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EUROPEAN AND MEDITERRANEAN MAJOR HAZARDS AGREEMENT  
(EUR-OPA)

**55<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT  
CORRESPONDENTS  
30 - 31 October 2008  
Istanbul, TURKEY**

**CONCLUSIONS**

On behalf of the Turkish Minister of Public Works and Settlement, Mr. Faruk Nafiz ÖZAK, the participants were welcomed by Mr. Atamer SEYMEN, Vice Director of the General Directorate of Disaster Affairs. He emphasized that Turkey is very proud to be a member of the EUR-OPA Agreement and wishes to extend in the future its relations with the Agreement. The Chair of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents, Mr. Bara, congratulated the Turkish authorities for the excellent organization of the workshop held prior to the present Committee meeting on 27-28 October and acknowledged their commitment to disaster risk prevention.

## **1. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA**

The agenda was adopted without amendments.

## **2. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR, DELEGATIONS AND EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

- Information by the Secretariat

The Executive Secretary recalled the main conclusions of the last meeting of the Committee hosted by UNESCO in Paris and emphasized the importance of the Memorandum of Understanding signed with ISDR on that occasion.

Concerning the wish of Belarus to accede to the Agreement, the Secretariat informed the delegates that the request is following the specific Council of Europe procedure applicable in the case of non member States wishing to ratify. The Executive Secretary also noted that other countries, especially in the Balkan area, have expressed their interest to join and he hopes such interests will materialize in a near future into formal accession requests.

- French initiatives on risk issues

The French delegate, Mr. Feunteun, informed on the early warning systems seminar (Aix en Provence, late September) and recalled the goals of the forthcoming seminar “From Past Natural Disasters to the Challenge of Climate Change in Europe” (Paris, 26-28 of November) : link Disaster Risk Reduction to the European Commission White Paper on Climate Change Adaptation and their forthcoming Communication on an integrated approach to disaster prevention (to be published in 2009).

The seminar will devote time to various thematic sessions on different aspects of risk issues (coastal areas, transboundary reverse, mountain risks, ...) with as a goal the possible emergence of a convergent view to deal with both risk and climate change issues. Mr. Feunteun invited all participants to register as soon as possible and the Executive Secretary announced that the EUR-OPA Agreement could consider to offer financial assistance to some participants if necessary.

- Other international initiatives

The ISDR representative, Ms. Albrito, announced that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction (Geneva, 15-19 June 2009) will evaluate the advancement in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action. To enable a common view of disaster risk reduction to be shared, reports from all countries will be compiled in a publication : concerning Europe, 10 national reports had been received and they hoped to receive more contributions from EUR-OPA members due to their continual commitment.

The UNESCO representative, Mr. Imamura, recalled their commitment to promote risk education at school. In 2008, a side event on Disaster Risk Reduction and Education within the 48<sup>th</sup> session of the International Conference on Education (Geneva, 25-28 November) wishes to sensitize Ministers of Education to that topic. The thematic cluster on education to risks, currently headed by UNESCO, will also organize a full session on Education and Risks within the World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development (Bonn, 31 March to 2 April 2009).

The Bulgarian delegate, Ms. Stoyanova, announced that the annual International Children's Painting Competition was very successful : more than 1.000 paintings (with many from Turkey, Russia, Slovenia, Croatia, etc. ) had been received and the winners will be announced in Sofia on 26 November next.

The Executive Secretariat acknowledged all the information provided and encouraged Permanent Correspondents to regularly send such information on planned events for distribution among Permanent Correspondents and for publication on the EUR-OPA web site.

### **3. INVOLVEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES**

- Development of the network of European national platforms for disaster risk reduction

Following the discussions during the special session on National Platforms held in Paris last spring, the idea to promote the twinning of existing National Platforms with countries who wish to develop them was launched: the goal is for the latter to benefit of the experience of the former in order to foster the setting up of such national platforms.

Material on how to set up a National Platform already exists : guidelines to establish or strengthen them are available on ISDR's Europe website and an overview of existing National Platforms within Europe has been produced (see APCAT (2008) 8). As the French delegate highlighted, there is no unique format throughout Europe as they build up on what already exists in their country: what matters is the objective to be reached, not the way the platform is actually organized.

The Executive Secretariat confirmed that if a country puts forward a project, EUR-OPA can contribute concretely by facilitating the participation of an expert to assist that country in the procedures involved for setting up a platform.

- Participation in the International Disaster and Risk Conference (IDRC) (Davos, Switzerland, 25-29 August 2008)

The Executive Secretariat explained that this event was an important platform for dialogue and ideas on the topic and was an ideal opportunity to present EUR-OPA's activities. On this occasion EUR-OPA stressed its cultural heritage and risks activities through a special session with contributions from specialised Centres of the Agreement and contributed with a specific chapter on cultural heritage and risk to the book « Risk Wise » presented during IDRC (a copy of this book will be sent to each Permanent Correspondent within the coming weeks).

The discussions during the side event stressed the originality of the approach as well as the work already carried out whilst highlighting the impact of climate change on cultural heritage through increased or new risks: EUR-OPA has commissioned a report on this subject (available at the end of the year). To make active progress on risk impact on cultural heritage, a newly formed working group was proposed (see point 6 below). The participants thanked and encouraged the Specialised Centres, as the driving force behind the Agreement, for their research and involvement in this topic.

#### 4. PROGRESS OF 2008 ACTIVITIES

- Working group on awareness and education to risk at school level (BE-SAFE-NET)

The Executive Secretariat informed on the advancement of the BE-SAFE-NET website: initially aiming to provide information on risk education to students, teachers and the general population, it has focused now on providing material for secondary school teachers so as to encourage this approach to be integrated into formal education programmes. Moved ahead using Specialized Centres' competencies, the landslide risk has served as a pilot project and was validated by teachers' experiences on this.

The next meeting of the working group (Lisbon, 13-14 November) will be devoted to discussing material on additional hazards. The Agreement confirmed its interest to co-operate with the education authorities of the member States (for example by developing pilot projects in schools) and encouraged Permanent Correspondents to co-operate so as to transform it into a true multilingual web site and to act as spokespersons to promote and develop it.

- Outcomes of the workshop organised on the role of local authorities facing technological risks (Kiev, Ukraine, 22-23 September 2008)

The Ukrainian delegate, Mr. Poyarkov, recalled that the goals of the workshop were to promote population protection through awareness and information and an integrated system of emergency management. The Executive Secretary remarked that the subject was timely considering the latest events in Europe related to nuclear energy and the important involvement of local and regional authorities in such risk issues.

To promote co-operation between stakeholders, the conclusions included a proposal to set up a task force to advance on the implementation of an international network bringing together all concerned actors. This initiative received the support of Permanent Correspondents and the Chair proposed that the Permanent Correspondents provide adequate contacts at national level to help to build it up. The TESEC Centre, directed by Mr. Poyarkov, will act as focal point of the Agreement on this issue.

- Outcomes of the workshop organised on local authorities role facing natural risks (Istanbul, Turkey, 27-28 October 2008)

The Executive Secretariat gave an overview of the content of the workshop held just before the present Committee meeting and organised jointly with the Turkish Authorities and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe. All the extremely interesting presentations made during the two days highlighted that national, local and regional authorities already address such issues even if much remains to be done, particularly in less important municipalities and/or less imminent risks for population.

The participants also emphasized that we have to cope with new (or at least increased) risks related to climate change: scientists are turning their attention more and more to climate change and are giving priorities to research in the field. The Chair pointed out that it is the right moment to "ring the bell": we have to promote actions, not only debate. The presence of the Turkish decision makers at this event was a very positive sign in that direction. The Executive Secretariat explained that the different presentations and the final conclusions of the workshop will be posted on the Agreement's web site as soon as possible.

- Quick overview of activities of the Centres for 2008

As reports on 2008 activities financed with the grants are not yet available, the Executive Secretariat focused on the advancement of coordinated programmes on the following topics:

- *School education*: the main efforts had been devoted to expanding the BE-SAFE-NET initiative content (see above for details).
- *University education*: two training courses (Barcelona and Ravello) had been supported and a seminar on earthquakes will take place at the end of November in Luxembourg.
- *Professional education*: the Spanish Civil Protection offered to receive foreign trainees in their national training courses.
- *Vulnerability*: the scheduled activities by the Skopje Centre had to be postponed to 2009 due to other professional obligations.
- *Early warning*: the few proposals for 2009 had not been implemented and this topic should be promoted in 2009.
- *Legislation/management*: national contributions collected by the Belgian Centre will allow to hold a working meeting on this topic in Paris (4-5 December).
- *Prevention/information*: ongoing work by the Yerevan Centre on information campaigns and by the Sofia Centre on risks to the Danube; the Freiburg Centre will discuss a regional strategy on wildland fires in the Balkans during a meeting in FYROM in early December.
- *Cultural heritage*: a meeting to set up a working group on the topic (see below) was organised in Davos before the special session; the meeting on seismic protection of monuments proposed for 2008 by the Athens Centre was moved to 26-27 February 2009.
- *Post disaster actions*: the Moscow Centre is developing its EXTREMUM programme (Permanent Correspondents were called upon to collaborate for data updating) while the European Federation of Psychologists is working on the training to be proposed.

Full information on 2008 activities will be available for the meeting of the Directors of Centres to be held beginning of February 2009. The participants supported the new timing of decisions concerning activities where the Fall meeting of Permanent Correspondents will plan the activities for the following year while the Spring meeting will evaluate the previous year's activities.

- Information on the audits carried out in 2008

The Chair of the Audit Commission, Mr. Goerens, pointed out the diversity of statutes of the Centres which influence their financial and administrative management and can lead to a divergence of official accounting and reporting. However, no major problems have been found in the five audits (centres of Tbilisi, Kiev, Yerevan, Sofia and Strasbourg) completed in 2008. They in fact allowed to identify some drawbacks and possible improvements of the work of the Centres:

- *Structural and management issues*

It would be appropriate to give precise information to the Centres to uniform presentations : specific instructions on coordinated programmes, the split between fixed costs and variable, the report of credits from one year to the next appear, the way to reflect salaries, ... A more simplified form should also be made available to report. Finally, the international character of governing bodies has to be promoted for those Centres who no longer fulfil that requirement.

- *Scientific issues*

A good convergence between the Medium Term Plan and its implementation by the audited Centres has to be noted. However, he always recommends Centres to make a greater effort to co-operate with other Centres and institutions around truly international oriented projects. To ensure better

dissemination of their work to all member States, translating their high scientific quality work into at least one official language of the Council of Europe may also be supported.

The full document prepared by Mr. Goerens will be sent out to the Permanent Correspondents. Five audits [centres of Ankara, Athens, Lisbon, Biskra and Rabat] will be carried out in 2009 and Mr. Goerens raised the question as to whether the Committee of Permanent Correspondents would like to receive those audit reports. After a brief discussion, the participants decided that:

- the auditors prepare the audit report and send it to the Executive Secretariat;
- the Executive Secretariat sends the audit report to the Centre for comments;
- the audit reports and the comments are submitted to the Committee for approval;
- if the report approved is favourable, the report is made public but remains “restricted” if it is unfavourable: this allows to study with the Centre how to overcome the drawbacks.

In the name of all the Permanent Correspondents, the Chair thanked Mr. Goerens and the experts for the work done. The Executive Secretariat, well aware of the possible improvements, will study those compatible with the required level of internal control.

## 5. DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

- Opinion of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents on the Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation 1829 (2008) on “The fight against harm to the environment in the Black Sea”

The Executive Secretary presented the possible draft opinion (document AP/CAT (2008) 27) prepared by the Executive Secretariat to the Committee. The Committee agreed that the text well reflects how the Agreement can support this initiative.

Following a remark of the Maltese delegate, Mr. Micallef, the participants also agreed that co-operation on this topic between Mediterranean Sea States and Black Sea States should be fruitful as the former have addressed this problem through the Barcelona Convention.

After the detailed discussion of the draft response to the Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation, several amendments were consequently adopted (see appendix 2 for the final version).

- Draft recommendation on information and nuclear safety

The Executive Secretariat briefly presented the draft recommendation and requested the Committee to also take into account document AP/CAT (2008) 24. The Chair opened the floor to debate where several issues were emphasized :

- Available information: precise, reliable and actualised information has to be made available by and to all concerned actors;
- Preparation phases: preparation measures of local authorities have to be fostered as at the time of the response phases (reaction and relief), much flows from it;
- Transboundary co-operation: such co-operation, in particular where information flows are concerned, is important due to the geographical position of most NPPs;
- Nuclear power plants role : the commitment of NPP operators to accurately inform the authorities is essential to all phases.

After the detailed discussion of the draft response recommendation, several amendments were consequently adopted (see appendix 3 for the final version).

## **6. SPECIALISED EUROPEAN AND EURO-MEDITERRANEAN CENTRES AND TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THEMATIC GROUPS**

- Terms of reference and future activities of the working group on cultural heritage and risk

The Secretariat, after explaining that the Agreement should promote the protection of all the values (including cultural assets), presented the draft mandate of the working group on this topic which will meet for the first time next February.

It was pointed out that the activities listed are only those already identified and that if some centres have already been identified to form the core of the group, it remains open to other partners and initiatives. The French delegate, Mr. Feunteun, suggested summarising already existing initiatives in the field while the Luxemburg delegate, Mr. Goerens, remarked that Culture Ministries of the member states can contribute to such work. UNESCO and ISDR also manifested their interest on the forthcoming work in this topic.

After a brief discussion, the Committee agreed to the mandate (cf. appendix 4) and welcomed the idea to have from time to time a presentation by its chair on the advancement of the work.

- The Marine Centre (*Centre de la Mer*) Biarritz, France

As an introduction, Professor Vigneaux recalled that coasts are influenced by factors from the sea and from the continent : several techniques and disciplines need to unite to handle the question and international team working is a necessity.

The Chair recalled that these topics are important enough to reinforce the work of the Agreement in the field : the candidature of the *Centre de la Mer* to join the network of Centres goes along those lines. Ms. Pautrizel, director of the *Centre de la Mer*, briefly presented the structure and activities of the Centre. She insisted on their already existing international links (especially with entities from Northern Spain) and their wish to set up a Master level course on Coastal Risks.

During the debate, several participants asked about the possible complementarities with the Maltese centre devoted to this topic. The Maltese delegate, Mr. Micaleff, recalled the current level of awareness on coastal risks and thus fully supported the collaboration with the Biarritz centre, in particular to produce educational material. The Russian delegate, Mr. Kakusha, requested more practical implications of such work, and in particular concerning the cold seas. Ms. Pautrizel remarked that one of their goals is to provide information to decision makers in that area and that the Russian co-operation could help to identify more specific proposals for cold seas.

Participants agreed to accept the *Centre de la Mer* within the network of Specialized Centres of the Agreement.

## **7. PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR 2009**

- *Draft budget for 2009*

The Secretariat presented the main issues for the 2009 budget, pointing out that the 2009 budget will mainly differ in the fact that there will only be one chapter head instead of two (this will allow more flexibility and will avoid transfers). Even if the adjustment relating to inflation is higher than in former years, the Agreement's budget was stable in 2008 due to an efficiency saving drive at the Council of Europe over the last few years. A significant increase can only be expected through

accessions, and states that contribute substantially to the Council of Europe budget (i.e. Italy, Germany, United Kingdom).

The French delegate requested a brief description of the budgetary procedure. The Secretariat explained that the needs in terms of ruling costs (interpretation, cost of expert travel, missions, etc) are integrated to operational expenditures (grants, coordinated programmes, etc) to build a budget proposal submitted to the Secretary General who approves its submission to the Budget Committee. The latter, made up of experts nominated by member States for a 3 year term, gives its opinion to the Committee of Ministers, which finally approves it in December.

Following a discussion, the budget for 2009 was adopted.

- *Proposals from the Specialised Centres*

After recalling the reasons for holding the meeting of Directors of Specialised Centres in January/February, the Secretariat pointed out that this year the Centres were requested to submit proposals already in early Autumn to have a better overview of their wishes and capacities for 2009 activities and to improve the coordination with the main lines of action of the Agreement.

There was a mixed response to this early call – some Centres responded rapidly but some had still not replied. However, such problems are inherent to a new procedure: by the beginning of January, all Centres will have responded which will enable the grants to be allocated. The Secretariat presented the proposals already received according to the various sectors of activity :

- School education: safe life activities in extreme situations, manual and special tests on safety of schools (Yerevan Centre); extension of the BE-SAFE-NET project to more hazards (various centres).
- University education: international summer school in gravimetry (Luxembourg Centre).
- Professional education: training course on radiological monitoring in the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone (Kiev Centre); regional training course on forest fires (Fribourg Centre); creation of a Civil Defence and Protection School (San Marino Centre).
- Vulnerability: drought/desertification studies (Biskra Centre); landslides susceptibility mapping (Strasbourg Centre); multi hazard assessment of coastline risks (Strasbourg and Malta centres); distance automatic on-line control of buildings (Moscow Centre).
- Early warning: real time alert system (Paris Centre); development of early warning systems for landslides (Strasbourg Centre).
- Legislation/management: study on local authorities in emergency planning (Florival Centre); role of the public and private sectors in technological emergency management (Baku Centre).
- Prevention/information: first aid manual and methodology (Yerevan Centre); development of the site on technological risks (Kiev Centre).
- Cultural heritage: seminar on cultural heritage and risks related to climate change (Ravello Centre); convergent Approach for Seismic Analysis of the Aggregates of Historical Buildings (Lisbon Centre).
- Post disaster actions: round table on disaster medicine and psychological assistance during emergency situations (Baku Centre); estimation of possible consequences of earthquakes with “EXTREMUM” (Moscow Centre).

Due to the fact that not all proposals were available at this stage of time, the programme of activities for 2009 has been designed to ensure that domains funded are those in line with the Medium Term Plan: the choice of associated projects proposed by the Centres will be decided accordingly later on. Participants adopted the proposed programme of activities for 2009.

- *General discussion on future activities*

The discussion on activities for 2009 led to debate on two recurrent major topics: the complementarity between Centres' activities and the role of the Agreement to promote their activities.

On the complementarity issue, the Secretariat highlighted the example of the Strasbourg Centre which contacted the Malta Centre on its initiative on coastline risks. The Armenian delegate, Mr. Badalyan, recalled that different stages of interaction can be considered (one single Centre as leader, various Centres operating on an equal basis, etc.). The French delegate suggested to pursue the team work approach by asking centres to work on a project within their scope, being aware of its dependence on funding (maybe from outside the Agreement). The Secretariat supported the Maltese delegate's proposal that meetings between Centres working on common topics should be encouraged to draw up plans of action with increased resources and efficiency, avoiding possible duplication of activities.

Concerning the role of the Agreement, the Executive Secretary recalled that the EUR-OPA's role is to support and disseminate the work of the Centres. Consequently he proposed to devote some additional resources for translating interesting material and enriching the EUR-OPA web site. The network effect could also be fruitful to convert work done at national level into an international one. On external projects, EUR-OPA cannot run them itself as they are too labour intensive: centres are better placed to take the lead in such cases. The Maltese delegate also pointed out that Centres should promote the Agreement's activities more often: the Secretariat will provide a short presentation so that Centres could present it at the various events in which they participate.

## **8. ELECTION OF THE CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIRS OF THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT CORRESPONDENTS**

Mr. Iuliu BARA (Romania) was re-elected Chair and Mr. Anton MICALLEF (Malta) and Mr. Vladimir KAKUSHA (Russian Federation) were re-elected Vice Chairs.

## **9. DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held in Paris (France) in April 2009 (exact date to be defined).

## **10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Bulgarian delegate, Ms. Stoyanova, informed that their national training Centre will present at the next meeting of the Committee its formal request to join the network of specialised Centres. On that occasion, she will present their present tasks (setting out a new methodology for teachers on teaching disaster risk reduction in schools) as well as their future activities.

The Russian Federation delegate, Mr. Kakusha, informed that a training session will be organised (jointly with Norway, Sweden and Finland) in Murmansk in September 2009. It will include several exercises: removal of radioactive material, car accidents, co-operation in extinguishing major fires, rehabilitation of the sea after a major oil spill, rescue team work at sea, etc. He invited all interested Permanent Correspondents to attend as observers: all details of this event will be posted on the Agreement's web site.

In the name of all the Permanent Correspondents and the Executive Secretariat, the Chair thanked again the Turkish authorities, and particularly the Turkish delegate, Nehir Varol, for having organised two high profile events with such good media involvement and the traditional Turkish generous and warm hospitality.

**Appendix 1****LIST OF PARTICIPANTS****ARMENIE / ARMENIA**

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**Appendix 2****OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT CORRESPONDENTS OF THE EUROPEAN AND MEDITERRANEAN MAJOR HAZARDS AGREEMENT (EUR-OPA)****on****RECOMMENDATION 1837 (2008) of the Parliamentary Assembly on  
“The fight against harm to the environment in the Black Sea”**

After careful examination of Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation 1837 (see Appendix 2) at its meeting in Istanbul on 30-31 October 2008, the Committee of Permanent Correspondents of the European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA):

1. Shares the concern of the Parliamentary Assembly on the growing environmental degradation of the Black Sea which is increasing the risks for its neighbouring populations.
2. Notes that the Black Sea is a closed water body very vulnerable to technological accidents such as oil spills from tankers or pollution events such as the one on the Tizsa and Danube rivers in the year 2000, in which a flood of toxic cyanide and heavy metals entered those rivers following the break of a mining dam.
3. Supports enhanced co-operation on environment and risk reduction activities in the states bordering the Black Sea, while noting that all those States (Bulgaria, Georgia, Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Turkey and Ukraine) are member States of the European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA) and that such a framework is an appropriate one to further develop prevention policies concerning technological accidents.
4. Notes, however, that other States (particularly those in the Danube catchment area) need to identify the sources of pollution and collaborate to reduce the high discharge of pollutants that is a source of environmental and health risk for populations living around the Black Sea.
5. Encourages Parties to the Convention on the Black Sea against Pollution (Bucharest 1992) to reinforce the activities of the Convention and to improve the implementation of obligations so as to reduce risks and pollution; Parties are also encouraged to establish appropriate synergies with the Convention for the protection of the Mediterranean sea against pollution.
6. Calls all States involved in oil transport questions in the Black Sea to improve safety extreme preventive measures and to fully comply with international regulations aimed at avoiding oil spills and minimise risks.

### **Appendix 3**

#### **RECOMMENDATION ON RADIOLOGICAL PROTECTION OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES: IMPROVING PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE**

The Committee of Permanent Correspondents of the European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA):

Taking into account the need for local populations to be aware of the risks to their safety and environment of radiological installations and in particular of Nuclear Power Plants (NPP) and other nuclear facilities;

Recognising the role played by local authorities, given their proximity to the citizen, in the transmission of information on risks and their fundamental importance in risk prevention and management;

Subscribing the principles recognised in the “*Convention on access to information, public participation in decision making and access to justice on environmental matters*” (Aarhus, 1998) and wishing that local communities improve their information and preparedness for possible emergency situations due to radiological accidents in NPP;

Desirous to spread the lessons learned from the Chernobyl legacy so as to improve European nuclear safety, further involving citizens and local authorities;

Noting the conclusions of the international workshop on “*Public authorities and civil society together for a safe European nuclear future*”. Learning from the Chernobyl legacy to make European nuclear energy safer: the role of local communities, authorities and central governments in emergency preparedness and management», Kiev, Ukraine 22-23 September, 2008, (document AP/CAT (2008) 24);

#### **Recommend that Governments:**

1. promote the dissemination of information on safety of NPP and on procedures for better emergency management, carrying out specific campaigns and exercises in the neighbourhood of NPP; promote regular community-based risk education in these areas;
2. facilitate the procedures for local and regional authorities to access radiological and safety information necessary for better preparedness and emergency management, promoting regular contacts between NPP managers and local authorities;
3. actively involve local and regional authorities in the elaboration of emergency plans and early warning systems concerning possible radiological or nuclear accidents;
4. in emergency situations, provide local and regional authorities with precise, reliable and updated information and include them as appropriate in “emergency management”;
5. provide as appropriate financial support to local and regional authorities to embark on the tasks above;

6. promote co-operation and exchange of experiences among local authorities of different countries in nuclear safety and radiation protection, supporting appropriate mechanisms such as those proposed in the conclusions of the workshop “Public authorities and civil society together for a safe European nuclear future”, Kiev, Ukraine 22-23 September, 2008, (document AP/CAT (2008) 24).

**Appendix 4**

**THEMATIC GROUP ON CULTURAL HERITAGE AND RISK**

**Terms of reference**

The Group will:

- assist the Committee of Permanent Correspondents on matters related to cultural heritage and risk
- make proposals for recommendations and activities in this field
- liaise with the different thematic Centres involved in cultural heritage and risk aiming at improving the synergies and coordination of their programmes in this field.
- follow the progress and implementation of recommendations and work programmes on cultural heritage and risk

**Draft Activities for the next two years (2009-2010)**

- Review of initiatives in the field of vulnerability of cultural heritage and climate change
- follow up of the recommendations and proposed areas of research to be developed as set out in the report on cultural heritage and climate change (to be finalised in November 2008)
- establishment of a course on vulnerability of cultural heritage to climate change
- organisation of a workshop on vulnerability of cultural heritage to climate change
- organisation of a workshop on strategies toward seismic protection of monuments.