

Strasbourg, 21 January 2022

APCAT(2022)01

**EUROPEAN AND MEDITERRANEAN MAJOR HAZARDS AGREEMENT
MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT CORRESPONDENTS**

VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

11 January 2022 (9:30-17:00)

MEETING REPORT

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

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PARTICIPANTS:

Bureau members:

Nataša Holcinger (NH): Chair
Alessandro Balducci (AB): Vice-Chair
Mikaella Mala (MM): Vice-Chair
Rute Ricardo on behalf of Ana Freitas (AF): previous Chair

Council of Europe (CoE) Secretariat:

Maguelonne Déjeant-Pons (MDP): Head of Landscape, Environment and Major Hazards Division
Krzysztof Zyman (KZ): EUR-OPA Executive Secretary
Styliani Elmatzoglou (SE): EUR-OPA Secretariat

1. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA

The agenda APCAT(2022)OJ01 was adopted without any amendments.

2. STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

The Executive Secretary, Mr. Krzysztof Zyman, gave an update on EUR-OPA's activities and recent developments. The restrictions on international travel remain in place with only essential missions allowed. KZ touched upon the budgetary situation, the 2021 EUR-OPA Ministerial Meeting and the forthcoming Joint Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents and the Directors of Specialised Centres. The details are elaborated under the specific agenda items.

KZ informed the Bureau that he had received an invitation to attend the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction to be held on the 3d week of May in Indonesia. The Global Platform is an avenue to share knowledge and discuss the latest developments and trends in reducing disaster risk. KZ participation will depend on the sanitary situation and the international travel restrictions at the relevant time.

3. FOLLOW-UP TO THE EUR-OPA MINISTERIAL MEETING: REFLECTION ON FUTURE DIRECTION OF THE AGREEMENT

The 14th Ministerial Meeting held in Matosinhos, Portugal, hosted by the Portuguese Ministry of Internal Affairs, was successful despite the challenges brought on by the COVID-19 measures. The meeting resulted in the adoption of the draft Medium-Term Plan 2021-2025, the draft recommendations on "[Enabling and protecting persons with disabilities before during and after public health emergencies resulting from viral and other pathogenic pandemics](#)" and "[The inclusion of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees in public health emergencies resulting from viral or other pathogenic pandemics](#)".

The Ministerial Meeting was held during the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction in a hybrid format on 24-26 November 2021 in Matosinhos, Portugal. The Deputy Secretary-General of the Council of Europe addressed the Forum via a pre-recorded message during the opening ceremony. Furthermore, KZ moderated two side events: "Disability-inclusive DRR: Learning from the Italian example" and on "Strengthening Governance in Landscape Fire Management".

KZ informed the Bureau that he will present the outcomes of the Ministerial Meeting with the CM Rapporteur Group on Culture during their upcoming meeting on 2 March 2022. This will create an opportunity for highlighting the Agreement's work to a wider audience and possibly raise the interest of other States to join the Agreement.

4. BUDGETARY SITUATION

KZ informed the Bureau about the financial situation of the Agreement. The membership of the Agreement remains stable with 24 member states. In 2021, EUR-OPA managed to spend approximately 94% of its budget.

5. ADOPTION OF THE 2022 BUDGET

KZ shared the Programme and Budget 2022 – 2025 document with all the Bureau members which provides a detailed indication of budgeting for the next two years (2022-2023). According to the adopted budget, 701.800 euros are allocated to the Agreement in 2022.

6. NEXT COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT CORRESPONDENTS: REFLECTION ON FUTURE DIRECTION OF THE AGREEMENT

KZ informed the Bureau that as project proposals have yet to be reviewed by the Committee of Permanent Correspondents (CPC), the next meeting of Permanent Correspondents should be held as soon as possible to discuss the proposals. KZ highlighted the importance of creating a subcommittee to evaluate, together with the Executive Secretary, the project proposals submitted by the specialised centers and to propose to the Committee allocation of funding to projects, as indicated within the Rules of Procedure. KZ said that this sub-committee should be set up at the next CPC meeting.

KZ updated the Bureau on the current requests for funding for the continuation of the existing projects. He indicated that there may be initiatives for new Centres to join the Network which might have a financial repercussion on the distribution of funding to projects.

KZ stressed the need to organise the next CPC Meeting, jointly with the directors of specialised centres, and proposed to hold the meeting on 10-11 of February. A large part of the meeting will be dedicated to the review of 2021 projects and proposals for 2022 projects. Furthermore, there is a need to reflect on work that should be carried out on the intergovernmental side of the Agreement. Given the recent adoption at the Ministerial meeting, of the two recommendations, the Committee should decide on the next steps that should reflect the priorities set in the Medium-Term Plan.

KZ underlined the importance of more efficient communication between the different sides of the Agreement, including the communication between the scientific centres and the authorities of their respective countries.

The Executive Secretary proposed that the following items be included in the agenda of the next Joint meeting of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents and the directors of specialised centres:

- **Presentation of candidates for election of the CPC Chair and the two Vice-Chairs. Possible election of the CPC Chair and two Vice-Chairs:**

NH who served two terms as Chair is not eligible for a third term, but she will remain in the Bureau as a former Chair. The Vice-Chairs' terms of office also expire; however, they are eligible to be candidates (as are all other CPC members) for the post of the Chair of the Committee.

- **Creation of a subcommittee to evaluate project proposals of the specialised centres:**

A subcommittee responsible for evaluating project proposals and the decisions on the allocation of funding, should be established, in line with the binding [rules of procedure](#). The members of the subcommittee should evaluate, together with the Executive Secretary, the project proposals with a view to making a proposal to the Committee on the allocation of funds.

AB underlined the need for a narrative report by the end of each project to ensure proper feedback regarding the implementation and final outcomes. KZ and AB underlined the importance of reinforcing collaboration amongst the specialised centres. NH drew attention to the fact that there are no specific rules regarding the selection process for funding and proposed that the subcommittee develops a scoring chart.

- **Revision of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents**

This point requires further discussion;

- **Operational Activities in 2021:**

The Medium-Term Plan 2021-2025 sets the priorities and the direction of the CPC. KZ proposed four possible areas for the CPC to work on at an intergovernmental level within the next two years:

- 1) Risk assessment tools and protection of cultural heritage;

- 2) Greater use of media (social media, traditional media, big data and mobile communication) to support national measures for successful disaster risk communication;
- 3) Strengthening risk governance to manage disaster risk and reinforce the resilience of vulnerable groups (migrants, asylum seekers, refugees, children, elderly etc.), while reducing their exposure to hazards;
- 4) Best use of geospatial information technology and guidance methodologies and drafting a recommendation for research within these priority areas.

MD-P proposed that the project reports of the specialised centres should include conclusions with draft guidelines/recommendations which would contribute to the current and future work of the CPC.

7. REVISION OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT CORRESPONDENTS [AP/CAT\(2021\)02](#)

KZ informed the Bureau that a meeting has not been held since August 2021 on the new Rules of Procedure of the CPC and that he aims at holding a meeting before the next CPC meeting takes place so that decisions can be made on time.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

KZ informed the Bureau that he had received an invitation to be associated with the private event: [Cannes International Resilience Forum](#), to be held on 6-9 March 2022¹. Some of the topics on the event's agenda such as COVID-19 lessons learned, health system preparedness, climate effects, and emergency preparedness are in line with the activities of the Agreement. KZ will keep the Bureau updated.

9. DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The Bureau agreed to decide on the dates of its next meeting at a later time, depending on the decisions taken at the Joint Meeting of Permanent Correspondents and Directors of Specialised Centres.

10. END OF MEETING

¹ The dates of the CIRF were changed to 23-26 October 2022.