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EUROPEAN AND MEDITERRANEAN MAJOR HAZARDS AGREEMENT (EUR-OPA)

MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT CORRESPONDENTS

REPORT

2 October 2018, Paris

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

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Tuesday 2 October 2018

1. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA

The Executive Secretary, G. Silvestrini, welcomed the members of the Bureau and presented the agenda which was adopted without further additions (Appendix I).

2. PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES 2018

2.1. Statutory meetings

Report of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents (Strasbourg, 12 April 2018)

The Secretariat recalled the main points of the last Bureau meeting and the follow-up of three decisions:

- A) J. Isgandarli announced in April that there would soon be a new Director of the Specialised Centre in Baku focusing on the protection of cultural heritage. The Secretariat asked the status of this decision and the timeline for this event.
 - **Decision:** J. Isgandarli will investigate on this matter and keep the Bureau informed.
- B) J. Isgandarli reiterated his proposal to organise a workshop on vulnerable groups and DRR to be held in Baku in 2019. The Secretariat and the Bureau supported the idea of this priority topic for the EUR-OPA work programme. J. Isgandarli asked for financial support from EUR-OPA as well as for assistance in order to attract other stakeholders and partners. The Secretariat requested a concept note with an estimated budget for the event, to be included in the budgetary planning for 2019 and to evaluate the human resources required.
 - **Decision:** J. Isgandarli will prepare a concept note with a draft programme and the estimated budget for the event and send it to the Secretariat by the end of 2018.
- C) J. Isgandarli presented a draft report on Gender mainstreaming in EUR-OPA activities which was shared just before the meeting. The Secretariat thanked J. Isgandarli for the document and recalled the importance of sending information ahead of meetings to allow the Secretariat and Bureau members to study the documents.

The Bureau members agreed to further discuss this important issue under item 8 of the agenda.

Preparation of the Joint meeting of Permanent Correspondents and Directors of Centres, (6-7 November 2018, Zagreb, Croatia)

The Secretariat presented the draft agenda of the joint meeting. The Bureau members welcomed the structure of the Agenda, allowing both for a joint session and discussions with the Directors of the Centres as well as with the Permanent Correspondents.

Ana Freitas recommended to devote more time on the agenda for the national authorities to express their needs with regard to their cooperation with the Centres and/or exchange good practices that could be helpful for the platform.

- **Decision:** the Chair will encourage Country representatives to provide feedback to the presentations of the Centres during item 3.2 and share their needs and/or national experiences.

Bureau members shared examples of good practices that could be helpful for the group:

Portugal: Lessons learned after the disastrous wildfires in 2017. New methodologies to raise citizens' awareness and to alert them through SMS were developed. National authorities assessed the population's needs and providing information needed to meet their expectation. This expertise could now be provided by the Centres.

Croatia: Pilot projects on wildfire that could inspire other countries with an integrated technical and institutional approach.

The Secretariat went through the draft agenda and agreed on responsibilities and the distribution of speaking time with the Chair.

Logistics of the meeting

The Secretariat informed the members that the practical organisation of the meeting was going well and foreseen attendance was satisfactory. Arabela Vahtaric presented the social programme scheduled for the meeting and informed the Bureau that the Director General of the Croatian National Rescue Directorate would deliver the opening address.

- **Decision:** Secretariat to follow-up on logistical arrangements together with Croatian authorities

Arabela Vahtaric informed the Bureau members of forthcoming changes in the structure of the Croatian National Rescue Directorate which will be merged with the Ministry of Interior.

2.2. Operational Activities

Meeting with EUR-OPA, OSCE, UNISDR and GFMC on "Streamlining International Cooperation in Landscape Fire Management" (Vienna, 3 September 2018).

The Secretariat explained that the aim of the meeting was to identify areas of common interest for the three institutions in order to strengthen cooperation in Landscape Fire Management

Outcomes of the meeting:

- ✓ Presented the aims and the programme of activities of EUR-OPA to the OSCE Head of Environmental Cooperation Unit.
- ✓ Evaluated the achievements, future needs and possible synergies of work of CoE/EUR-OPA and OSCE through the Global Fire Monitoring Center implementing partner.
- ✓ Identified a common interest to cooperate on the following projects:
 - Enhancing Capacities of Wildfire Risk Management in the South Caucasus;
 - Strengthening the Wildfire Risk Management in South Eastern Europe;
 - Confidence building through environmental protection and disaster risk management;
 - Training on fighting forest fires in SEE and South East Caucasus.
- ✓ Decided to draft a joint CoE/OSCE statement to show case good cooperation on disaster risk reduction to be published on our respective websites.

Workshop on "Beach and Coastal Resort Risks" organised by the Euro-Mediterranean Centre on Insular Coastal Dynamics (Malta, 24 September 2018)

The Workshop discussed *inter alia* coastal risk to public safety, tsunami risk in Malta, safety aspects of the Blue Flag Beach award, the potential of a tsunami ready beach / hotel, etc.

The EUR-OPA funded project on "Tsunami Ready Community" includes two programmes: Tsunami Ready Beach and Tsunami Ready Hotel. The project is implemented in coordination with three Specialised Centres based in Malta, Portugal and Morocco. Opportunities for collaboration with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO and the Blue Flag international programme were identified.

Conference on "Culture against Disasters; protecting cultural landscape as prevention of natural disasters" (Ravello, Italy, 28-29 September 2018)

The Secretariat presented the aim and the outcomes of the Conference:

- Recommendations for prevention of natural disasters, local sustainable development and recovery of local communities' knowledge on tangible and intangible heritage were drafted and will be presented to the Committee of Permanent Correspondents and the Steering Committee for culture, landscape and heritage.
- Pilot projects will be launched to test methodologies, produce tools and guidelines for the preservation of cultural landscapes to mitigate risks.
- The importance of Media in the prevention of disasters was underlined.

Collaboration with IOM and Intercultural Cities Programme of the Council of Europe on an e-learning tool for local authorities on “Integrating migrants in emergency preparedness, response and recovery in their host countries”

The Secretariat presented the ongoing cooperation with IOM and the Intercultural Cities Programme of the Council of Europe to elaborate an online tool on emergency preparedness for migrants targeted at local authorities. The Bureau members raised the importance of strengthening the collaboration with other organisations.

2.3. Involvement in international initiatives

European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction, Rome, Italy, 21-23 November 2018

The Secretariat informed the Bureau on the state of preparation of the European Forum in collaboration with UNISDR and the EU. The Concept Note and the Agenda were presented pointing out the sessions of interest for EUR-OPA. Some Permanent Correspondents and Directors of Specialised Centres had been invited to attend the Forum in order to participate in the sessions of their interest and to mention EUR-OPA actions.

- **Decision:** an invitation will be sent to Ana Freitas and J. Isgandarli to attend the Forum and promote EUR-OPA’s work. J. Isgandarli will attend the Session on Gender mainstreaming.

3. EVALUATION OF EUR-OPA WORK

Evidence of improvement and impact of the work of Specialised Centres and Committee of Permanent Correspondents in national legislation, policies and strategies for disaster risk reduction

The Secretariat presented the results of the survey. The Bureau members welcomed the conclusions of the documents.

Arabela Vahtaric presented the survey as an awareness-raising tool for the countries to be reminded of the existing recommendations. She used the survey to make aware the different Croatian ministries and national platforms of the existing guidelines and to push for their inclusion in the agenda of policy working groups.

4. RESTRUCTURING EUR-OPA

The Secretariat presented the purpose and the main points of the report. The Permanent Correspondents will be invited to discuss the restructuring process and to strengthen their role as “Ambassador” of EUR-OPA’s activities, in order to make the CPC network more dynamic as well as to promote the work programme.

5. VISIBILITY

The Secretariat presented the new collaborative platform for the submission and the online publication of projects of the Specialised Centres. The Bureau members welcomed this new website as an important tool for the visibility and promotion of EUR-OPA work.

They also discussed the possibility to showcase good national practices.

- **Decision:** Specific thematic and event pages will be developed on the EUR-OPA website to gather national good practices.
The news published on the website will be sent to all Permanent Correspondents and Directors of the Centres.

6. PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES 2019

6.1. Proposed activities for 2019

Operational Activities

The Bureau agreed on the follow-up of the activities detailed on item 2.2. They underlined the importance of transversal cooperation within the Council of Europe and with other organisations.

7. BUDGET FOR 2018-2019

The Executive Secretary presented the draft 2019 budget for the Agreement and the impact of the withdrawal of Turkey from EUR-OPA by the end of the year.

He also informed the members of the non-payment of the Russian Federation's contribution to EUR-OPA and its potential consequences on the structure and functioning of the Agreement.

8. MAINSTREAMING GENDER EQUALITY IN EUR-OPA ACTIVITIES

J. Isgandarli presented the draft document on Mainstreaming Gender equality in EUR-OPA activities.

The Bureau members clarified the purpose of the document:

- Raising awareness of the Permanent Correspondents and Directors of the Centres on different ways to integrate gender aspects into EUR-OPA activities.
- Setting standards to be integrated in the EUR-OPA programme of work.

- **Decision:** Arabela Vahtaric will send comments on the document and make proposals by 8 October. The Secretariat will also send its comments to J. Isgandarli for consideration and finalisation of the document prior to the CPC meeting.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

10. DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The Secretariat proposed to use video conference services for future Bureau meetings (depending on the content). It would allow for budgetary and human resources savings. Bureau members agreed and suggested also shorter thematic meetings or two hour online sessions when needed.

APPENDIX 1. AGENDA

Tuesday 2 October 2018

		Documents	Expected results
8:00 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	11. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA	AP/CAT(2017)OJ04 For adoption	Bureau members are informed of the aims of the meeting and adopt the agenda.
	12. PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES 2018		
	12.1. Statutory meetings		
	Report of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents (Strasbourg, 12 April 2018)	AP/CAT(2018)07 Meeting report For information	The salient points of the last meeting are recalled.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Preparation of the Joint meeting of Permanent Correspondents and Directors of Centres (6-7 November 2018, Zagreb, Croatia)	AP/CAT(2018)OJ04 Draft Agenda For discussion	Bureau members will be informed of the logistics and organizational aspects of the meeting.
	12.2. Operational Activities		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Meeting with EUR-OPA, OSCE, UNISDR and GFMC on "Streamlining International Cooperation in Landscape Fire Management" (Vienna, 3 September 2018).	Concept Note For discussion	Bureau members are informed of the results of the coordination meeting.
	Seminar on "Tsunami Ready Community" organised by the Euro-Mediterranean Centre on Insular Coastal Dynamics (Malta, 24 September 2018)	For information	Bureau members are informed of the results of the Seminar.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cultural Heritage and Risk Management: Workshop on "Culture against Disasters; protecting cultural landscape as prevention of natural disasters" (Ravello, Italy, 28-29 September 2018)	APCAT(2018)04 Concept note AP/CAT(2018)06 Draft Agenda For discussion	Bureau members are informed of the conclusions of the Conference.
	Collaboration with IOM and Intercultural cities programme of the Council of Europe on an e-learning tool for local authorities on "Integrating migrants in emergency preparedness, response and recovery in their host countries"	For information	Bureau members are informed of the collaboration with IOM.
	12.3. Involvement in international initiatives		
	European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction, Rome, Italy, 21-23 November 2018	EFDRR Draft Concept Note EFDRR Draft Agenda For discussion	Bureau members are informed of the preparation of the European Forum under the Italian Chairmanship.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	13. EVALUATION OF EUR-OPA WORK Evidence of improvement and impact of the work of Specialised Centres and Committee of Permanent Correspondents in national legislation, policies and	AP/CAT(2018)10 Results of the Survey	Bureau members are informed of the results of the Survey.

	strategies for disaster risk reduction	For discussion	
14:00 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	14. RESTRUCTURING EUR-OPA	AP/CAT(2018)05 For discussion	Bureau members are invited to discuss the measures to adapt activities and working methods to the reduced resources.
	15. VISIBILITY Presentation of the new collaborative platform for the Specialised Centres	Link to new database For information	The Bureau members are informed on this new administrative and visibility tool
	16. PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES 2019		
	16.1. Proposed activities for 2019		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	16.2. Operational Activities Vulnerable Groups and Risk Management: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow up of the cooperation with IOM and ICC on e-learning tool for local authorities Collaboration with the Council of Europe Education Department on the BeSafeNet project Organisation of the Olympiad on knowledge of Natural and Technological disasters Environment, Climate Change and Risk Management: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of synergies on climate change between Bern Convention and EUR-OPA. Cultural Heritage and Risk Management: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow-up of the Workshop on "Culture against Disasters; protecting cultural landscape as prevention of natural disasters", Research and recommendations on heritage and community-based approach for risk reduction) Governance and legislation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendation and guidelines on innovative legislation 	AP/CAT(2017)2rev For discussion	Bureau members are invited to propose and decide on activities for 2019.
	17. BUDGET FOR 2018-2019	AP/CAT(2018)09 For information	Bureau members are invited to take note of the 2018 and 2019 budget adopted by the Committee of Ministers.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	18. MAINSTREAMING GENDER EQUALITY IN EUR-OPA ACTIVITIES Report by Jeyhun Isgandarli, EUR-OPA Gender Rapporteur	AP/CAT(2018)XX For discussion	Bureau members are invited to discuss the Gender Rapporteur's proposals.
	19. ANY OTHER BUSINESS		Bureau members are invited to raise any other issue to be discussed.

	20. DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING		Bureau members are invited to decide on the next date and place of the next meeting.
16:00	21. END OF THE MEETING		

APPENDIX II. List of Participants