

Strasbourg, 17 March 2026

AP/CAT(2026)O1
Or. English

EUROPEAN AND MEDITERRANEAN MAJOR HAZARDS AGREEMENT

MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT CORRESPONDENTS

VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

MEETING REPORT

17 March 2026

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\(2026\)OJ01](#)

The Executive Secretary (KZ) welcomed the participants and stated the aims of the meeting. The agenda was adopted as presented.

2. STATEMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Regarding the current state of the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement, the financial situation remains strained, as the contributions of two state parties to the Agreement remain unpaid. In spite of this difficulty, KZ confirmed that two CPC meetings will be held as planned, and grant agreements for projects implemented by the Agreement's scientific centres have been concluded for 2026. Savings are principally found in a drastic reduction in the number of missions, which will have unfortunate consequences of limiting the Agreement's outreach and visibility.

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



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The most important item on the agenda of the next CPC meeting, scheduled for 21 April 2026 is preparation of the Agreement's Ministerial Session in planned for early 2027. Preliminary discussions with the Permanent Representative of San Marino to the Council of Europe have been held and they will be continued in the near future.

The ministerial meeting will most likely be held on 19 March 2027, close to the 40th anniversary of the Agreement's creation. It is planned that invitations will be extended to the ministers and/or their deputies and Permanent Correspondents. Additionally, the directors of specialised centres and representatives of partner international organisations will also be invited due to the significance of this date.

The Ministers Are expected to take stock of the Agreement's achievements to date, adopt the next Medium-Term Plan 2027-2031 (a draft of which will be discussed at the CPC meeting in April, with the view to the document being finalised at the CPC meeting in November 2026) and a Ministerial Declaration.

AM added that the ministerial meeting should serve to showcase the Agreement's major achievements and flagship projects Agreement for which there are a lot of materials available to be showcased. Such projects include for example the BeSafeNet Olympiad project impacting hundreds of schools across Europe, and the Global Fire Monitoring Centre in Freiburg, Germany whose role expands well beyond cooperation with EUR-OPA. An opportunity to adopt a Ministerial Resolution during the Session will also be discussed at the CPC meeting in April.

The Ministerial Session will also offer opportunities for bilateral meetings.

4. FUNCTIONING OF THE AGREEMENT

KZ drew attention of the Bureau members to the Meeting of the GR-C - Rapporteur Group on Education, Culture, Sport, Youth and Environment of the Committee of Ministers to be held on 16 June 2026 in Strasbourg. Chairs of the mechanisms addressing various aspects of environmental protection: Steering Committee on Environment (CDENV), Bern Convention, Landscape Convention, and EUR-OPA will be invited to participate in the meeting. The Chair of the CPC, DR will represent EUR-OPA at this meeting to present the Agreement's recent achievements including the Recommendation on Citizen-centred prevention and preparedness in the face of natural hazards connected to climate change.

In the coming months, there will be opportunities to promote the Agreement's visibility. In particular, the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Yerevan, Armenia on 18-30 October 2026 and COP31 on Climate Change, 9-20 November 2026, Antalya, Türkiye could be used for that purpose. KZ will raise the issue at the CPC meeting in April and will prepare a one-page promotional document for this purpose.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other issues were raised.

6. END OF THE MEETING