EUR-OPA MAJOR HAZARDS AGREEMENT
ACCORD EUR-OPA RISQUES MAJEURS

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 24 September 2026

AP/CAT(2026)O8
Or. English

EUROPEAN AND MEDITERRANEAN MAJOR HAZARDS AGREEMENT

MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT CORRESPONDENTS

VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

MEETING REPORT

24 SEPTEMBER 2026

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

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PARTICIPANTS

Bureau members:

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)OJ03

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

KZ updated the bureau on the current state of the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement. See points elaborated below.

3. PREPARATION OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT CORRESPONDENTS AP/CAT(2026)OJ04

A new Permanent Correspondent in respect of the Slovak Republic, has been nominated by the authorities. Consequently, the current Chair of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents has ceased her role. In view of this, KZ requested that AM chair the next Joint Meeting until the election of the new Chair. This proposal was accepted.

The ministerial meeting will be held on 19 March 2027. The draft documents (the Strategy 2027-2031, the Ministerial Resolution and the Ministerial Declaration) that have been circulated prior to the last CPC meeting held in April 2026 and discussed at that meeting, received no further comments. MM asked that the ministerial meeting agenda be shared before the Joint Meeting to help guide member states' responses and preparation of the ministerial meeting. KZ informed the bureau that a save-the-date message will be sent out in the next days.

Regarding the Survey on the impact of the EUR-OPA guidelines in the member states, only two replies have been received from the Cyrus and San Marino permanent correspondents. AM suggested reworking the survey so that the questions are more specific.

4. FUNCTIONING OF THE AGREEMENT

There has been progress in discussions with one State Party on the overdue financial contributions for the years 2022-2026 to the Agreement. Further action is awaited and it is hoped that the matter be resolved in 2027 if possible.

Mr Kamal Kishore, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General (SRSG) for Disaster Risk Reduction and Head of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) has been invited to take part in the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly general policy debate on 2 October on "Europe, the fastest-warming continent: accelerating climate action with young people". KZ will use the opportunity offered by this visit to discuss strengthening collaboration in addressing regional disaster challenges, in particular in the framework of the Europe and Central Asia Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, and dissemination of the expertise of the EUR-OPA Network of Scientific Centres.

The Conference of International NGOs will hold a meeting on 28 September on "Living with Climate Risk in Europe: Strategy Session of the CINGO in view of COP31" during their General Assembly. KZ is invited to participate in this meeting.

A representative of the International Civil Defence Organisation (ICDO) contacted recently the CoE indicating renewed interest in reinvigorating the ICDO – EUR-OPA cooperation. KZ recalled in this context that the convocation to a ICDO representative to attend the 86th Joint CPC and Directors meeting was sent, as per usual practice. Should a ICDO representative attend the meeting an item on possible areas of cooperation will be added to the agenda.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Ana Freitas (Portugal) will pursue other professional obligations in Brussels from 1 November 2026 and will therefore withdraw from the Committee of Permanent Correspondents and the Bureau in the light of this development.

Elections of the Chair, Vice-Chair and Burau members will be added to the Joint Meeting agenda.

6. END OF THE MEETING