

Strasbourg, 22 June 2022

AP/CAT(2022)06

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

VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

**BUREAU MEETING REPORT
20 June 2022 (9:30-12:00)**

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

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PARTICIPANTS:

Bureau members:

Mikaella Mala (MM): Chair
Alessandro Balducci (AB): Vice-Chair
Anton Micallef (AM): Vice-Chair
Nataša Holcinger (NH): previous Chair

Council of Europe (CoE) Secretariat:

Krzysztof Zyman (KZ): EUR-OPA Executive Secretary
Catherine Emezie (CE): EUR-OPA Secretariat
Tania Braulio (TB): EUR-OPA Secretariat

1. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA [AP/CAT\(2022\)OJ04](#)

The agenda was adopted without amendment.

2. STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

The Executive Secretary informed the Bureau members about the aims of the meeting. KZ presented the budgetary situation following the expulsion of the Russian Federation from the Council of Europe.

3. BUDGETARY SITUATION (no figures)

KZ summed up the financial situation of the Agreement in 2022 and the outlook for 2023. The Russian Federation's expulsion from the Council of Europe has directly impacted the financial stability and future of the Agreement. Whilst the Agreement remains fully operational in 2022 following decisions/action taken by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, 2023 funding is still unsure and is further compounded by the withdrawal of Belgium as of 1 January 2023.

The Secretariat is currently preparing a document on the possible scenarios for the Agreement's future financing and activities and will provide further updates in due course.

MM mentioned the necessity of looking into how to expand the network of 22 member states. KZ assured the Bureau of his continual efforts to prevent countries withdrawing from the Agreement using every opportunity to convince new countries to join.

It was noted that whilst the Agreement's subjects/areas of activity are of increasing relevance worldwide, EUR-OPA was lacking in visibility. AM suggested to conduct an external review focusing on expanding its relevance by moving beyond cooperation with only civil protection authorities and working towards closer cooperation with other authorities e.g., human rights, environment etc., as a matter of urgency. KZ stressed the importance of improving and maintaining communication between CPCs and their governments. KZ suggested possibly reviewing the Rules of Procedure to reinvigorate the CPC membership.

4. PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES 2022

4.1 Specialised Centres

Several projects run by the Specialised Centres were financed through the awarding of grants in 2022. Full details are laid out in [AP/CAT\(2022\)02](#).

On the occasion of the 7th Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction, KZ spoke with several UNDRR officials about the Agreement's work and its active cooperation with UNDRR. He expressed his hope for further strengthening of cooperation between EUR-OPA and UNDRR. KZ also mentioned the recently adopted recommendations on disability and migrants in pandemics.

KZ will attend the [Second International Conference on Urban Risks](#) in Lisbon, Portugal on 23-25 June, in order to promote the work of the Agreement. KZ will also attend a conference organised by the CUEBC in Ravello on 22-23 October.

KZ will look into the possibility of setting up a meeting gathering local experts, academia and Bureau members to see in which capacity EUR-OPA can contribute to post-war activities in Ukraine in technological disasters.

5. NEXT JOINT MEETING OF THE PERMANENT CORRESPONDENTS AND DIRECTORS OF SPECIALISED CENTRES

Bureau members held preliminary discussions of the items on the agenda of the next Joint Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents and Directors of Specialised Centres on 17-18 November 2022 in Paris. The meeting will proceed with a restricted session with only the CPCs on the first day and a joint meeting on the second day, with the Directors of Specialised Centres.

AM suggested to host the CPC meetings in the different member states to "showcase" the Agreement and involve officials of the host country. KZ expressed his willingness to consider this, should funding be available and it would also allow the officials to see first-hand the projects run by the Specialised Centres.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No further issues were raised.

7. DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING

It was agreed to hold the next online Bureau meeting on Monday 5 September at 09.30.

8. END OF MEETING