

COUNCIL
OF EUROPE



CONSEIL
DE L'EUROPE

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:

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|--|---------------------|
| Follow-up to the Chernobyl nuclear accident Unanimously adopted (2) | <u>Resolution 1</u> |
| Protection of coral eco-systems unanimously adopted | <u>Resolution 2</u> |
| Open Partial Agreement's 1992 Budget unanimously adopted | <u>Resolution 3</u> |

(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 7

RESPONSIBILITY OF STATES IN THE EVENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL
DISASTER: THE PROBLEM OF INSURANCE

The Ministers

Following recent major disasters,

- convinced that a technological disaster can have harmful effects across frontiers

- aware that at present there is no legal framework at the European level for defining the limits of a State's responsibility in the event of a trans-frontier disaster

BELIEVE it would be important to study the possibility of laying the foundations for a draft Convention of the Council of Europe's Open Partial Agreement on this issue.

RESOLVE, in response to the proposal made by the Minister of the Interior of Luxembourg and to information provided by the Italian delegation, to ask the Executive Secretary of the Open Partial Agreement to commission an expert, in liaison with the European Centre in Belgium, to draft a report containing proposals to be submitted at the Permanent Correspondents' extraordinary session in November 1991.