EUR-OPA MAJOR
HAZARDS AGREEMENT

Or. E.

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

International Workshop on
REGIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF RISK
MITIGATION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Skopje, “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”
13 – 14 December 2004

CONCLUSIONS
The International Workshop on “Regional Co-operation in the Field of Risk Mitigation and Emergency Management” was held on the premises of the Institute of Earthquake Engineering and Engineering Seismology, University "Ss. Cyril and Methodius", Skopje, on 13 and 14 December, 2004.

On the basis of contributions presented by delegations of Cyprus, Georgia, “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Turkey and related discussions, the Delegates adopted the following conclusions.

1. Opening of the Workshop and adoption of the agenda

The Chair, Professor Dimitar Jurukovski, Permanent Correspondent of “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” to the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement, opened the workshop, introduced the objectives and the scope of the workshop and welcomed the participants.

Professor Zoran Milutinovic, Director of the European Center on Vulnerability of Industrial and Lifeline Systems (ECILS-Skopje) introduced the agenda, proposed a work plan and provided guidance as to how contributions should be presented and discussions made.

The agenda and work plan were adopted.

2. Information from delegations

Each delegation presented the contribution identifying the type of the hazard to which, besides hazards and related risks identified by Medium Term Plan 2002-2006 (document AP/CAT (2002) 38 rev. 3) more attention and significance shall be put into regional cooperative efforts.

In total 8 national contributions have been presented:

**CYPRUS**
**Katsouras, P.** "Natural and Technological Risk Management in Cyprus"

**GEORGIA**
**Chelidze, T.** and **Z. Javakhishvili.** "Natural and Man-Made Hazards of Territory of Georgia: Implications to Disaster Management"

“The former Yugoslav Republic of MACEDONIA”

**Todorcevski, T.** "Brief Review on Wild Fires in the “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” with a Special Report on Forest and Range Fires in the Year 2000"

**Milutinovic, Z.V.** and **G.S. Trendafiloski.** "Disaster Proneness of “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"

**ROMANIA**

**Lungu, D.** "Earthquake Mitigation in Romania: Synergy from International Projects"

**SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO**

**Begovic, Z.** "DPPI Project: Joint Firefighting Unit Bosnia And Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia and Montenegro"

**TURKEY**

**Yavas, O.** "Mitigation Studies for Snow Avalanches in Turkey"

**Adak, M.** "Turkey Presentation"
3. Conclusions

Participants recognized 5 primary hazards to be of strong interest for regional co-operation and have consensus on:

(1) Earthquakes

(2) Floods

(3) Forest and range fires

(4) Avalanches

(5) Technological hazards

Participants underlined the problems related to safety, seismic safety in particular, of schools, hospitals, cultural heritage and of other essential buildings and facilities. It is emphasized that the safety of these buildings can only be achieved through long-term efforts sustained by participating countries, and understood and supported by all stakeholders.

The necessity to examine country-specific issues in the context of national programmes for seismic safety in schools, hospitals, the cultural heritage and other essential buildings was recognized as essential in order to place the national experiences within a broader framework that would be able to generate insights and findings relevant to other countries. A collaborative approach would provide countries with an opportunity to learn more about themselves by examining their experiences in the light of the experiences of others.

All countries from the region and specialized EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement Centres are invited to participate in the future activities of this initiative.

It is agreed that the work should be carried out in five thematically organized working groups.

The following countries, in co-operation with the relevant specialized EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement Centre, are in charge of organizing the following working groups:

(1) Earthquakes  Romania and “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” (in co-operation with the European Centre on Vulnerability of Industrial and Lifeline Systems, ECILS, Skopje, “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” and the European Centre for Rehabilitation of Buildings, AECRIS, Bucharest, Romania)

(2) Floods  “The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” (in co-operation with European Centre for Mitigation of Natural Risks, ECMNR, Kishinev, Moldova)

(3) Forest and range fires  “The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” (in co-operation with the European Centre on Forest Fires, ECFF, Athens, Greece)

(4) Avalanches  Turkey (in co-operation with the European Natural Disasters Training Centre, AFEM, Ankara, Turkey)

(5) Technological hazards  Cyprus (in co-operation with the European Centre of Technological Safety, TESEC, Kiev, Ukraine)
Within a period of one year, the working groups should coordinate, prepare and collect the national reports concerning the above topics.

Georgia, in co-operation with the relevant EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement Centre from the region, is in charge of undertaking the initiative to organize the adequate working groups in the Caucasus region.

Algeria, whose representative was not present at the meeting, will be asked to undertake the initiative of organizing the adequate working groups in the North African (Maghreb) region, in co-operation with the relevant EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement Centre from the same region.

The Permanent Correspondent of “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” should inform the Permanent Correspondents of the countries involved to undertake national and international coordination on the initiative, as well as to assure favourable conditions for organizing the next meeting/workshop.

The participants recognized the importance of co-operation with national emergency systems in organizing and implementing this initiative.

Serbia and Montenegro, although in the process of application for accession to the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement, expressed their strong interest to be involved in the initiative at all technical and other necessary levels.

Participants extended their deep gratitude to Professor D. Jurukovski, Permanent Correspondent of “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” and to Professor Zoran Milutinovic, Director of the Skopje EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement Centre, for organizing the workshop on “Regional Co-operation in the Field of Risk Mitigation and Emergency Management”.

4. Date and place of the next meeting

The next Workshop on “Regional Co-operation in the Field of Risk Mitigation and Emergency Management”, will be held in the second half of 2005. The date and place are to be defined.
APPENDIX 1

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APPENDIX 2


Workshop duration: 2 days
Number of Participants: 20-30
Time Table: 13-14 December 2004
Location: Skopje (Premises of IZIIS-Skopje)

1.1 Objectives

Broader objectives: to reduce vulnerability and level of damage in the Balkans due to natural (floods, earthquakes, droughts, snow avalanches, landslides, strong winds combined with low temperatures and snow, forest fires and similar) and technogenic disasters by improving regional capability to predict, prevent, reduce, manage and cure the disaster consequences.

Specific objectives: To bring together the major players in the region, to identify present priorities and ongoing projects and incentives, identify needs and targets for regional co-operation indispensable for bridging the identified gaps, explore available mechanisms of co-operation and possible sources for securing funding.

To set up the basis for operational regional integration of the existing relevant sources of data methodologies, and tools that will be compatible with the concept of sharing the common core of expertise, monitoring observation, data processing and prediction services and decentralized use of data and disaster management (at regional, sub-regional, country, municipality etc. level).

1.2 Workshop Targets

• To bring together experts, scientists, managers, policy makers and users from the Balkans and from some Mediterranean and Trans-European countries.

• To identify regional cooperative needs and targets for bridging the identified gaps, present priorities, ongoing projects and incentives, explore available mechanisms of cooperation and possible sources for securing funding, with priority focus on essential facilities (schools, hospitals, emergency facilities, etc.).

1.3 Target Countries (by alphabetical order)

1.3.1 Balkan region

• Albania
• Bulgaria
• Croatia
• Cyprus
• Greece
• “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”
• Romania
• Serbia and Montenegro
• Turkey
1.3.2 Mediterranean and Caucasus regions

Mediterranean Caucasus
- Algeria
- Georgia

It is expected that the following presences will also be assured:
  - Expert from JRC, ISPRA, Italy.
  - Representatives from UNDP, UNICEF, WHO, NATO, Stability Pact, World Bank and representatives from other International Organizations having Country office in “the former Yugoslav Republic Macedonia”
  - Representative from the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement, Strasbourg, France

1.4 Workshop Program

Detail Workshop Curricula will be developed based on confirmed participation and expressed national interests. Content shall be confined to hazard/disaster typology causing the major transborder effects (earthquakes, floods, forest fires, technogenic hazards).

1.5 Expected audience

Experts and or national/local government officials

1.6 Role of Open Partial Agreement Centres

To provide coordination of the incentive and assure adequate level representation.
APPENDIX 3

GUIDANCE FOR ORGANIZING CONTRIBUTIONS/DISCUSSIONS

Proposed organization of Contributions/Discussions

National Summary Vision Resource identification
  Dominant hazard
typology affecting the
Country
  National priorities
  Ongoing relevant
projects and incentives
  Institutions involved
Interaction with
emergency systems
  Current and potential
role of EUR-OPA Major Hazard Agreement Centres
  Potential partnerships
  Cooperation modalities
  National potential
  International linking

Potential Target Systems/Facilities
  Education
  Health Care
  Emergency and other public systems/facilities

Potential Hazards of Interest
  Earthquakes
  Floods
  Forest and range fires
  Technogenic
  Other (to be specified)

3. Fields of Expertise of Confirmed Participants
Forest and Range Fire Fighting
Civil Protection
Earthquake Engineering
Avalanches Hazard/Risk

4. Available Presentation Means
  Video beam
  Overhead projector