

Strasbourg, 18 March 2010

AP/CAT (2010) 03
Or. E.

**EUROPEAN AND MEDITERRANEAN MAJOR HAZARDS AGREEMENT
(EUR-OPA)**

MEETING OF THE DIRECTORS OF SPECIALISED CENTRES

**1-3 February 2010
Council of Europe Office, PARIS**

CONCLUSIONS

1. Adoption of the draft agenda (AP/CAT (2010) OJ 2)

In the absence of the Chair, Zoran Milutinovic (ECILS, Skopje), Anton Micallef, Vice-Chair, took the Chair. He welcomed the participants (cf. list in appendix 2) and the agenda was adopted as set out in Appendix 1.

2. Conclusions of the meeting of Permanent Correspondents, Dubrovnik, 15-16 October 2009

(AP/CAT (2009) 58)

In his introductory remarks, the Executive Secretary recalled the importance of this current year as the 12th Ministerial Session of the Agreement will be held in Saint Petersburg, Russia on 28 and 29 September 2010, preceded on 27 September by the meeting of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents. He thanked the Russian authorities for having accepted to host this Ministerial Session which will enable the Agreement's 2007-2011 priorities to be re-evaluated. He welcomed all input from the Directors of Centres during the present meeting concerning their ideas and views for the priorities of the Agreement to be taken into account in the new Medium Term Plan.

He also explained that the Agreement does not stand alone – it has its place within the ten year Hyogo Framework of Action plan, which is in a revision process at mid term with climate change as a new high political priority to minimise the effect of risk. The Agreement's new Medium Term Plan 2011-2015 should come to a close at the same time as the Hyogo Framework of Action, thus finishing in harmony together to then move forward on a strong footing. The Executive Secretary also recalled the involvement of the Agreement in the newly created European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction whose first meeting will take place in Sweden next October.

Regarding the programme of activities adopted at the Dubrovnik meeting, he recalled that last year work had focused particularly on exploring some implications of climate change in risk issues while the 2010 programme will focus on ongoing activities linked to the Medium Term Plan (2007-2011). Two Recommendations had also been adopted by the Committee of Permanent Correspondents on:

1. the vulnerability of cultural heritage to climate change
2. the promotion and strengthening of national platforms for disaster risk reduction.

The Executive Secretary recalled the election in 2009 of the new Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Mr. Thorbjørn Jagland, former Prime Minister of Norway. Mr. Jagland is very much for reform as the Council of Europe has to define its role in a fast changing Europe, focusing on fewer issues and avoiding overlapping with the work of other international organisations. Even if great importance will be attached to human rights, democracy and rule of law, Mr. Jagland is much in favour of Partial Agreements : the innovative Ethical Charter on resilience to disasters (about both victims and rescuers) under preparation will be an additional link with such mainstream issues.

3. Evaluation of activities for 2009

For better assessment of the proposed activities for 2010, the Secretariat gave the floor to the Centres to briefly recall their major initiatives taken in 2009 (through both the frameworks of the annual grant and the coordinated programmes) in the main areas below:

Legislative aspects

The Florival Centre, which acts as coordinator of the thematic group on Legislation, informed of the work developed in 2009 on the role of local authorities in risk management. From the 6 contributions received (Belgium, France, Luxembourg, Armenia, Algeria and Greece), a second group meeting was

held in June to discuss more in detail the reports and to identify good practices among them. This initial phase has been concluded by a first report to be issued shortly and a second phase has been launched to study another set of countries : Cyprus and Croatia had already responded and Morocco announced its willingness to participate. The Chair regretted that the work done by the ISPU Centre on legislation has not received more proposals from member countries and he encouraged the Directors to make more effort in this field to enable the work to progress. The Secretariat also emphasized the interest of the work already carried out and remarked that the recent disasters have highlighted the necessity to further develop operational aspects.

Apart from this general work, the Kiev Centre recalled the advancement on the related initiative of awareness to nuclear risks approved at the last Permanent Correspondents' meeting. The main conclusions of the task force organized in September 2009 was to join forces with already existing associations such as GMF and KSO to benefit from their experience so as to develop an efficient network (in particular with local authorities) to fill gaps in prevention and intervention in case of accident. On that specific topic, the Ankara Centre has organized jointly with the Kiev Centre two meetings relating to nuclear safety in Turkey and the Yerevan Centre has also participated in this initiative at national level.

The Chisinau Centre, convinced that prevention depends on proper organisation and preparation and consequently on good legislation to diminish risks, has also worked on the role of central and local authorities to ensure the safety of the population. Finally, the Tbilisi Centre informed of its participation in the creation of the Georgian National Platform and the Yerevan Centre also reported its commitment towards the creation of an Armenian National Platform.

Training

The Biarritz Centre presented the coastal risks training addressed to coastal managers who face a lack of information in their day-to-day activity and who greatly appreciated the training proposed. The Lisbon Centre pointed out that such training will be very interesting for Portugal and the Chair also confirmed the interest of managers for such training. As director of the Valletta Centre, he informed of the development within a master degree on environmental planning of a post graduate module on coastal hazards and risk aspects whose material originates from the one prepared for Be Safe Net. This activity resulted from the Centre joining the International Environment Institute of the University of Malta which was presented briefly by its head, Mr. CASSAR.

The Ravello Centre recalled the international training in the field of cultural heritage and climate change impact organised in Strasbourg (in collaboration with the Secretariat) and which had met with great success, as well as other training courses which took place in Ravello. In terms of academic and vocational training, other Centres briefly recalled the initiatives they have developed in their respective countries : the San Marino Centre continued its annual cycle of training on disaster medicine and psychology while the Sofia Centre pointed out its ongoing cooperation with Sofia and Varna Universities on master level training and the Yerevan Centre pursued the training of trainers on first aid in Armenia.

School Education

The Cyprus Centre, as coordinator of the Be Safe Net project, presented its progress and particularly the extension to further hazards as well as a redesign of the website. The Kiev Centre produced the module on chemical hazards, the Ravello Centre has developed material related to earthquakes, the Valletta Centre will shortly complete the coastal hazards material while the Sofia and Biskra Centres have collected information on flood risk and desertification respectively. The Secretariat pointed out that the Be Safe Net undertaking is particularly interesting as the experiences of all Centres are used in a common project. As further risks are still to be covered, other Centres were called upon to provide additional material and, given that the aim is to create a multilingual site, Centres are welcome to translate some of the material into their own language as a few Centres had already collaborated with their national Ministry of Education on this topic.

As not all material is already implemented, the website has thus not yet been publicized among the educational world to avoid any negative appraisal due to its partial content. The Chair insisted that a first step is to identify secondary schools in different countries to evaluate the material content (as has already been done on the landslides material in some German schools) before making it accessible to everyone. The Kiev Centre strongly emphasized the need for it to be a multilingual site as the best international experiences should be available for the benefit of all. The Biskra Centre also remarked that the more different languages are made available, the more the project's visibility at international level will increase. She added that Biskra's material on desertification will even be made available in Arabian. Along these lines, the Ankara Centre presented the workshop held in Antalya which insisted upon the importance of the local level of training on risks.

Information and awareness

The Yerevan Centre has continued its work on the preparation of materials necessary for the establishment of national and municipal campaigns on population awareness, with particular emphasis on most vulnerable people. The Sofia Centre has continued its work on information related to the Danube through the setting up of a dedicated website DRACE where all previous material will be posted. The San Marino Centre also informed of their cooperation with local media to communicate in weather forecasts information on pathologies related to climate change.

Vulnerability / early warning

The Moscow Centre informed on its work on remote control of structures and buildings which is experimented on several public sites in Russia. The Strasbourg Centre continued its work on landslide vulnerability by preparing an early warning cartography on landslides generated by climatic factors to identify more threatened areas. The Tbilissi Centre also recalled a common project with the Strasbourg Centre on technology usage to predict potential places of impending landslides and informed on its work on dam vulnerability, a topic with potential cascade effects in view of climate change and the aging of dams.

Forest Fires

The Freiburg Centre provided information on the conference on the consequences of fires on land contaminated by mines or by radiology organized in Kiev, where the issue of transboundary cooperation appeared as essential. The Georgian Centre asked about the role of climate change in such phenomena and the Freiburg Centre pointed out that even if climate change does increase the severity, fires are mainly influenced by human behaviour. Based on those remarks, the Biskra Centre highlighted that the chain reaction of disasters and insidious risks emerge as important issues to address.

Cultural heritage

The Ravello Centre recalled the holding of two major activities related to climate change impact on cultural heritage: a scientific seminar in Ravello on the damage caused by climate change to monuments and a master level course in Strasbourg on the same topic (with 40 students out of 80 applications). Following the methodology used in evaluating earthquake risk in the historical city of Lagos, the Lisbon Centre informed of its involvement in the assessment of the seismic hazard, maintenance and rehabilitation of the heritage in the city of Silves (Algarve).

Seismic risk

The Walferdange Centre has developed several research studies in the earthquake field: one on the evaluation of earthquake early warning systems, another on the usage of Japanese strong motion databases and a third on development of tools for earthquake source parameters determination. It also joined the Global Earthquake Model (an OECD project for 2009-2013) which could interest other

Centres of the Agreement. The Lisbon Centre informed on its seminar on earthquake forecasting, the conclusions of which will be published in the review “Natural Hazards”.

Some Centres emphasized the collaboration with their national authorities on earthquake risk and infrastructures. The Bucharest Centre supported the enforcement by the Romanian Government of the programmes for seismic rehabilitation of existing buildings according to a new national Code taking into account EU codes and standards. Similarly, the Rabat Centre noted its joint work with authorities on seismic feasibility studies for new cities and existing large dams and public buildings vulnerability to earthquakes (possible topics for cooperation with the Tbilisi and Moscow Centres respectively).

Coastal risks

Apart from the master level course organised by the Biarritz centre, others centres had developed activities related to this topic. The Lisbon and Rabat Centres have worked on the tsunami risk in the Algarve and Moroccan coasts respectively. The Strasbourg Centre has initiated the development of a methodology for multi-risk cartography of coastal areas based on 3 regions (Malta, Algarve and Normandy) case studies. The Secretariat pointed out that this work could be extended to other areas (Baltic coast, East Mediterranean, ...) and the Valletta Centre confirmed its interest for a continued cooperation in this initiative.

Climate Change

The Biskra Centre worked mainly on water management (both in quantitative and qualitative terms) and the associated risks of desertification and flooding, emphasising both the socio-economical and bio-resources issues. An important effort was devoted to raising the awareness of both the local authorities and the students. It also organized an international training seminar on natural disasters addressed to various partners (scientists, managers, practitioners, educators, ...). The Ravello Centre recalled that landscapes, as a result of an equilibrium with their environment, are very much influenced by climate.

The Executive Secretary pointed out that the Murcia workshop has highlighted the increasing role of such topics beyond the Maghreb region : shortly droughts may begin affecting new regions such as Slovenia which has already set up a Centre for drought studies and which could prepare a report on the potentiality of such risk in the Agreement’s area. The Ankara Centre also informed of several activities related to the climate change impact which it organized on the occasion of the International Disaster Reduction Day (14 October).

Post disaster interventions

The Earthquake Warning System operated by the Bruyères-le-Châtel Centre as well as the Extremum assessment of the impact of earthquakes have regularly communicated their results. The Moscow Centre recognized that a major problem lies in the validity of the very local data used to run the system but they had increased it through evaluation of vulnerability of remaining buildings. The Kiev Centre pointed out that aiming to forecast a disaster is impossible but the scale of the disaster should be made known as soon as possible. With this in mind, the Executive Secretary recalled that at least for the Al Hoceima, l’Aquila and Haiti earthquakes, Extremum’s predictions have been quite accurate.

Concerning the medical emergency viewpoint, the San Marino Centre organized a conference on similarities between the Abbruzi and Kamchatka earthquakes. The Baku Centre organized a round table on disaster medicine and psychological aid and has published a book of the proceedings in Azeri and English. It also organized a workshop on the organisation of civil protection and the responsibility of entrepreneurs and local authorities in emergency situations. Finally, the Yerevan Centre continued its training efforts in the domain of first aid.

Thematic groups

The Secretariat briefly summarized the work of the four thematic groups active in 2009:

1. School education: the Be Safe Net web site has significantly increased its content on hazards and will be operational mid 2010;
2. Cultural heritage: climate change implications were discussed in the international seminar which prepared the training
3. Legislation: after completing the work on the initial phase, a second phase was launched in 2009
4. Vulnerability: a first meeting of the working group took place and decided to start by focusing its attention on seismic risk.

4. Activities planned for 2010 (AP/CAT (2009) 22 rev & (2010) 4)

The Secretariat proposed to concentrate the discussion on coordinated programmes to identify synergies between the Centres in the light of proposals that had been submitted. These were the subject of a brief presentation in accordance with the thematic structure used to examine the activities in 2009:

Legislative aspects

The Florival Centre recalled that the final written study will be available once completed by best practices and readjustment of the general text and that an electronic version of the data was underway to allow information update through internet. Cyprus, Croatia (and possibly Monaco) were the only countries having responded to the call for additional contributions. More contributions are necessary to enable the launch of a complementary study. The Yerevan Centre highlighted that the Centres can play an important role in identifying local partners to collaborate in such projects: the Valletta Centre proposed to contact the new Maltese Head of Civil Protection for a possible participation of Malta. The Rabat Centre, which in the past has collaborated in this topic, proposed to contribute to this new phase.

Training

The Biarritz Centre informed that in 2010 they will organize the same training course on coastal risks as in 2009 but will attempt to attract more international participants. Apart from their yearly specialised courses, the San Marino Centre will also organise a course on disaster and emergency medicine with the Nikiforov Medical Centre in St Petersburg. The Secretariat welcomed such initiatives to increase the international content of existing training. The Kiev Centre also recalled that its annual training course on radiological monitoring in the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone will be organized in 2010.

School Education

The Strasbourg Centre will organize the next meeting of the Be Safe Net initiative in Modena (Italy) in early June and they have identified a resource person to work on the project. The Baku Centre announced they will organize a conference to work on pedagogical material related to school safety. The Biskra Centre also insisted on thinking about prevention measures before the construction of schools while the Ankara Centre recalled the ISMET project which retrofitted many schools in Istanbul. The Secretariat remarked that the school safety aspect should be incorporated into the Be Safe Net initiative once the hazard description phase has been completed. Having produced an educational map on seismicity distributed to French schools, the Bruyères-le-Châtel Centre could share materials with the Be Safe Net initiative.

Information and awareness

The Ravello Centre suggested to consider the role that local media can play in risk prevention, often neglected due to its lack of mediatic echo with respect to disasters: a seminar could try to define conditions to facilitate local media information on risks and thus motivate other local actors to deal with them. The Lisbon Centre informed that such training for journalists has already been organized in Portugal by the Civil Protection. Nevertheless, the Walferdange and Florival Centres pointed out that media involvement requires avoiding negative feedback while the Executive Secretary stressed the independence of journalists. The Yerevan Centre informed that, within their ongoing campaign, special

attention will be devoted to most vulnerable people and they will develop specific tests for the safety of buildings where children with disabilities are housed.

Vulnerability / early warning

Taking into account transfrontier risks, the Ankara Centre proposed to organize a conference on flood and landslide vulnerability in the States of the Black Sea region. The Tbilisi Centre recalled that its study of the potential risks of large dams will be further developed through the monitoring of seismic risk based on an automatic diagnostic system and computer simulations of flooding. The Moscow Centre will further develop its methodology on remote control of structures and buildings in order to be adopted at national level. Finally, the Strasbourg Centre will continue its work on landslide susceptibility mapping at European scale by developing and testing an adapted model.

Forest Fires

The Freiburg Centre informed on the establishment of a regional monitoring centre for the Balkans in Skopje, an important tool to share information in that region, and recalled that an international meeting on Climate Change and Forest Fires will be organized at the end of June in Freiburg to prepare the 2011 International Wildland Fire Conference. The Centre will pursue its work on global fire inventory and early warning and suggested proposals for post-Copenhagen actions within the UN programme REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries).

Cultural heritage

The Ravello Centre announced that a second course on climate change and cultural heritage with a special emphasis on training cultural heritage managers will be organised in October in Ravello. It also recalled the existing master course on cultural landscapes, co-organized by several European universities but which could benefit from the collaboration of other Centres (Biskra, Rabat, Yerevan, Baku) on links with local disasters. The Valletta and Bucharest Centres also expressed their interest in the landscape approach to risk reduction. Following its previous work on the topic, the Lisbon Centre suggested organising a colloquy on the study of the behaviour of building aggregates in historical cities.

Seismic risk

The Walferdange Centre recalled that their annual workshop has yet to choose its topics as three possibilities are still under consideration: monitoring with space techniques; induced seismicity; time frequency analysis in geophysics. The Rabat Centre informed of a seminar celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Agadir earthquake and on their project for a web page with seismic information also transmitted via SMS to competent authorities. The Bruyères-le-Châtel Centre will continue to develop the involvement of citizens in earthquake monitoring through the on-line questionnaires filled in by web users and they will try to use new social networks (such as Twitter and Facebook) to collect more information on earthquakes. It will also organize the ESC2010 conference in Montpellier on 5-9 September, followed by a course for 20 young seismologists.

Coastal risks

The Valletta Centre announced a meeting on coastal recreation resources in October which will include a session on coastal hazards as the integration of both aspects is important and suggested joint work with the Biarritz Centre on the vulnerability of coastal wetlands. The Ravello Centre stressed its interest in such issues because given that coastlines are now mainly used for tourism, rules should be put in place in coastal areas to make them safe and economically beneficial to the inhabitants. Mr Vigneaux emphasized that a coast is very often a border too, thus merging different risks where variable parameters come into play. To handle this complexity, the Biarritz Centre has started work on a database to collect scientific knowledge on the topic and it called for input from the Centres to this database. The Centre is also preparing an international colloquy in 2011 on prevention of coastal risks.

Climate Change

The Biskra Centre will continue its work on climate change impact on arid and semi-arid regions through a workshop on population awareness to such phenomena. A climatic monitoring of desertification and increased sanding risk will take place in close cooperation with local and regional authorities. The Tbilisi Centre suggested studying the climate change effect based on modern data analysis, using as a case study the collected Georgian temperature data and the Sofia Centre proposed a workshop on climate change impact on the Danube river and the Black Sea.

Post disaster interventions

The Moscow Centre will improve the Extremum system by updating data on populations and it is preparing a conference in May to present this new version. Regarding psychosocial assistance to victims, the Executive Secretary informed that the European Federation of Psychologists' Associations (EFPA) has prepared a document on lessons learned in various disasters and that it will set up a training course for psychologists on this topic in the Autumn. At the request of the Ministry of Emergency Situations in Armenia, the Yerevan Centre expressed its interest for this topic and its wish to cooperate with the San Marino Centre. The Baku Centre also recalled the published conclusions of its workshop and the availability of an active network of psychologists ready to collaborate. Finally, the Moscow Centre, which stressed that both victims and rescuers need psychological assistance, informed that EMERCOM possesses expertise in this field as a special psychological service for victims already exists: their rescuers are accompanied by trained psychologists.

Thematic groups

The Secretariat noted that three of these areas (i.e. education, legislative aspects, cultural heritage) already have a dedicated thematic group while a new thematic group dedicated to vulnerability aspects was launched in December 2009. The goal for 2010 is to have a product associated with each thematic group to present to the Ministerial Session: for education, the website under construction should be operative; for legislation, the study on the role of local authorities in the six countries examined will be completed; for cultural heritage, the book on climate change impact will be published by the Ravello Centre. For the newly created thematic group, its product could be a monograph on the state of knowledge of the seismic risk vulnerability, benefiting from the wide experience in terms of seismicity of the network of Centres.

Information gathering

The Secretariat informed that a psychological assistance e-library was under construction and the Kiev Centre suggested that it should include publishable material from all the Centres to increase the visibility of the Agreement. The Executive Secretary insisted on developing a more thematic basis for the web as the UN-ISDR PreventionWeb site already carries out this global collection task. Since 2006 the Biskra Centre has been collecting data on arid/semi-arid regions and it pointed out the interest for such resource lists for all fields covered by the Agreement. The Freiburg Centre, which has an extensive database on forest fire topics with its own research engine, encouraged the other Centres to systematically collect information on their domain of competence for inclusion in such a database.

5. Preliminary discussion on activities for 2011-2015

The Executive Secretary recalled the importance of the Medium Term Plan approved at each Ministerial Session. The Medium Term Plan 2007-2011 approved at the 11th Ministerial Session was based on fields of expertise of the Agreement, and particularly on the Centres' capabilities, as well as on the Hyogo Framework of Action adopted a year earlier. It tried to focus on fewer topics so as to increase its visibility and particular accent was placed upon governance and education issues while other topics, such as training or early warning, turned out to be more difficult to develop.

We have consequently to build a new project for the next four years based on present and future challenges, such as a clearer incorporation of climate change consequences in our present work. For this task of setting up the new Medium Term Plan, the Chair urged the participants to contribute with ideas for updating the priorities within the Agreement. He also emphasized that a redefinition of the role, visibility and mission of the Agreement are essential aspects for the future. Even if a link with the Hyogo Framework of Action priorities remains important from the political point of view, the Executive Secretary also encouraged a more focused Medium Term Plan to include innovative topics such as governance, ethical, psychological or cultural heritage issues.

At internal level, the Kiev Centre proposed to promote projects of interest for different countries and to establish clear results to monitor the achievements. In line with this and to stimulate cooperation between Centres and to increase effective dissemination of results, the Ravello Centre proposed that each Centre deploys its own specific expertise in other member States. At external level, a clearer relationship with other international organisations working on the topic is required, in particular with the European Commission. The Walferdange Centre remarked upon the possible overlap of activities and pointed out that the Agreement should focus on activities corresponding to its budget. The Agreement should identify its own specific niche by becoming more attentive to what is actually needed rather than on the more abstract aspect of what can be said.

The Ravello Centre recalled that right from the inception of the Agreement, the formula at the time was that the Agreement would coordinate the work of each Centre and would ensure that each Centre deploys its special expertise in other countries. In spite of the importance of basic research, several participants stressed the impossibility of developing it within the network due to the substantial resources needed for its implementation. They also remarked that an important aspect for the future is the development of the assessment of knowledge on topics related to major risks. The Agreement should promote the dissemination of scientific research results to decision makers thus making the work developed within the network more accessible and comprehensible..

Concerning this dissemination of results of scientific research to decision makers, Mr. VIGNEAUX recalled that the expertise of the Centres in their respective domains is a definite fact and that it constitutes a considerable amount of data and knowledge to be put at the disposal of all. The Agreement could serve as a balance between scientific research and policy decision , advising and promoting ideas on all risks in Europe. The Chair, who liked the concept of the Agreement as an entity to collect and pass on knowledge, remarked that this is already illustrated through work such as school education, legislation or forest fires coordinated respectively by the Nicosia, Florival and Freiburg Centres.

The Executive Secretary confirmed that the Agreement cannot focus on fundamental research and can neither be a coordinator of projects presented to other entities. Concerning the external aspects, he recalled the changes concerning civil protection at the European Commission, the excellent relations with UN-ISDR and that risk prevention is one of the priorities of the Union for the Mediterranean. Relating to internal issues, each Centre should develop its own thematic network with the support of the Agreement by promoting primarily activities with a clear multilateral character. The Agreement should continue the work which keeps it strong but should break new ground too where possible, always maintaining the think-tank concept which is one of its specificities.

Finally, participants asked themselves how the issues related to climate change could be registered in a more sustainable way in the programme of activities as it is a topic which will increasingly gain in importance in the field of major risks. The Executive Secretary said that the climate change related activities organized in 2009 allowed the Agreement to benefit from external expertise on topics insufficiently covered by the network of Centres (such as floods) and to identify possible innovative contributions on topics already covered (such as natural heritage or coastal risks).

Various additional proposals emerged from the discussion. The Moscow Centre advocated for better databases of data and knowledge to support adequate rapid response. The Florival Centre suggested that the aspect of “self-preparation” of the population through awareness raising could be highlighted at the

Ministerial Session. The Biskra Centre pointed out that work on early warning should be promoted for more foreseeable risks, such as climate change impact. The Baku Centre remarked that linguistic barriers can be a major problem in networking due to little knowledge of the work carried out by other Centres. The Yerevan Centre suggested promoting transfrontier co-operation activities.

6. Other matters

Financial Reporting of the Centres

Following recent annual reports to the Permanent Correspondents by Mr. Goerens, Chair of the Audit Sub-Committee, certain financial aspects of the Centres that could be improved and which would simplify the associated reporting work have been identified. It will thus be possible to meet the requests from various Centres to simplify monitoring tables and to draft specific rules relating to the accounts.

Taking into account both the comments of the Chair of the Audit Sub-Committee and of the Centres, the Secretariat presented in detail the revised accounting presentation where the register plays a central role. Several participants raised additional questions and requested the new excel file to be able to examine it and discuss it with their accounting services. The Secretariat confirmed that the new file will be distributed to Centres after it has been examined and endorsed by the Committee of Permanent Correspondents. The two main rules to benefit from the Agreement's grants are maintained: less than 40% expenditure in running costs and the Agreement's contribution cannot exceed 60% of the amounts provided by the host country.

Mr Goerens explained that the purpose of the new accounting presentation is to facilitate matters. As some Centres were not using the former excel spread sheets correctly, the new chart sheet will limit mistakes. It has also been decided to give up the section "carrying over" of subsidies : unspent balance should now be carried over. He also remarked that the breakdown in activities is useful to see the expense attached to each of them. Finally, he recalled that a full audit cycle has been completed in 2009 and 2010 implies the beginning of a new cycle.

7. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair of the meeting of Directors of Centres

Mr. Anton MICALLEF (ICoD, Valletta) was elected Chair and Mr. Azelarab EL MOURAOUAH (CEPRIS, Rabat) as Vice-Chair.

8. Date and place of next meeting

The Directors decided to hold their next meeting in Paris in early February 2011.

Appendix 1**MEETING OF THE DIRECTORS OF SPECIALISED EURO-MEDITERRANEAN CENTRES
OF THE EUR-OPA MAJOR HAZARDS AGREEMENT****Monday 1st February (9.30 a.m.) to Wednesday 3rd February 2010 (1.00 p.m.)***Council of Europe Office, 55 avenue Kléber, PARIS 16e***AGENDA**

1. Adoption of the draft agenda *AP/CAT(2010)OJ2*
2. Conclusions of the Permanent Correspondents' meeting of the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement held in Dubrovnik on 15-16 October 2009 *AP/CAT(2009)58*
3. Assessment of activities developed in 2009
 - Activities within the annual grant framework *AP/CAT(2010)1*
 - Activities within the coordinated programmes framework *AP/CAT(2010)2*
4. Activities scheduled for 2010
 - Implications of the adopted programme of activities *AP/CAT(2009)22*
 - Activities within the annual grant framework *AP/CAT(2009)53*
 - Activities within the coordinated programmes framework *AP/CAT(2010)4*
5. Preliminary debate on activities for 2011-2015
 - An evaluation of Medium Term Plan 2007-2011 achievements *AP/CAT(2006)47 rev*
 - Proposals for the new Medium Term Plan 2011-2015
 - Implications on future activities of the Centres
6. Other business
 - Financial reporting of the Centres
 - Enhancement of the activities of the Centres
7. Election of the chair and vice-chair of the Meeting of the Directors of Centres
8. Date and place of the next meeting

Appendix 2

List of Participants

Algeria/Algerie

CRSTRA - *Centre Euro-Méditerranéen de recherche scientifique et technique sur les régions arides Omar El Barnaoui (Biskra, Algérie C)/ Euro-Mediterranean Center on scientific and technical research in arid zones Omar El Barnaoui (Biskra, Algeria)*

Fattoum LAKHDARI, Directrice

Campus Universitaire BP 1682 RP 07000 Biskra, ALGERIE

Tel.+213.33.73.4214 / 8443 -Fax +213 33 74 18 15 mail : Crstra_biskra@yahoo.fr

Armenia/Arménie

ECRM- *European Interregional Scientific and Education Centre on major risks management/ (Yerevan, Armenia) / Centre européen interrégional et de formation sur la gestion des risques (Erevan, Arménie)*

Stepan BADALYAN, Director

23, Nalbandyan str, 0001 YEREVAN, Republic of ARMENIA

Tel./Fax +374 10 54.49.92; +374 91 23 00 37 .e-mail : ecrm@europe.com

Azerbaïdjan/ AZERBAIJAN

ECMHT -*European Training Information Centre (Baku, Azerbaijan) / Centre Européen de Formation et d'Information, Baku, Azerbaïdjan*

Habib OJAQOV, Director, European Training Information Centre

Ayna Sultanova Str. 5, Baku, Azerbaijan Tel: +99 41231 4955. - +99 450 310 70 20

Fax : +99 412 431-49-55 - + 99 412 510 33 88

Email : hocaqov@yahoo.com; hocaqov@bakinter.net; <http://www.forqal.org>

Belgium / Belgique

ISPU - *Higher Institute of Emergency Planning (Florival, Belgium) / Institut Supérieur de Planification d'Urgence, Florival, Belgique*

Monique BERNAERTS Directeur du centre.(Institut Supérieur de Planification d'Urgence ISPU) Service Public Fédéral.Intérieur SPF, Direction Générale Centre de Crise, Rue Ducale 53 - B-1000 BRUXELLES, Tel.+ 32.2.506 47 70 - Fax. +32.2. 506 47 09.

e-mail: monique.bernaerts@ibz.fgov.be; <http://www.crisis.ibz.be/>

Bulgaria / Bulgarie

CSLT - *European Centre for Risk Prevention (Sofia, Bulgaria) / Centre européen pour la Prévention des Risques (Sofia, Bulgarie)*

Kolio P. KOLEV, Director, 4, Vitosha Blvd, P.O. Box 862 BG- 1000 SOFIA.

Tel/Fax. +359.2.988.35.54 - +359 888929704 e-mail : kolio.kolev@cslt.org;

Cyprus/Chypre

"BE SAFE NET" - **EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR DISASTER AWARENESS WITH THE USE OF THE INTERNET** (Nicosia, Cyprus)

George GEROSIMOU, Senior Civil Defence Officer , P.O. Box 23830, 1686 Nicosia, CYPRUS.

Tel: +357 26 818 470 Fax: +357 26 94 63 74 mail: ggerosimou@cd.moi.gov.cy

France

EMSC - *European Mediterranean Seismological Centre (Bruyères-le-Châtel, France)*

CSEM - *Centre Sismologique Euro-Méditerranéen, (Bruyères-le-Châtel, France)*

Jean-Remy BOSSU, Centre Sismologique Euro-Méditerranéen (EMSC))

c/o CEA, Bât. Sâbles Centre DAM - Ile de France, Bruyères le Châtel 91297 Arpajon Cedex

Tel :+33 (0)1 69 26 78 14 Fax +33 (0)1 69 26 70 00

e-mail : remy.bossu@cea.fr - bossu@emsc-csem.org - remy.bossu@ces.fr

CERG- European Centre for Seismic and Geomorphological Hazards (Strasbourg, France)/ Centre Européen sur les Risques Géomorphologiques (Strasbourg, France)

Olivier MAQUAIRE, Directeur Centre européen pour les risques géomorphologiques CERG,
3 rue de l'Argonne F – 67083 Strasbourg cedex. - <http://cerg.u-strasbg.fr>
Tél. +33 (0) 390 240 911 GSM 00 +33 (0)6 87 82 97 09 - - Fax: : +33 (0) 390.240 900
E mail : cerg@equinoxe.u-strasbg.fr;olivier.maquaire@unicaen.fr;

CERCO- Centre européen sur les Risques Côtiers / European Centre on Coastal Risks

Françoise PAUTRIZEL , Directrice générale Pôle Biarritz Océan Centre de la Mer Biarritz / Musée de la Mer Plateau de l'Atalaye, 64200 Biarritz Tel : 05 59 22 33 34, Fax : 05 59 22 75 30
e-mail : direction@museedelamer.com

Georgia / Georgie

GHHDD - European Centre on Geodynamical Risks of High Dams (Tbilisi, Georgia) / Centre Européen sur les Risques Géodynamiques liés aux Grands Barrages (Tbilisi, Géorgie)

Tamaz CHELIDZE, Director, European Centre on Geodynamical Risks of High Dams, Institute of Geophysics, M.Nodia Institute of Geophysics, 1, Alexidze str.0193, Tbilisi, Georgia
Tel.+995.32.33.28.67 - 995 77 79 07 45 Fax. +995 32 33.28.67
e-mail: tamaz.chelidze@gmail.com

Germany/Allemagne

The Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC), Friburg (Germany) / Le Centre mondial de surveillance des incendies (GFMC)Fribourg, Allemagne

Johann G. GOLDAMMER
The Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC). Fire Ecology Research Group, Max Planck Institute for Chemistry c/o Freiburg University, Georges-Koehler-Allee 75 D - 79110 Freiburg
Tel:+49-761-808011 - Fax:+49-761-808012. e-mail: johann.goldammer@fire.uni-freiburg.de
Website: <http://www.fire.uni-freiburg.de>

Italy / Italie

CUEBC - European University Centre for the Cultural Heritage (Ravello, Italy) / Centre Universitaire Européen pour les Biens Culturels, (Ravello, Italie)

Ferruccio FERRIGNI, Activity Coordinator,
European University Centre for Cultural Heritage CUEBC, Villa Rufolo,I - 84010 RAVELLO (SA).
Tel. +39.089.857 669 / +39 348 4444 741 – Fax. +39.089.85 77 71 - univeur@univeur.org – ferrigni@unina.it

Luxemburg / Luxembourg

ECGS - European Centre for Geodynamics and Seismology (Walferdange, Luxembourg) / Centre Européen de Géodynamique et de Sismologie, (Walferdange, Luxembourg)

Michel FEIDER, Directeur, Président du Conseil d'administration,
19 rue Josy Welter,L – 7256 WALFERDANGE
Tel. +352.33.1487 1 Fax. +352.33.1487 88 michel.feider@secours.etat.lu - <http://www.ecgs.lu>

Adrien OTH, Chercheur

19, rue Josy Welter, L-7256 Walferdange,
Tel: +352 33148735 Fax: +352 33148788 adrien.oth@ecgs.lu -
<http://www.ecgs.lu>

Malta/Malte

ICoD - Euro-Mediterranean Centre on Insular Coastal Dynamics (Malta) /-Centre Européen de la Dynamique Côtière Insulaire (Malte)

Anton MICALLEF, Director,
International Environment Institute, University of Malta, Msida MSD 2080,

Tel/fax . +356.23 40 2013 - +356 9944 5412 e-mail: anton.micallef@um.edu.mt

Louis F. CASSAR, Director
International Environment Institute, University of Malta, Msida MSD 2080,
Email : loui.f.cassar@um.edu.mt - www.um.edu.mt/iei

Morocco /Maroc

CEPRIS - Euro-Mediterranean Centre for the Evaluation and Prevention of Seismic Risk / Centre Euro-Méditerranéen pour l'Evaluation et la Prévention du Risque Sismique (Rabat,)

Azelarab EL MOURAOUAH

Professeur, Coordonnateur (CEPRIS) - Angle avenue Allal El Fassi et avenue des Forces Armées Royales (FAR), Hay Er-Ryad, B. P. 8027 Agdal Nations Unies. Rabat, Maroc

Tel : 212 – (0) 5 37 77 86 74 - Mobile : 212 – (0) 667 06 6441 Fax : 212 (0) 5 37 77 13 34

elmouraouah@cnrst.ma

Moldova

ECMNR - European Centre for Mitigation of Natural Risks / Centre européen pour la Réduction des risques naturels (Chisinau, Moldova)

Anatolie BANTUS, Director , 75, Alba Iulia str, Office 510 MD-2071 CHISINAU

Tel./fax : +373.22 58 15 37 - +373 79698457 a_bantus@yahoo.com

Portugal

CERU - European Centre on Urban Risks, (Lisbon, Portugal) / Centre Européen sur les Risques Urbains (Lisbonne, Portugal)

Luis. A. MENDES VICTOR, Director, Av. Elias Garcia, N° 7, 2° Andar P-1000-146 LISBOA

Tel: + 351 917 507 500 Fax. +351.213 .908 187 e-mail: lavictor@fc.ul.pt

Romania/Roumanie

ECBR - European Centre for Buildings Rehabilitation / Centre Européen pour la Réhabilitation des Bâtiments, Bucharest (Romania)

Emil-Sever GEORGESCU, Director of the European Centre for Buildings' Rehabilitation, The National Institute for Building Research – INCERC, Head of Laboratory for Seismic Risk

Assessment and Actions in Constructions, 266, Pantelimon St.,021652 BUCHAREST

Tel. +4021 255 78 66 Fax. +4021 255 00 62 - ssever@incerc2004.ro

Russian Federation/Fédération de Russie

ECNTRM- European Centre of New Technologies for the Management of Natural and Technological Major Hazards (Moscow, Russian Federation) / Centre Européen des Nouvelles Technologies pour la Gestion des Risques Naturels et Technologiques Majeurs (Moscou, Russie)

Sergei KACHANOV, ECNTRM Deputy Director, Deputy Chief of EMERCOM of Russia Science Institute ,

121 MOSCOW, Davidkovskaya str. 7 . Tel: +7 495 443 83 84 - Fax: +7 495 443 83 15

e-mail: vnigochs@vnigochs.ru - n-tanya@yandex.ru - <http://www.ampe.ru>

Tatyana NAUMOVA, Head of Section, All-Russian Scientific and Research Institute for the Problems of Civil Defense, EMERCOM of Russia 121 MOSCOW, Davidkovskaya str. 7 . Tel: +7 495 443 83 84 - Fax: +7 495 443 83 15

e-mail: n-tanya@yandex.ru - <http://www.ampe.ru>

San Marino / Saint Marin

CEMEC - European Centre for Disaster Medicine (San-Marino) / Centre Européen pour la Médecine des Catastrophes, (Saint-Marin)

Giuseppe DERMO, Cemec Ospedale di Stato 47031 San Marin.

Tel. .+378. 99.45.35 - 994600 - Fax. +378.90.37.06

email : cemec@iss.sm - gdermo@yahoo.it

Turkey/Turquie***AFEM - European Natural Disaster Training Centre (Ankara, Turkey)/Centre Européen de Formation sur les Risques Naturels, (Ankara, Turquie)***

Nehir VAROL, Director

Office of PM. Disaster and Emergency Presidency, Eskişehir Yolu, 06800 Lodumlu, Ankara, Turkey

Tel: +90-312-285 52 71 / 1338 / Fax: +90-312 285 9845

e-mail: nehir.varol@gmail.com; nehirvarol@bayindirlik.gov.tr***Ukraine******TESEC - European Centre of Technological Safety, (Kiev, Ukraine) / Centre Européen de Sécurité Technologique, TESEC, (Kiev, Ukraine)***

Viktor POYARKOV Executive Director,

P.O.B.#13., Kyiv-110, Ukraine, 03110

Tel.+380 50 312 40 24 - +380 44 332 5905 Fax.+ (+380 44) 2708590

e-mail: poyarkov@i.kiev.ua ; viktor.poyarkov@gmail.comWEB site: www.tesec-int.org**EXPERTS**

Jean Mathias GOERENS, Président de la Sous-Commission « Audit »,

15 rue Follereau, L-1529 Luxembourg. tel : +352 621 260 452 Fax : +352 27 04 85 68

email : jmg@pt.lu

Michel VIGNEAUX, Président de la Sous-Commission « Programme »,

Président Fer (fédération européenne des réseaux scientifiques et techniques de coordination

Résidence Saint Genès 1 rue Bondes F-33000 Bordeaux

Tel +33.5.56.75.24 25 - 06 86 86 52 62 - Fax. +33.5.56.75.24.25 e-mail : vigneaux.fer@wanadoo.fr**CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE /COUNCIL OF EUROPE Strasbourg****Secrétariat Exécutif de l'Accord EUR-OPA Risques Majeurs / Executive Secretariat of the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement**

Eladio FERNANDEZ-GALIANO, Secrétaire Exécutif / Executive Secretary

Tel +33.3.88.41.2259 Fax. +33.3.88.41.2787 E-mail : eladio.fernandez-galiano@coe.int

Francesc PLA , Adjoint au Secrétaire Exécutif / Deputy to the Executive Secretary

Tel. +33.3.90.21.4930 Fax. +33.3.88.41.2787

e-mail : francesc.pla@coe.intLinda ROLLIN Tel. +33.3.88.41.2937 ; Fax. +33.3.88.41.2787 ; email : linda.rollin@coe.intCaroline SIEBECKE, Tel. +33.3.88.41.3522 ; Fax. +33.3.88.41.2787 email : caroline.siebecke@coe.int**INTERPRETES**

Paul Belopolsky

belopolsky.paul@gmail.com

Tatiana Bodrova

tgogenmos@noos.fr

Jan Krotki

jan.krotki@gmail.com

Irène Markowicz

imark@club-internet.fr

Ludovic Martin

ludovicmartin@netscape.net; ludovic.lumartin@gmail.com

Nelly Sideris:

n.sideris@aiic.net

APOLOGISED FOR ABSENCE/EXCUSES***Bulgaria******NTC - National training Centre***

Gloria STOYANOVA, Junior expert, International co-operation, NATO and EU Department

International Activities Directorate, Ministry of Emergency Situations

6, Sveta Nedelya Square, 1040 Sofia, Bulgaria

Tel. +359 2 9401 431 / Fax. +359 2 9898 952

E-mail: g.stoyanova@mes.government.bg

Greece/Grèce***ECPFE - European Centre on Prevention and Forecasting of Earthquakes (Athens, Greece) / Centre******Européen pour la Prévention et la Prévision des Tremblements de Terre (Athènes, Grèce)***

Linda PELLI, Director of Earthquake Planning Division of EPPO (*Earthquake Planning and Protection Organisation*), Deputy Director of ECPFE

32 Xanthou Str., N. Psychiko, GR-15451 ATHENS.

Tel. +30.210 .672 28000 int 163 - +30-6932654032 - Fax. +30-210 6 779 561 e-mail: lpeli@oasp.gr

ECFF - European Centre on Forest Fires / Centre europeen sur les Feux de Forêts

Mr Milt STATHEROPOULOS

9 Iroon Polytechniou St. GR- 15773 ATHENS

Tel. +30.210.7 723 109 Fax :+30 210 7 723 188 e-mail stathero@chemeng.ntua.gr