

COUNCIL  
OF EUROPE



CONSEIL  
DE L'EUROPE

AP/CAT (87) 11

Open Partial Agreement  
on the prevention of, protection against, and organisation  
of relief in major natural and technological disasters

## 1st Ministerial Meeting

(Athens, 22 and 23 September 1987)

## Conclusions

Strasbourg 23 September 1987

AP/CAT (87) 11

CONCLUSIONS

of

the first Ministerial meeting of the Open Partial  
Agreement on the prevention of, protection against,  
and organisation of relief in major natural and  
technological disasters (1)

ATHENS, 22 and 23 September 1987

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(1) See list of participants in Appendix 1.

## I. GREEK POLICY IN PREVENTION OF, PROTECTION AGAINST, AND ORGANISATION OF RELIEF IN MAJOR NATURAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL DISASTERS

During their visit to the 1986 earthquake site in Kalamata, Mr Philippopoulos, Minister without portfolio for the Kalamata disaster, and the Director General of the Earthquake Planning and Protection Organisation (EPPO), presented the civil defence policy implemented during and in the aftermath of the disaster. Mr E Kouloubis, the Minister of the Environment and Public Works, and Mr Sbokos, the Director General of the EPPO, gave statements on Greek policy in defence, organisation of relief, and reconstruction.

Participants congratulated the Greek authorities on the implementation of their policy in organisation of relief, consolidation and reconstruction of housing and the setting up of installations required for sustaining the social and economic life of Kalamata. They considered that the Kalamata disaster showed that the main effort in a major catastrophe should be directed at the following points:

1. preventing panic and facilitating initial action by residents in the first few hours after an earthquake by means of a citizen information and training policy
2. optimising the planning of government action and subsequent international aid
3. guaranteeing uninterrupted aid for the areas affected by major earthquakes.

In response to a proposal made during the session, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe declared that he was prepared, if the Greek authorities so requested, to provide technical assistance under the present Council of Europe programme for the purpose of drawing up a restoration plan for the Church of the Holy Apostles (AGHII APOSTOLI) which had been seriously damaged in the 1986 earthquake in Kalamata.

## II. REQUEST TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OPEN PARTIAL AGREEMENT

Participants welcomed the request to participate in the work of the Open Partial Agreement presented by the Commission of the European Communities in the letter sent by Mr Emile NOEL to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe (see Appendix 2), indicating that:

"for the purposes of closer co-ordination between the work of the Council of Europe and that of the European Communities in this field, I have the honour formally to present the request that the said Communities as represented by the Commission, be invited to participate in the work of the Council of Europe Co-operation Group for the prevention of, protection against, and organisation of relief in major natural and technological disasters, set up by the Open Partial Agreement adopted in Resolution (87) 2 of 20 March 1987".



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

#### III.1.A Preparation and organisation of ministerial meetings

The principle behind the organisation of meetings at ministerial level was reiterated: they were to be held every two years, and more often if circumstances dictated.

At the invitation of the French authorities an exceptional ministerial meeting of the Open Partial Agreement will be held in Grenoble in 1988 on the occasion of the major disaster simulation exercise in the Isère.

At the invitation of the Maltese authorities, the following ministerial meeting will be held in 1989 in Malta.

#### III.1.B Appointment of Permanent Correspondents and organisation of their meetings

It was agreed that in compliance with Resolution (87) 2, meetings of Permanent Correspondents would be held twice in each interval between the ministerial meetings.

All delegations should notify the Secretariat General of the Council of Europe of any appointments of Permanent Correspondents before 15 October 1987 (see list of present appointments in Appendix 3).

At the invitation of the representatives of Luxembourg and Turkey, the first meeting of Permanent Correspondents will be held in Luxembourg and the next in Ankara.

#### III.2.A Information on the major disaster simulation exercise in the Isère

In October 1988, the French authorities will be organising an exercise entitled "Isère 88", simulating the consequences of an 8 or 9 MSK intensity earthquake.

The purpose of the exercise is simply to test the reactions of the various services and the immediate organisation of relief, in the light of lessons learnt from operations carried out during real or simulated disasters, and also in view of the provisions of the French law of 22 July 1987 relating to the organisation of civilian security.

This exercise, to be executed in the Isère department along the Savoy border, will be prepared by a working party operating under the Prefect of the South Eastern Defence Area (constituting a new level in the organisation of relief resources). The group will be assisted by a committee of experts and will ensure that consideration is given in the exercise to the twofold necessity of unified command at operational level and co-ordination within the defence area; this is the only way to provide the swiftest possible relief for victims of a major disaster.

The French authorities are planning an information meeting on this exercise to take place before the end of 1987, providing further details for the representatives of EEC member states and states party of the Open Partial Agreement which France has already arranged to invite to the exercise in October 1988.

They will thus have an opportunity to see the simulation exercise at first hand and participate in the ensuing analysis and evaluation session.

On this occasion the various technologies which are used and usable will be reviewed.

The exercise will be closely followed by the meeting of Ministers of the Open Partial Agreement of the Council of Europe.

### III.2.B Research and training activities carried out by the specialised European centres

Participants approved the activity programmes presented by the network of specialised European centres:

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

Participants approved the proposal for establishing a general alert system for major earthquakes (of a magnitude equal to or over 6 on the Richter Scale, to be confirmed by experts), based at the European Mediterranean Seismological Centre in Strasbourg, which will send "real-time" information to the Secretariat of the Council of Europe. The latter will then immediately pass the information on to the Permanent Correspondents of the Open Partial Agreement and the organisations appointed by the states party to the Open Partial Agreement.

Participants instructed the Secretary General of the Council of Europe to collaborate with the competent international organisations in the drafting of a catalogue of existing aid programmes and systems for major disasters.

## IV. EXAMINATION OF THE 1988 DRAFT BUDGET FOR THE OPEN PARTIAL AGREEMENT

Participants approved the draft budget which had been prepared on the basis of the approved activities for 1988 (AP/CAT (87) 10). They agreed to communicate this information to the competent authorities in each of their countries to enable the Committee of Ministers' Deputies of the Council of Europe to adopt the budget (states which are party to the Open Partial Agreement).



They approved the Secretary General's proposal to transfer, if appropriate, the balance of the 1987-88 appropriations for the purpose of assisting the personnel of the European Centre at Ravello.

V. CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES AND THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE ON THE BASIS OF COMMUNITY CO-OPERATION IN CIVIL DEFENCE (25 MAY 1985) AND OF THE OPEN PARTIAL AGREEMENT OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE ON THE PREVENTION OF, PROTECTION AGAINST, AND ORGANISATION OF RELIEF IN MAJOR NATURAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL DISASTERS

Participants welcomed the request to participate in the work of the Co-operation Group set up by Resolution (87) 2, sent by the Secretary General of the Commission of the European Communities to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe. They instructed the Secretary General to establish contact with the Commission to examine the impact of such participation on the Open Partial Agreement's operations and programmes.

VI. RELATIONSHIP AND CO-OPERATION WITH THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION (WHO)

Participants noted with great interest the WHO's proposals to co-operate with the Council of Europe in the context of the Open Partial Agreement and particularly in the field of training:

1. Training with, among others, the CEMEC (San Marino) on the following themes:
  - participation of local communities
  - information systems
  - psychological and social effects of disasters on both victims and relief teams
2. Participation by other centres working in the framework of the Open Partial Agreement in the WHO's European Activities Programme
3. Participation by other centres in the national programmes developed conjointly by the member countries and the WHO.

VII. DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next ministerial meeting of the Open Partial Agreement will be held in Grenoble on the occasion of the simulation exercise in October 1988, at the invitation of the French authorities.

VIII. Participants expressed their gratitude to the Greek authorities for the extremely smooth organisation of the ministerial conference.

A N N E X E 1

REUNION DES MINISTRES DE L'ACCORD PARTIEL OUVERT EN MATIERE  
DE PREVENTION, PROTECTION ET ORGANISATION DES SECOURS CONTRE  
LES RISQUES NATURELS ET TECHNOLOGIQUES MAJEURS

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

21 - 23 Septembre 1987 - ATHENES

LISTE PROVISOIRE DES PARTICIPANTS  
PROVISIONAL LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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chargé de l'environnement, 45, avenue Georges Mandel,  
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- M. Alain GEHIN, sous-directeur des moyens opérationnels, adjoint  
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Grèce / Greece

- M. Evangelos KOULOUBIS, Minister for the Environment, Physical Planning  
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- M.A. PHILIPPOPOULOS, ministre (sans portefeuille) pour les affaires de  
Kalamata, Vassileos Konstantinou 44, CP 11635 ATHENES
- M. N. SARANDIS, Secrétaire général du ministère des Travaux publics  
Haz. Trikoupi 182, Gr. 1078 ATHENES

M. A. PANDAZIS, Secrétaire général, Ministère de l'environnement,  
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M. J. SBOKOS, General Director Earthquake Planning and Protection  
Organisation (EPP0) Mesogion 226, Holargos, 15561 ATHENES

M. DIAMANTOPOULOS, ambassadeur, représentant permanent de la Grèce auprès  
du Conseil de l'Europe

Italie / Italy

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Luxembourg

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Malte / Malta

Dr. U. MIFSUD BONNICI, Minister of Education and Environment

M. G. DE MARCO, Assistant Secretary at the Ministry of Education  
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M. I. ABELA, Private Secretary of the Minister of Education and  
Environment

M. Joe ELLIS, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Portugal

M. Joao DA CUNHA MATOS, ambassadeur du Portugal à Athènes, Ambassade  
du Portugal à Athènes

M. Alfonso SOLAS NICOLAU, vice-président du Service national de protection  
civile, Rua de Belia Vista Lapa, 57 P 1200 LISBOA

Saint Marin / San Marino

M. Alvaro SELVA, ministre de la protection civile, président du Centre  
européen pour la médecine des catastrophes (CEMEC) SAN MARINO

M. Dieter THOMAS, ambassadeur, vice-président du CEMEC, coordinateur des  
relations internationales, SAN MARINO



Dr. Giancarlo GHIRONZI, Secrétaire général du CEMEC, SAN MARINO

Dr. Daniela ROTONDARO, secrétaire du CEMEC

Turquie : Turkey

M. Vilmaç GÖRER, Special Advisor to the Minister of Public Works and Settlement, ANKARA

M. Oktay ERGUNAY, directeur général de la recherche et des applications techniques en matière de tremblements de terre, ANKARA

M. S. YURTOĞLU, Ambassade de Turquie à Athènes

Centre universitaire européen pour les Biens culturels de Ravello  
European University Centre for the Cultural Heritage of Ravello

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OBSERVATEUR / OBSERVER

Bureau régional pour l'Europe de l'Organisation mondiale de la santé (OMS)  
Regional Office for Europe of the World Health Organisation (WHO)

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OBSERVATEURS POUR LA REUNION / OBSERVERS FOR THE MEETING

Autriche / Austria

M. Helmuth STRASSER, ambassadeur extraordinaire et plénipotentiaire de l'Autriche en Grèce, Ambassade d'Autriche, 26, Léoforos Alexandras, Gr - ATHENES 148

Chypre / Cyprus

M. Andreas DAVERONAS, Ministry of Interior, Cy - NICOSIA

Agence spatiale européenne / European Space Agency

Mme K. BARBANCE, chef du service des Relations internationales, Agence spatiale européenne, 8 - 10, rue Mario Nikis, F 75738 PARIS Cedex 15

Commission des Communautés européennes /  
Commission of the European Communities

M. Fulvio PAOLINI, Chef de Service, Secrétariat Général, Chargé de la Coordination en matière de protection civile, Commission des Communautés Européennes 200, rue de la Loi, B 1049 BRUXELLES

République fédérale d'Allemagne / Federal Republic of Germany

Dr. Rainer FUCHS, attaché social, ambassade de la République fédérale  
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M. Jean-Pierre MASSUE, chef de la Division de l'enseignement supérieur  
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Mme Mireille PAULUS-LEVY, administrateur au Cabinet du Secrétaire Général

Mme Sylvette PFISTER, Assistante

Secrétariat de la Grèce : Secretariat for Greece

Mme Lana HANTZIANDREOU, Earthquake Planning and Protection  
Organisation (E P P O)

Mme Chrissa ZACHARIA E P P O

Mme Ritsa SYMPHERI E P P O

M. Costas IOANNIDES E P P O

Mme Sandra NOULA, Ministry for Environment, Physical Planning and  
Public Works

A P P E N D I X 2

Brussels, 18 September 1987

SG (87) D/11262

Sir,

At the 25th May 1987 meeting of the Council and the representatives of member state governments, meeting within the Council, relating to implementation of Community co-operation in civil defence, the decision was made to initiate a series of actions in this field. Please find appended a copy of the Ministerial Resolution adopted on this occasion.

During my last meeting with the Ministers' Deputies of the Council of Europe on 23 June 1987, the civil defence dossier was mentioned as one of the possible fields of action for co-operation with the Council of Europe, in view of the interest shown and the initiatives undertaken by the Community and its member states in this connection.

For the purposes of closer co-ordination between the work of the Council of Europe and that of the European Communities in this field, I have the honour formally to present the request that the said Communities as represented by the Commission, be invited to participate in the work of the Council of Europe Co-operation Group for the prevention of, protection against, and organisation of relief in major natural and technological disasters, set up by the Open Partial Agreement adopted in Resolution (87) 2 of 20 March 1987.

Yours faithfully,

E. NOEL  
Secretary General

For the attention of: Mr M OREJA  
Secretary General of the  
Council of Europe



A P P E N D I X 3

List of current Permanent Correspondents

Portugal	J Alfonso S NICOLAU, Vice-President of the National Civil Defence Service (Serviço Nacional de Protecção Civil)
France	Mr PROUST, Director of Civil Security, Ministry of the Interior  Mr Th CHAMBOLLE, Director for Pollution Prevention, attached to major disasters, Ministry of the Environment
Italy	Mr Paolo TARONY, Consigliere diplomatico del Ministro per la Protezione civile (Diplomatic Counsellor of the Ministry of Civil Defence)
Luxembourg	Mr Jean-Mathias GOERENS, Government Advisor, Ministry of the Interior
San Marino	Dr Giancarlo GHIRONZI, Secretary General of the CEMEC
Turkey	Mr Yilmaz GURER, Special Advisor to the Minister of Public Works and Settlement
EEC	Mr F PAOLINI, Head of Department in the Secretariat General responsible for co-ordination in civil defence.