

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)	<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 8

FOREST FIRES

The Ministers

* considering that

- forest fires are of concern to most States party to the Council of Europe's Open Partial Agreement, particularly during the dry seasons
- preventive measures (control, forest maintenance) are indispensable;

convinced that European cooperation and assistance could play an effective role in the event of major forest fires

PROPOSE, at the initiative of Vice Minister KARAMANLIS of Greece, that the possibility be studied of establishing cooperation under the Open Partial Agreement with regard to air transport facilities (Canadair, helicopters) used against forest fires. Such facilities would help States affected by large forest fires by complementing their national means of fighting the fires.

PROPOSE, in particular, step-by-step initiatives aimed at:

1. an inventory of existing resources
2. the establishment of:
 - . an OPA maintenance and pilot training centre,
 - . a policy for the pooling of common aeronautic resources.

INSTRUCT the Executive Secretary of the Open Partial Agreement on major disasters

- to contact all Member States and International Institutions parties to the Agreement to obtain their reactions to this proposal, and
- to present a report at the next Permanent Correspondents' extraordinary session in November 1991.