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

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 16 September 2021

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EUROPEAN AND MEDITERRANEAN MAJOR HAZARDS AGREEMENT (EUR-OPA)

REVISED RESOLUTION 2020 – 1 OF THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT CORRESPONDENTS RECOGNISING THE INCLUSION OF BIOLOGICAL THREATS, HAZARDS AND RISKS CAUSING NATURAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL DISASTERS IN THE EUR-OPA PARTIAL AGREEMENT

Adopted at the 76th Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents, Strasbourg, France, 16 September 2021

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

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The Committee of Permanent Correspondents:

A. Taking into account that Hyogo Framework for Action[1] lists biological hazards among natural hazards and considering that the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030 broadened the scope of disaster risk reduction to focus *inter alia* on biological hazards;

B. Considering that the COVID-19 pandemic, which constitutes, among other, a public health emergency, has had a devastating effect on individuals, families and communities across the world including Europe and the Mediterranean;

C. Given that the EUR-OPA network of Permanent Correspondents and Specialised Centres has a wealth of expertise on biological biological threats, hazards and risks causing natural and technological disasters and can offer valuable tools for governments and citizens to find the best and most sustainable responses to protect public health, maintain the democratic fabric of our societies and mitigate the social consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic;

RESOLVES to:

1. Include biological threats, hazards and risks causing natural and technological disasters in its field of interest and action, in line with the Hyogo Framework for Action;

2. Include biological threats, hazards and risks causing natural and technological disasters among priority issues to be addressed in the Medium Term Plan 2021 -2025 of the European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA) as guidelines for priority action over the next five years;

3. Support, through the specific Agreement's actions developed within that Medium Term Plan 2021-2025 and within an increased collaboration with all organisations and platforms concerned with biological hazard and risk reduction and relief (notably the European Union and the United Nations) activities related to biological hazards;

4. Instruct the network of Specialised Centres of the Agreement to support, as appropriate and in their respective spheres of competence, the undertakings related to biological threats, hazards and risks causing natural and technological disasters, working in a cross-sectoral manner and pooling their expertise in the accomplishment of sound, coordinated programmes;

5. Instruct the Executive Secretary to implement this resolution in close cooperation with the Chairperson and the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents.

[1] Hazard is defined in the Hyogo Framework for Action as: "A potentially damaging physical event, phenomenon or human activity that may cause the loss of life or injury, property damage, social and economic disruption or environmental degradation. Hazards can include latent conditions that may represent future threats and can have different origins: natural (geological, hydrometeorological and biological) or induced by human processes (environmental degradation and technological hazards)".