

COUNCIL
OF EUROPE



CONSEIL
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Strasbourg, 22 July 1991

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

3rd Ministerial Meeting

Ankara, 9-10 July 1991

Open Partial Agreement on the Prevention of, Protection against and
Organisation of Relief in the event of Major Natural and
Technological Disasters (OPA)

IIIrd Ministerial Meeting

Ankara, 9-10 July 1991

The IIIrd Conference of Ministers of the Council of Europe's Open Partial Agreement on the prevention of, protection against and organisation of relief in the event of major natural and technological disasters took place in Ankara, 9-10 July 1991. (1)

1. The Ministers took note, with interest, of Turkish policy in the field of civil protection and European cooperation programmes being conducted in Turkey.
2. The Ministers congratulated the various European Centres of the Open Partial Agreement on the exhibition held on the occasion of their meeting.
3. The Minister noted with great interest:
 - the creation in Belgium of a European Centre under the Open Partial Agreement to deal with the legislative aspects of disasters, which should be of great legal assistance to Member States and other European Centres under the Agreement;
 - the creation in Aveiro (P) of a European Centre on major industrial disasters, and the holding of an international conference on this subject in Lisbon in 1992.
4. On a proposal by the Greek Minister, the Ministers of the Open Partial Agreement asked that the problem of the control of nuclear installations be put on the agenda of their next Meeting.
5. The Ministers adopted resolutions on the following themes:
 - . Follow-up to the Chernobyl nuclear accident
Unanimously adopted (2) Resolution 1
 - . Protection of coral eco-systems
unanimously adopted Resolution 2
 - . Open Partial Agreement's 1992 Budget
unanimously adopted Resolution 3

(1) see list of participants in Appendix 1

(2) reservation expressed by the Italian delegation concerning the date of the Permanent Correspondents' extraordinary session in November 1991.

2.

- . Evaluation of the European Centres
unanimously adopted Resolution 4

- . European Warning System
unanimously adopted Resolution 5

- . Open Partial Agreement contribution to
the United Nations' International Decade
on Natural Disaster Reduction
unanimously adopted Resolution 6

- . Individual countries' responsibility
in the event of a disaster that has
international repercussions: insurance
concerns
unanimously adopted Resolution 7

- . Forest fires
unanimously adopted Resolution 8

- . The impact of modern optics on the
prevention of and protection against
disasters
unanimously adopted Resolution 9

- . Declaration made by the Ministers of
the Council of Europe's Open Partial
Agreement on Major Disasters
unanimously adopted Declaration

- . In Resolution 10, unanimously adopted, the Ministers
express their sincere gratitude to the Turkish
authorities for their warm welcome and excellent
organisation of this IIIrd Ministerial Meeting of the
Open Partial Agreement.

At the invitation of the Government of San Marino, the Ministers decided to hold their next meeting there, end 1992. At the Belgian Government's invitation, they agreed that the following one would be held in Belgium.

The Press Communique of their IIIrd Meeting (Appendix 2) was adopted.

RESOLUTION 5

EUROPEAN WARNING SYSTEM

The Ministers

considering it advisable to

- encourage concertation among the Member States and International Institutions competent in the matter of major disasters, in order to facilitate exchanges of information on assistance and cooperation to the affected country or countries by their European partners,

- help strengthen Member State participation in the cooperation system of the United Nations' Disaster and Relief Office (UNDRO);

being of the opinion that the objective of the European Warning System presently being developed within the framework of the Council of Europe's Open Partial Agreement on Major Disasters (OPA) is to encourage concertation among States party to the Agreement by organising, as quickly as possible after the disaster, a system of 'teleconferences' to enable States to indicate what relief they intend to or can provide on the basis of needs expressed by the State or States affected;

PROPOSE to make use, for a one-year trial period, of a system of cooperation between UNDRO, the EEC (to be confirmed) and the Council of Europe's Open Partial Agreement, of the OPA's European Warning System to strengthen member States' participation in assistance and cooperation brought by them and the European Institutions to the country or countries affected by a major disaster, particular within the United Nations System coordinated by UNDRO.

As a first stage, the Warning System will operate in case of earthquakes of a magnitude of 6 or more on the Richter Scale (and exceptionally, for other major disasters) in two steps:

- technical information on the earthquake
- concertation among the Member States

Teleconferences will be called in agreement with the country or countries affected by the disaster and a definition of what is needed will be given on the basis of an evaluation provided by UNDRO.

After one year, an evaluation of the results obtained will be made by the OPA, the EEC and UNDRO to decide on any follow-up to this project.

INSTRUCT the Executive Secretary of the Open Partial Agreement to make contact with UNDRO and the EEC to give effect to this trial period, draft a proposal to improve the telecommunication system where necessary and present a report at the next Permanent Correspondents' extraordinary session in November 1991.