



**EUR-OPA MAJOR
HAZARDS AGREEMENT**

Strasbourg, 18 December 2002

AP/CAT (2002) 38 revised 3
Or. French

OPEN PARTIAL AGREEMENT ON THE PREVENTION OF, PROTECTION
AGAINST AND ORGANISATION OF RELIEF IN MAJOR NATURAL AND
TECHNOLOGICAL DISASTERS

**MEDIUM TERM PLAN
2002 - 2006**

Synergy - Risk prevention

I. PREAMBLE

The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe adopted the intergovernmental EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement, which is designed to "secure closer co-operation on prevention of, protection against and organisation of relief in major natural and technological disasters", at its session on 16-20 March 1987.

This co-operation is organised under an Open Partial Agreement (Resolution (87) 2) - partial because only those Council of Europe member States which are interested participate, open since non-member States of the Council of Europe may apply to join it.

The main aim is to look, in multidisciplinary terms, at ways of co-operating on prevention, protection and relief in connection with major disasters.

At the 9th Ministerial Session held in Bendor, France, 3-4 October 2002, the Ministers indicated the priority they attach to the search for synergy in the undertaking of initiatives and in the achievement of programmes between the Agreement and all institutions working at European and international level (see Appendix 4 Resolution on Euro-mediterranean synergy).

Moreover the Ministers indicated the priority they give to the activities developed within the Agreement with regard to risk knowledge, risk prevention and mechanisms for assistance in decision making in risk management (see Appendix 5 Resolution on risk culture).

General principles of the Medium-Term Plan : Synergy and risk prevention

The Agreement's third medium term plan, running from 2002 to 2006 will focus on precise definition of the themes on which the various types of activity conducted under the Agreement should concentrate:

- research, training, information activities;
- activities within the Agreement's network of Centres;
- specific programmes;
- service activities: European warning system, etc.

A number of principles have been formulated to provide a conceptual basis for all activities conducted under the Agreement:

1. The EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement is an instrument for contact, exchange and co-operation between the Euro-Mediterranean States.
2. In order to avoid duplication and to search for co-operation and concertation, activities under the Agreement are as far as possible, prepared, conducted and evaluated together with the European Union and the other European institutions (the European Space Agency, The Development Bank of the Council of Europe), and with international institutions such as the specialised United Nations agencies (OCHA, ISDR, UNESCO, WHO, ILO, IAEA, WMO, etc.), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and other international institutions competent in the field of hazards.

3. During the period 2002 – 2006, activities under the Agreement should focus on a limited number of themes and fields, producing tangible results which illustrate their special features and utility.
4. In budget terms,
 - The Agreement's sources comes from:
 - o obligatory contributions from the member States
 - o voluntary contributions and replies to calls for proposals launched at national, bilateral and multilateral levels.
 - In the context of project effectiveness and budget limitation, the Special European Fund, based on compulsory contributions by the member States, must be used to support priority activities under the Agreement. The resources needed to implement the specific programmes as well as other programmes implemented within the network of European and Euro-Mediterranean Centres are raised from European and international institutions and voluntary contributions from member and non-member States of the Agreement, or from interested institutions.
 - The grants made to the European, Euro-Mediterranean and Associated Centres will be adjusted, depending on their concordance with the Agreement's priorities, as defined in the present medium-term plan. They may not exceed 60% of the total sum contributed by the authority to which a Centre is attached or by other bodies.
5. The audit system is being continued. The European, Euro-Mediterranean Centres and Associate Centres will be audited every year, and the quality of the results achieved through their work assessed, as a contribution to overall evaluation of activities conducted under the Agreement. The aims of the audits are to:
 - assess the results of activities of European, Euro-Mediterranean and Associate Centres supported by the Special European Fund in relation to the priorities set out in the present document
 - confirm the approval of a Centre as a European, Euro-Mediterranean or Associate Centre
 - assess the Centres from a budgetary point of view.
6. The fact of being a member State of the Agreement does not automatically grant entitlement to have a European Centre approved.

II. FUNCTIONS, PROGRAMMES AND PLAN OF ACTION

A. PLATFORM FOR EXCHANGE AND CONSULTATION AT POLITICAL LEVEL

The EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement is regarded as an instrument of exchange and co-operation between Euro-mediterranean States and its aim is to exchange information on member States' protection, prevention and relief organisation policies, encourage them to learn from one another's experience, and promote a policy of co-operation, covering as a priority, risk prevention in the following fields:

- scientific and technical questions (prevention, forecasting, protection and the organisation of relief)
- policy on communication and public information
- return to a normal state of affairs
- training
- study of existing legislations on major hazards and methods for the management of emergency situations to foster convergence.

B. SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION: RESEARCH, TRAINING (SEF)

Having regard to the priority concerns of member States, this plan covers hazard knowledge, prevention and forecasting, the management of emergencies, rehabilitation, and post-crisis analysis of natural and technological hazards.

B.1. Horizontal programmes

Priority is given to multidisciplinary programmes covering the following aspects of risk management: prevention, crisis, rehabilitation

i. *Training*

Employment/training market studies to identify the types of job necessary for risk management and the training profile sought by employers.

It encourages the establishment of European Masters in the field of risk management based on the model of the one developed in San Marino in the field of disaster medicine, the one based on risk science with the Universities of Montpellier and Nîmes, as well as the preparation of a doctorate with a European label in the field of risk science.

It facilitates the programmes for raising children's awareness to risk prevention by taking into account the groups of children with specific needs (handicapped, socially excluded, ...).

The EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement will contribute to the organisation of training courses for relief specialists, teachers and administrators : preparation for crisis (including preventive activities), relief management, post-disaster measures. Experience shows that active methods (analysis of previous disasters, simulation exercises, field visits) are essential. It participates in the preparation of the persons intervening during a crisis situation at technical, medical and psychological level.

ii. *Communication, information and awareness-raising*

- Preparation of multimedia information and training material, aimed at the general public (or specific groups) and covering action to be taken before, during and after disasters. This material must be suitable or adaptable for use in several countries, and should cover the needs of specific target groups (e.g. classroom and game-based materials should be produced for teachers).
- Setting up of a Euro-Mediterranean radio station twinned with Internet and specialised in the field of risks for citizens' information taking into account filmography.

- iii. *Contribution of advanced technologies to risk management, and particularly the role of space technologies and of new technologies of information and communication.*
- iv. *Comparative studies of legislation on major hazards and the management of emergency situations and their convergence.*

B.2 Thematic programme concerning the priority fields of activity of the European network of the Agreement's Centres

On the basis of the various types of natural hazards: earthquake, landslide, volcano, climatic, flooding (plain flood and torrential flooding), hurricane, desertification, coastal and island zones, forest fire, etc., technological hazards: nuclear, chemical, transport of dangerous substances, etc., and hazards linked to physical and moral health and specifically to urban hazards, the following priorities were reached:

- *Natural hazards:*
 - . earthquake and landslides
 - . flooding
- *Technological hazards:*
 - . chemical
 - . transport of dangerous substances
 - . nuclear

With respect to these types of hazards, priority was given to the following areas:

- *Earthquakes:*
 - . **research** in forecasting and prevention
 - . **information-communication** in crisis management
 - . **operational aspects** in crisis management
- *Flooding:*
 - . **research** in forecasting and prevention
 - . **information-communication** in prevention
 - . **regional planning** in prevention
 - . **operational aspects** in crisis management
 - . **contribution of technologies** in crisis management
- *Chemicals:*
 - . **research** in prevention
 - . **training** in prevention
 - . **information-communication** in prevention
 - . **training** in crisis management
 - . **operational aspects** in crisis management.

- *Transport of dangerous substances:*
 - . **operational aspects** in knowledge
 - . **training** in prevention
 - . **training** in crisis management
 - . **operational aspects** in crisis management.

- *Nuclear :*
 - . **research** in prevention
 - . **training** in prevention
 - . **information-communication** in prevention
 - . **training** in crisis management
 - . **operational aspects** in crisis management.

- *Vulnerability of buildings, infrastructures and damage evaluation*

In the field of surveillance, the aim is to contribute to the development of the existing warning systems.

The EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement will help to set up European networks of "voluntary contribution" data banks in the fields of seismic risk, flooding, chemical and nuclear risk, etc.

III. OPERATING RULES

1. APPROVAL OF PROPOSALS FOR CENTRES' PROGRAMMES OF ACTIVITIES AND OF GRANTS FOR ACTIVITIES

- The Committee of Permanent Correspondents approves proposals for pluri-annual programmes, annual activities and grants.
- The Committee has decided to set up a "Programme" sub-committee

1.1. Terms of reference of the "Programme" sub-committee

The "Programme" sub-committee is responsible for:

- . classifying proposals for multiannual and annual activities in accordance with the priorities set out in the present document and adjusting the grants made to them;
- . proposing annual programmes of scientific and budgetary audits coordinated by a Permanent Correspondent and two eminent scientists;
- . presenting proposals for specific initiatives.

1.2. Work schedule

The Centre Directors meet in December of year "n" and submit an activities proposal for the year "n + 2" in the framework of their pluri-annual programme.

The "programme" sub-committee receives these activities proposals at least two months prior to its meeting and adopts the proposals to be submitted to the plenary committee.

The plenary committee meets in April or May and receives proposals from the "programme" sub-committee 3 weeks prior to its meeting; at that meeting it approves the programme of activities and proposed draft budget, which will be submitted to the Council of Europe Budget Committee and then to the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers for adoption.

2. FUNCTIONING OF THE CENTRES

Centre activities are of an international nature.

Programmes of activities are to be presented on a multiannual basis.

- each Centre's programme is reviewed by its scientific committee, a significant number of whose members are leading European experts who have nothing to do with the administrative authority to which the Centre is attached. The committee's opinion is sent to the Permanent Correspondents;
- the training courses, colloquies, workshops or seminars funded by the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement include a significant number of participants from member States of the Agreement;
- the training courses are evaluated by the Centre.

The label of "Associate Centre" is granted for a period of 2 years. Following assessment of the activities carried out or planned, the Centre may be granted the title of "European Centre" or "Euro-Mediterranean Centre".

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT CORRESPONDENTS OF THE EUR-OPA MAJOR HAZARDS AGREEMENT (see Appendix 6).

APPENDIX 1

EUROPEAN NETWORK OF SPECIALISED CENTRES OF THE AGREEMENT

European or Euro-Mediterranean Centres

- CEMEC - European Centre for Disaster Medicine (San-Marino)
- CUEBC - European University Centre for the Cultural Heritage (Ravello, Italy)
- AFEM - European Natural Disasters Training Centre (Ankara, Turkey)
- ECPFE - European Centre on Prevention and Forecasting of Earthquakes (Athens, Greece)
- EMSC - European Mediterranean Seismological Centre (Bruyères-le-Châtel, France)¹
- CESG - European Centre for Seismic and Geomorphological Hazards (Strasbourg, France)
- ECGS - European Centre for Geodynamics and Seismology (Walferdange, Luxemburg)
- ICoD - Euro-Mediterranean Centre on Insular Coastal Dynamics (Valletta, Malta)
- OOE - Monaco Scientific Centre, European Oceanological Observatory (Monaco)
- ECNTRM- European Centre of New Technologies for the Management of Natural and Technological Major Hazards (Moscow, Russian Federation)
- ISPU - Higher Institute of Emergency Planning (Florival, Belgium)
- CEISE - European Centre for Research into Techniques for Informing the Population in Emergency Situations (Madrid, Spain)
- ECTR - European Interregional Educational Centre for Training Rescuers (Yerevan, Armenia)
- GHHD -European Centre on Geodynamical Risks of High Dams (Tbilisi, Georgia)
- European Centre on Training and Information of Local and Regional Authorities and Population in the Field of Natural and Technological Disasters (Baku, Azerbaijan)
- CEPRIIS - Euro-Mediterranean Centre for Evaluation and Prevention of Seismic Risk (Rabat, Morocco)
- CSLT - European Centre for Risk Prevention Training at School Level, (Sofia, Bulgaria)
- CRSTRA - Euro-Mediterranean Centre for Arid Zones (Ksar Chellala, Algeria)
- TESEC - European Centre of Technological Safety, (Kiev, Ukraine)
- ECILS - European Centre on Vulnerability of Industrial and Lifelines Systems, (Skopje, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)
- CERU - European Centre for Urban Risks, (Lisbon, Portugal)
- European Centre on Flooding (Kishinev, Moldova)
- European Centre for Disaster Awareness with the use of the Internet, Cyprus

Associate European Centre

Associate European Centre on Forest Fires, Athens, Greece

¹ -The European Mediterranean Seismological Centre in Bruyères-le-Châtel, France, performs service functions for the European Warning System

ANNEXE 2/ APPENDIX 2

MEMBER STATES OF THE EUR-OPA MAJOR HAZARDS AGREEMENT

ETATS MEMBRES DE L'ACCORD EUR-OPA RISQUES MAJEURS

Date of setting up/Date de création : 20/03/87

MEMBER STATES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE ETATS MEMBRES DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE	Date of accession to OPA Date d'adhésion à l'APO
ALBANIA/ALBANIE	15/04/93
ARMENIA / ARMENIE	20/01/93
AZERBAÏDJAN/AZERBAIJAN	20/01/93
BELGIUM/BELGIQUE	29/05/91
BULGARIA/BULGARIE	28/10/94
CROATIA / CROATIE	06/08/02
CYPRUS / CHYPRE	10/04/00
FRANCE	20/03/87
GEORGIA / GEORGIE	20/01/:93
GREECE/GRECE	20/03/87
LUXEMBOURG	20/03/87
MALTA/MALTE	20/03/87
MOLDOVA	01/11/98
PORTUGAL	20/03/87
ROMANIA / ROUMANIE	11/10/01
RUSSIA / RUSSIE	19/04/90
SAN MARINO / SAINT-MARIN	20/03/87
SPAIN / ESPAGNE	20/03/87
"THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA" / "L'EX-REPUBLIQUE YOUGLAVE DE MACEDOINE"	22/01/96
TURKEY / TURQUIE	20/03/87
UKRAINE	04/02/97

NON-MEMBER STATES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE / ETATS NON MEMBRES DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE	Date of accession to OPA Date d'adhésion à l'APO
ALGERIA / ALGERIE	12/02/91
LEBANON / LIBAN	16/12/97
MOROCCO / MAROC	01/03/95
MONACO	16/01/90

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS/ ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONALES	Date of invitation to participate Date d'invitation à participer
COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES/ COMMISSION DES COMMUNAUTES EUROPEENNES	16/06/87
OCHA United Nations / Nations Unies	21/05/92
ISDR - United Nations / Nations Unies	
UNESCO	16/01/90
WHO (Regional Office for Europe) / OMS (Bureau régional pour l'Europe)	20/03/87
F.I.S.C.R (International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies / Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge)	

STATES OBSERVERS IN ACTIVITIES OF THE AGREEMENT (OR IN SOME OF THEM) / ETATS OBSERVATEURS POUR LES ACTIVITES DE L'ACCORD (OU POUR CERTAINES D'ENTRE ELLES).	MEMBER STATE OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE / ETAT MEMBRE DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE
AUSTRIA / AUTRICHE	YES / OUI
GERMANY / ALLEMAGNE	YES / OUI
JAPAN / JAPON	NO / NON
ITALY / ITALY	YES / OUI
SWITZERLAND / SUISSE	YES / OUI

APPENDIX 3

RESOLUTION (87) 2

**SETTING UP A CO-OPERATION GROUP
FOR THE PREVENTION OF, PROTECTION AGAINST,
AND ORGANISATION OF RELIEF IN
MAJOR NATURAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL DISASTERS**

(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 20 March 1987 at the 405th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)

The representatives on the Committee of Ministers of France, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, Spain and Turkey,

Considering Resolution 72 (6) on precautions against natural and other disasters and the planning and provision of disaster relief, adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 18 February 1972;

Having regard to the Declaration of the ministers responsible for the prevention of, and protection against, major natural and technological disasters in Southern Europe ², adopted in Ravello on 10 June 1985;

Having regard to the principles for the use of resources in the event of disasters adopted on 11 December 1985 at the 2nd informal meeting of the ministers responsible for the prevention of, and protection against, major natural and technological disasters in southern Europe;

Considering the interest and the different activities of the Commission of the European Communities regarding the problems of civil defence (protection of civilians);

Having regard to the training programmes undertaken in the field of prevention of, and protection against, major natural and technological disasters at the European University Centre for the Cultural Heritage of Ravello and at the European Centre for Disaster-related Medicine of San Marino;

Having regard to the conclusions adopted at the 4th informal meeting of the ministers responsible for the prevention of, protection against, major natural and technological disasters in southern Europe on 8 and 9 December 1986, proposing the establishment of an Open Partial Agreement;

Having regard to the Committee of Ministers' Resolution (51) 62 concerning Partial Agreements;

Recognising the need to enable the informal meeting of ministers responsible for the prevention of, protection against, major natural and technological disasters in southern Europe to carry on its activities as efficiently as possible;

Resolve to set up a Co-operation Group for the prevention of, protection against, and organisation of relief in major natural and technological disasters.

² Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Republic of San Marino, Spain, Turkey.

I. The aim of the group shall be to make a multidisciplinary study of the co-operation methods for the prevention of, protection against, and organization of relief in major natural and technological disasters.

II. The working methods employed hitherto by the group shall be maintained under this Partial Agreement.

i. Meetings. In private, at ministerial level, as a general rule every two years, but circumstances and urgency may justify special meetings of the group in addition to these two-yearly meetings;

ii. Each state is represented at the meetings either by the minister(s) concerned with the subject being dealt with or by the minister instructed by his Government to co-ordinate the action of ministries concerned with major natural and technological disasters. A permanent correspondent appointed for each state is responsible for preparing the groups' ministerial meetings in personal liaison with the minister(s) attending them; he may be assisted by experts;

iii. The permanent correspondents and their experts meet twice during the interval between ministerial meetings to follow the application of the guidelines adopted and to prepare the ministers' future meetings in accordance with a given mandate. Their duties, in this connection, include :

- arranging the agenda and subjects of the coming ministerial meeting,
- collecting material for the preparation of basic documents,
- making arrangements for the practical preparation of ministerial meetings,
- exchanging information on the latest developments in the participating countries concerning the subjects dealt with by the ministers at previous meetings;

iv. The group decides on the publication of documents drawn up by the permanent correspondents as well as resolutions adopted by it;

v. The languages used at meetings are English and/or French;

vi. The meeting papers are reproduced in English and/or French.

Activities

Co-operation programmes on :

- relief organisation : doctrines, information, simulation, assistance, etc.,
- training and research implemented in co-operation with specialised centres ³ forming networks.

³ *At the time of adoption of this resolution, these centres are the following:*

- European Centre for Disaster-related Medicine of San Marino;
- European University Centre for the Cultural Heritage of Ravello;
- European Training Centre for Natural Disasters (Turkey);
- European Centre on Prevention and Forecasting of Earthquakes, Athens;
- European Centre of Geodynamics and Seismology of Walferdange (Luxembourg);
- European Mediterranean Seismological Centre, Strasbourg (France);
- European Centre for Training and Research in the Field of Natural and Technological Pollution in the Mediterranean (Malta).

III. Any member state of the Council of Europe may join this group at any time by notification addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

IV. States not members of the Council of Europe and the European Communities may join the group with the unanimous agreement of member states of the group.

V. The Secretariat General of the Council of Europe will provide the group, with the help of the European University Centre for the Cultural Heritage of Ravello and other specialised centres and, particularly as regards the ministerial meetings mentioned under 3 below, with the help of the centre responsible for the practical organisation, with the following secretariat services:

1. Preparation and distribution of papers for the group's meetings at both ministerial and permanent correspondent levels;
2. Convening of meetings;
3. Practical organisation of the group's ministerial meetings;
4. Practical organisation of the group's meetings at permanent correspondent level at the rate of two each interval between ministerial meetings;
5. Translation of the group's papers into English or French;
6. Provision of the staff required by the group for its functioning;
7. Preparation and circulation of the conclusions of the group's meetings.

VI. The group's operational expenditure under the Partial Agreement shall be apportioned as follows :

1. The travel and subsistence expenses of persons attending the group's meetings (ministers, permanent correspondents and experts) shall be paid by the member state concerned;
2. Additional expenditure arising from the organisation of meetings elsewhere than in the seat of the Council of Europe shall be borne by the host country;
3. Expenditure relating to the implementation of co-operation programmes and common secretariat expenditure (papers, staff, missions, translation, interpretation and all other operational expenditure) shall be covered by a Partial Agreement budget funded by the group's member states and governed by the same financial rules as foreseen for the other budgets of the Council of Europe.

During its 404th meeting, the Committee of Ministers sitting at Deputies level:

-Decided to invite the Regional Office for Europe of the World Health Organisation (WHO) to participate in the work of the Co-operation Group for the prevention of, protection against, and organisation of relief in major natural and technological disasters as an observer;

- decided, in pursuance of paragraph IV of the said resolution, to invite the Republic of San Marino to accede to the Co-operation Group for the prevention of, protection against, and organisation of relief in major natural and technological disasters.

APPENDIX 4

RESOLUTION ON EURO-MEDITERRANEAN SYNERGY**THE MINISTERS,**

1. Recalling the Resolution on co-operation between the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement and international institutions, adopted at the Agreement's 8th Ministerial Session in Athens (21-22 February 2000), in which they noted that in view of the variety, frequency, scale and geographical distribution of natural or technological disasters, many international organisations had drawn up strategies for limiting damage both to the population and to the environment,
2. Considering that the recent AZF technological disaster in Toulouse, the flooding in central Europe, Algeria and Russia, which took many lives and caused social and economic upheaval in several regions, and the growing frequency and scale of such crises oblige policy-makers to seek optimum complementarity in the activities being carried out internationally, and at Euro-Mediterranean level in particular;
3. Stressing the importance they attach to efforts to achieve inter-linkage, co-operation and search for synergy in the field of risk management between the European Commission and the Council of Europe's EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement;
4. Having regard to the proposal by the Ukrainian Minister for the management of emergencies and protection of the population against the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster to involve all the member States of the Agreement more closely in European initiatives:

DECIDE :

- with a view to strengthening the prevention of and preparedness for major natural and technological disasters, to set up a Euro-Mediterranean network based on existing structures, focusing on:
 - a. Procedures and protocols for harmonisation relating to:
 - on-line exchange of information and data concerning the occurrence and effects of disasters
 - requests and proposals for assistance in case of disasters;
 - b. Harmonised and standardised measures concerning:
 - Terminology and definition of risk-management concepts;
 - Risk assessment procedures and techniques; stability of buildings and civil engineering works; safety of chemical, radiological and other hazardous facilities, oil-, gas-, fuel- pipelines;
 - Damage assessment resulting from the occurrence of major disasters;
 - Early warning systems for natural hazards, such as earthquakes, floods, landslides, and technological hazards, such as industrial and radiological hazards;

- Measurement techniques for chemical and radioactive contamination of the environment due to technological disasters;
- Vocational training, public awareness-raising concerning emergencies, particularly among children, and research efforts in priority areas.

In this respect they consider that:

5.
 - the direct operational aspects of crisis management such as the sending of rescue equipment and teams are not the responsibility of the Council of Europe EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement; on the other hand, the Agreement's contribution must concern knowledge about hazards and their prevention and in general all information, knowledge and scientific expertise which may facilitate risk-management decision-making;
 - the Council of Europe's EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement must make a significant contribution, through its representatives of the network of specialised Euro-Mediterranean centres and its European scientific co-operation networks,;
 - at technical and scientific level to the Euro-Mediterranean efforts in the risk prevention field;
 - to fostering the enactment and harmonisation of legislation compatible with European Union risk-management standards in its member states outside the European Union and not at present applicants for Union membership;
 - to presenting specific legal proposals that might be of relevance to all the Agreement's member States.
6. Concerning co-operation with other European and international institutions, they welcome the co-operation established with:
 - the European Union, particularly with a view to establishing greater complementarity with the mechanism established by the Community, as a priority, in the field of risk prevention;
 - the European Space Agency, in particular under the global environmental safety monitoring programme mounted in co-operation with the European Commission;
 - the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) of the United Nations, particularly concerning the evaluation of the Yokohama Strategy discussed at the meeting of Euro-Mediterranean experts on disaster prevention on the Isle of Bendor, France, on 1 October 2002;
 - UNESCO, WHO, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the Stability Pact in the interest of more effective risk prevention;
 - the Council of Europe Development Bank, in the field of natural disasters.

INSTRUCT the Executive Secretary to implement this resolution in close co-operation with the Presidency and Vice-Presidency of the Agreement.

APPENDIX 5**RESOLUTION ON RISK CULTURE****THE MINISTERS,**

Recalling their declaration on the public's right to information and training about risk management, adopted at the 8th ministerial session of the Agreement (Athens, 21-22 February 2000), in which they stated their intention:

- to affirm the population's right to be informed about hazard prevention and how to behave in an emergency;
- to give priority to raising children's awareness of hazard prevention, particularly through the school curriculum;

Lend their support:

- to the implementation of the IRIS (International Risk Information System) project on the combined use of radio and Internet to better inform the public about risk prevention;
- to the creation in the member states of the Agreement of national observatories to monitor the safety of schools and higher education establishments or equivalents, forming a Euro-Mediterranean network whose secretariat could be provided by the European Centre in Sofia, in liaison with the national civil protection agency.

WELCOME:

- the evaluation report on the SESAM plan (plan for disaster relief in schools and other establishments frequented by children of school age, presented by the Monaco authorities);
 - risk prevention schemes for children with special needs (children with physical or mental disabilities or socially deprived children (FORM-OSE - Net de la Rue);
 - initiatives developed by the Yerevan European Centre (ECTR) to integrate protective features into the design of school furniture;
 - initiatives developed at university level in connection with Euro-Mediterranean university networks, Euro-Mediterranean Masters courses as a first stage towards Euro-Mediterranean doctorates in risk sciences:
- offered for the third consecutive year by the European Centre for Disaster Medicine (CEMEC) in San Marino, a European Master in Disaster Medicine;
 - offered for the second consecutive year by the Universities of Montpellier and Nîmes, a European Master in Risk Science.

INSTRUCT the Executive Secretary:

- to continue implementation of the radio-risk coupled with internet within the framework of the IRIS Project, on the basis of pilot schemes carried out in France and specific actions in Algeria, in the Wilaya of Ain-Temouchent, and Morocco, in Casablanca,
- to promote the creation in member states of national observatories to monitor safety in schools and higher education establishments,
- to enhance implementation of the FORM-OSE programme (Training, West, South, East)
 - at school level, relying on the European centres in Sofia, Ravello and Cyprus, paying particular attention to children with special needs.
 - at university and professional levels.

APPENDIX 6

Strasbourg, 3 November 1997

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**OPEN PARTIAL AGREEMENT ON THE PREVENTION OF, PROTECTION AGAINST,
AND ORGANISATION OF RELIEF IN MAJOR NATURAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL
DISASTERS**

COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT CORRESPONDENTS

**RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT CORRESPONDENTS
OF THE EUR-OPA MAJOR HAZARDS AGREEMENT**

Article 1

Composition and Powers of the Permanent Correspondents

1. The responsibilities and composition of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents are governed by Resolution (87) 2 on the prevention of, protection against, and organisation of relief in major natural and technological disasters, "EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement", (hereinafter referred to as "OPA").

Article 2

Meetings

1. The Committee of Permanent Correspondents (hereinafter referred to as "The Committee") shall meet at least twice during the interval between ministerial meetings. The date of each meeting shall as a rule be fixed during the previous meeting. Any Permanent Correspondent may request that the Committee hold another meeting not provided for by the Committee. His/her request is addressed to the Executive Secretary who shall inform all Permanent Correspondents. The request is considered as accepted if two thirds of the Permanent Correspondents inform the Executive Secretary of their agreement.

2. Meetings shall be held at Strasbourg unless the Committee decides otherwise by a simple majority. The Committee meetings shall be convened by letter of the Executive Secretary at least four weeks before the fixed date.

3. When a meeting of the Committee has been arranged in accordance with the provisions of this Article, any request for postponement shall be made at least fifteen days before the date fixed for the opening of the meeting; a decision to postpone the meeting shall be regarded as taken if two-thirds of the Members inform the Executive Secretary of their agreement at least seven days before the date originally fixed. A decision to advance the date of the meeting shall be regarded as taken only if all the Members inform the Executive Secretary of their agreement at least fifteen days before the new date which has been proposed.

Article 3

Agenda

1. The draft agenda for the meetings of the Committee shall be prepared by the Executive Secretary on the basis of the decisions taken by the Committee at its previous meeting and in conformity with the instructions of the President of the Committee.
2. Each Permanent Correspondent has the right to request the inclusion of a question in the draft agenda six weeks before the meeting.
3. The Agenda shall be adopted at the beginning of each meeting. Any supplementary items may be added only if the Committee so decides. Decisions about the Agenda shall be taken by a simple majority of the Permanent Correspondents who are present.

Article 4

Presidency

1. The President and Vice-President of the Committee shall be elected by a two-third majority of members, at first ballot, and by a simple majority, at the second ballot. The term of office of the President and the Vice-President shall be one year and may be renewed once. If the candidates to the posts of President or Vice-President are two or more, they shall be elected by secret ballot.
2. The President shall conduct proceedings and sum up the conclusions whenever he thinks necessary. He/she may call to order a speaker who departs from the subject under discussion or from the Committee's terms of reference. He/she shall retain the right to speak and to vote in his/her capacity as a member of the Committee.
3. The Vice-President shall replace the President if the latter is absent or otherwise unable to take the Chair. If the Vice-President is absent, the President shall be replaced by a member of the Committee appointed by the Committee.

Article 5

Quorum

The Committee shall not deliberate and decide with full effect unless two-thirds of its members are present.

Article 6

Voting

1. The adoption of a Recommendation to the Governments shall require a unanimous vote cast and a majority of the Permanent Correspondents entitled to sit on the Committee.
2. All other decisions shall require a two-third majority of the votes cast and a majority of the Permanent Correspondents entitled to sit on the Committee.
3. However, procedure and administrative matters shall require a simple majority of the members who are present.

4. Where the question arises as to which of the preceding paragraphs shall be applicable to a given question, the Committee shall decide by a two-third majority of the votes cast whether a matter is procedural or administrative in nature.
5. Where unanimity is required, a Permanent Correspondent may, if the text is adopted, record his abstention - which may be accompanied by an explanatory statement - or approve the adoption of the text but reserve the right of his government to comply with it or not.
6. Each Permanent Correspondent shall have one vote.

Article 7

Proposals and amendments

1. Any proposal must be submitted in writing if a Committee member so requests. In that case it shall not be discussed until it has been circulated.
2. Where a number of proposals relate to the same subject, they shall be put to the vote in the order in which they were submitted. In case of doubt, the President shall decide.
3. Where a proposal is the subject of an amendment, the amendment shall be put to the vote first. Where two or more amendments to the same proposal are presented, the Committee shall vote first on whichever departs furthest in substance from the original proposal. It shall then vote on the next furthest removed from the original proposal, and so on until all the amendments have been put to the vote. However, where the acceptance of one amendment necessarily entails rejection of another, the latter shall not be put to the vote. The final vote shall then be taken on the proposal as amended or not amended. In case of doubt as to the order of priority, the President shall decide.
4. Parts of a proposal or amendment may be put to the vote separately.
5. In the case of proposals with financial implications, the most costly shall be put to the vote first.
6. Procedural motions shall take precedence over all other proposals or motions except points of order. They shall be put to the vote in the following order:
 - (a) suspension of the sitting;
 - (b) adjournment of discussion on the item in hand;
 - (c) postponement of a decision on the substance of a proposal until a specified date.
7. When a decision has been taken it shall only be re-examined if a member of the Committee so requests, and if this request receives a two-thirds majority of the votes cast.

Article 8

Secretariat

1. The Secretary General shall provide the Committee with the necessary staff, including the Executive Secretary, as well as with the administrative and other services it may require.

2. The Secretary General or his/her representative may at any time make an oral or written statement on any subject under discussion.
3. The Committee may direct the Executive Secretary to prepare a report on any question relevant to the Committee's work.
4. The Executive Secretary shall be responsible for preparing and circulating all documents to be examined by the Committee. He/she shall, in particular, prepare the reports on the Committee's meeting to be submitted to the Committee for adoption at the end of the meeting. Between two meetings of the Committee, the Executive Secretary shall be responsible, in particular, for the implementation of the decisions of the Committee and, in concert with the President, shall take any other measure necessary to the implementation of the Work Programme of the OPA.
5. The Executive Secretary informs periodically the Committee of the decisions and other measures taken within the Council of Europe which present an interest for the OPA.
6. The Executive Secretary shall prepare in concert with the President an annual activity report. This report shall be submitted to the Committee for approval before transmission to the Committee of Ministers.
7. The Executive Secretary represents the OPA to the other international organisations within the limits of his responsibilities.

Article 9

Meetings at ministerial level

These Rules of Procedure may also be applied to the meetings of the Group at ministerial level provided that the Group decides to do so.

Article 10

Sub-Committees and Experts' Groups

1. The Committee shall decide the composition and terms of reference of Sub-Committees and Experts' Groups to which it gives special tasks.
2. The Executive Secretary shall send to the appointed experts, at least one month before the meeting, the draft agenda and any working documents.

Article 11

Specialised Centres of the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement

1. A centre for studies or research operating in one of the member States of the OPA may be included in the network of Specialised Centres of this Agreement, as full or associated Centres, if:
 - (a) the objectives and activities of such a centre correspond to the aims of the OPA and are likely to usefully contribute to the implementation of its activities, and if;

- (b) the centre has the scientific and administrative qualifications which are necessary to the fulfilment of its tasks which are fixed by its Statute.

2. Any decision of the Committee to allocate or to withdraw the label of specialised centre of the agreement, based on a report prepared by experts appointed by it, shall require the majority indicated in paragraph 2 of Article 6.

3. The Committee may decide to organise periodical audits on the operations of the Centre's members of the Network. For this purpose, it shall appoint, on the basis of a list of experts designated by the Permanent Correspondents, the independent experts entrusted with the carrying out of the audits.

Article 12

Consultants

1. The Committee, on the basis of proposals submitted by the Permanent Correspondents, shall appoint the consultants requested to carry out studies or fulfil other tasks in relation with the Work Programme of the Agreement. It shall specify the terms of reference of such consultants.

2. The Executive Secretary may, in the fulfilment of his tasks, use consultants selected by him/her. If appropriate, he/she may consult the Permanent Correspondents in order to draw up a list of experts.

3. The Executive Secretary shall appoint, in concert with the President and following the request of a member State, one or several experts able to assist this State in case of major hazards avoiding any overlapping with other international organisations.

Article 13

Patronage

1. The Committee may grant the OPA's patronage to national and international events which comply with its aims.

2. The Committee shall adopt the list of meetings of other organisations to which it requests the Council of Europe to give a contribution (rooms, interpretation, translations, publication of documents, etc.) and decide on the financial implication of such a contribution.

Article 14

Observers

1. The Committee may, by the majority indicated in paragraph 2 of Article 6, propose to the Committee of Ministers that the observer status be given to a non-member State of the Council of Europe.

2. The Committee may, by a unanimous vote, decide to admit to its meetings representatives of international organisations or observers. It can also admit to part of its meetings representatives of national organisations, prominent in the fields of activity of the OPA or organise hearings for their intention.

Article 15

Budget

1. The preliminary budget of the OPA shall be prepared, on the basis of the instructions of the Committee, by the Executive Secretary.
2. The Committee shall approve, by the majority indicated in paragraph 2 of Article 6, the draft budget it submits to the Secretary General for transmission to the Committee of Ministers.

Article 16

Amendments to the Rules of Procedure

These Rules of Procedure may be amended by the majority indicated in paragraph 2 of Article 6.

Appendix

"AUDIT" SUB-COMMITTEE

1. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The "Audit" Sub-Committee shall have the following terms of reference:

- to present annually to the Committee of Permanent Correspondents a report determining whether the results of the approved programmes carried out by the centres of the Agreement are compatible with the objectives of the Agreement set by the medium-term plan and to examine the management of the centres and monitor whether the funds allocated by the OPA are properly used;
- to consider whether to grant (or retain) the label of European or Associate Euro-Mediterranean Centre to the specialised centres of the Agreement.

For each audit, the following method shall be used:

1.1 Description of the organisation of the centre:

- . statutes
- . structure
- . staff
- . premises
- . equipment
- . accounts
- . budget

1.2 Presentation of activities conducted and assessment of whether the results attained are consonant with the medium-term plan.

1.3 Presentation of activities planned for the year in progress and assessment of whether they match the medium-term plan.

1.4 Assessment of the real impact of the contribution of the Agreement (budgetary, networking, etc.).

1.5 The audits shall be carried out by the members of the Sub-Committee, where necessary in conjunction with independent experts chosen by reason of their qualifications.

2. COMPOSITION

The Sub-Committee shall consist of three experts appointed for a renewable term of three years. The Executive Secretary shall participate in the meetings of the Sub-Committee.

"PROGRAMME" SUB-COMMITTEE

1. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference of the "Programme" Sub-Committee shall be to present to the Committee of Permanent Correspondents an assessment report on whether the programme proposals submitted by the various specialised centres of the Agreement accord with the priorities defined in the Agreement's medium-term plan. This report shall be accompanied by a proposal for the breakdown of the planned appropriation in the budget of the following year.

The centres must present the material required for the examination and evaluation by the date determined in the "Programme" Sub-Committee and notified by the Executive Secretariat so that the Sub-Committee can present its report to the plenary committee in April of the current year.

2. COMPOSITION

The six members of the "Programme" Sub-Committee shall be appointed by the Committee of Permanent Correspondents for a renewable term of three years. The Executive Secretary shall participate in the meetings of the Sub-Committee.