly. The list of project proposals has been reviewed and endorsed by the Sub-Committee on Projects. Up to date five project proposals were submitted and the Secretariat is discussing with some of the centres the financial aspects of the project proposals in order to ensure that the funding is allocated equitably. KZ reiterated that funding priority would be given to specialised centres located in the Agreement's members states.

KZ informed the Bureau about the upcoming meeting of the Multidisciplinary Group on Environment (11-13 February) and thanked Anton Micallef for his availability at short notice to attend on behalf of the Agreement. The GME meeting will examine the "Council of Europe Strategy on the Environment", which refers inter alia to natural disasters and climate hazards.

The question of the inclusion of the right to a clean and healthy and sustainable environment in the draft Strategy is debated in depth, taking into consideration the report and conclusions of the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH) on the need and feasibility of an instrument guaranteeing the right to a clean and healthy environment.

KZ informed further that no funding for the Enhancing Civilian Preparedness for Technological Disasters in Ukraine (ECP-TDU) has been secured at this stage.

3. PREPARATION OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT CORRESPONDENTS

The Executive Secretary recalled the ongoing work on state obligations and the right to be protected from the serious effects of global warming: realization of the right to a healthy and sustainable environment in the face of risks and threats of natural hazards. Considering the conclusions of the report of the Steering Committee for Human Rights on the need and feasibility of an instrument guaranteeing the right to a clean and healthy environment, KZ urged utmost caution on further steps that the CPC takes, with a view to maintaining the coherence of approach and not prejudging prejudicing the CM's decisions.

The Bureau members agreed that before proceeding with further steps in the above domain, the Committee should supplement its work by examining how the information transmitted by the authorities is received, processed and acted upon by different groups of the population and what steps need to be taken to make communication more effective.

4. FUNCTIONING OF THE AGREEMENT

EUR-OPA is continuing to operate without major changes and with no accessions or withdrawals signalled in the last months. The budget for 2025 was adopted by the Committee of Ministers at the end of November 2024. It is the same as that for 2024, adjusted only to take inflation into account.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other issues were raised.

6. END OF THE MEETING