

Council of Europe
Conseil de l'Europe



**EUR-OPA MAJOR
HAZARDS AGREEMENT**

San Marino. 24 October 1992

AP/CAT (92) 32
Or. fr

**OPEN PARTIAL AGREEMENT ON THE PREVENTION OF
PROTECTION AGAINST, AND ORGANISATION OF RELIEF
IN MAJOR NATURAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL DISASTERS**

IVth MINISTERIAL MEETING

San Marino. 23 - 24 October 1992

CONCLUSIONS

RESOLUTION 3

**DRAFT RESOLUTION (92) 24 SUPPLEMENTARY TO RESOLUTION (87) 2
SETTING UP THE EUR-OPA MAJOR HAZARDS AGREEMENT**

**on the creation of a European Advisory Evaluation Committee
for earthquake prediction**

The representatives on the Committee of Ministers of the member States of the Open Partial Agreement, setting up a co-operation group for the prevention of, protection against, and organisation of relief in major natural and technological disasters¹.

after having consulted the governments of Algeria, Israel, Monaco and Russia as States members of the Open Partial Agreement.

having regard to Resolution (87) 2 setting up a co-operation group for the prevention of, protection against, and organisation of relief in major natural and technological disasters.

considering that the information concerning earthquake prediction can have dramatic repercussions on society if it does not found itself on various ethical consideration which define the relations between Science and Society.

expressing their satisfaction on the adoption by the scientists at the International Conference on earthquake prediction (Strasbourg 15-18 October 1991) of a European Code of ethics concerning earthquake prediction.

convinced that with a view to assist political decision making, an interface mechanism between scientists and the authorities should be set up in order to give to the authorities an enlightened scientific opinion on information concerning earthquake prediction.

considering that the European Advisory Evaluation Committee for earthquake prediction foreseen in the European Code of Ethics adopted by the scientists could, due to its interdisciplinary membership of scientists of high international standing, constitute the desired interface between the political world and the research community with a view to assist political decision making.

convinced that the setting up of such a committee with the task of providing a scientific opinion at the request of the national authorities wishing to obtain such an opinion could facilitate decision making of authorities with respect to preventive measures against earthquake.

having regard to the proposal of the permanent correspondents of the Open Partial Agreement at their meeting of 24-25 March 1992 in Paris.

Resolve to set up, within the framework of the Open Partial Agreement setting up a co-operating group for the prevention of, protection against, and organisation of relief in major natural and technological disasters, a European advisory evaluation committee for earthquake prediction (hereinafter referred to as "the Committee")

¹ Belgium, France, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, San Marino, Spain and Turkey

I. The Committee has the task to provide to the competent authorities which request it, in an interdisciplinary approach, enlightened scientific advice on information concerning earthquake prediction.

The opinion of the Committee can be sought through the Executive Secretariat of the Open Partial Agreement at the request of:

- . national authorities of the Parties**
- . or national evaluation committees**

II. The Committee is composed of a maximum of fifteen scientific personalities appointed by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on its composition limited to the States members of the Partial Agreement, on the proposal of the European Seismological Commission (ESG) and in consultation with the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG), and, where appropriate, other European specialised scientific institutions. The Committee may be assisted by consultants. The members of the Committee may be national of any country.

The appointment of the members of the Committee shall take place within six months from the adoption of this Resolution

III. The renewable terms of office of the members of the Committee shall be of a maximum of six years. However the term of office of half of the members designated in the first appointment, to be chosen by lot, shall be three years

IV. The Committee shall adopt its Rules of Procedures

V. The Secretariat of the Committee shall be provided by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, through the executive secretariat of the Open Partial Agreement. The Secretariat may be assisted by advisers from the specialised centres of the Open Partial Agreement in close cooperation with the European Seismological Commission.

VI. The Committee's basic running cost will be covered by a limited budget from the Agreement. The Party requesting the advice of the European advisory evaluation committee, will support together with other interested parties, the expenses linked with the requested services.

VII. The international organisations participating in the activities of the Open Partial Agreement may attend the meetings of the Committee as observers.

ANNEXE I / APPENDIX I**Liste des Participants / List of Participants****ALGERIE / ALGERIA**

Monsieur Zougari DEGILALI
Directeur, Ministère de l'Intérieur,
ALGER

Monsieur A. DEBABECHE, Sous-Directeur au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères,
ALGER

BELGIQUE / BELGIUM

Monsieur VERMEULEN, Officier de liaison, Cabinet du Ministre de l'Intérieur,
Ministère de l'Intérieur, Rue Royale 60,
B - 1000 BRUXELLES
Tél. (32) 2.504.85.11 Fax (32)2.504.85.00

FRANCE

Monsieur E. DYEYRE, Directeur de Cabinet du Directeur de la Sécurité Civile,
Ministère de l'Intérieur et de la Sécurité Publique, Direction de la Sécurité Civile,
Relations Internationales, 1, Place Beauvau, F - 75008 PARIS
Tél. (33) 1.40.81.32.00 Fax (33) 1.40.81.33.27

Monsieur Ch. WEBER, Correspondant Permanent, Délégué Adjoint aux Risques Majeurs, Ministère de
l'Environnement, 14, Bd du Général Leclerc, F - 92524 NEUILLY SUR SEINE
Tél. (33) 1.40.81.32.00 Fax (33) 1.40.81.33.27

GREECE / GREECE

M. PANAYOTOPOULOS, Director General, Ministry for the Environment,
land use and Public Works,
182C, Trikoupi Str, GR - 10178 ATHENS
Tél. (30) 1.64.60.666 - 64.69.644 - 64.22.392 Fax (30) 1.64.27.520

Mr. S. ANAGNOSTOPOULOS, Correspondant Permanent, Earthquake Planning and Protection
Organisation, EPPO, Ministry of Public Works, 226 Messogion St., GR - 155 61
CHOLARGOS / ATHENS
Tél. (30) 1.653.35.64 / 652.14.54 Fax (30) 1.651.98.99

Mr. I. SIOTIS, Président du Conseil, Directeur du Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique
"Demokratos", Paraskevi Attiki, P.O. Box 60228, GR - 153 10 ATHENS
Tél. (30) 1.651.30.21 Fax (30) 1.651.05.94

Dr. G. KOUNDOURIS, Directeur, Earthquake Planning and Protection Organisation, EPPO, Directeur
Scientifique du ECPFE, Ministry of Public Works, 226 Messogion St., GR - 155 61
CHOLARGOS / ATHENS
Tél. (30) 1.652.86.14 Fax (30) 1.651.98.99

**Mme. I. HATZIANDREOU, Directeur Administratif, Centre Européen pour la prévention et la prévision des tremblements de terre (ECPFE), 226 Messogion St.,
GR - 155 61 CHOUGARGOS / ATHENS
Tél. (30)1.652.86.14 fax (30)1.651.98.99**

ITALIE / ITALY

**Monsieur S. CANAVESIO, Correspondant Permanent, Ministro Plenipotenziario, Consigliere Diplomatico, Ministro per la Protezione Civile, Via Ulpiano, 11, I - 00193 ROMA
Tél (39)6.68.20.290 / 68.20.495**

LUXEMBOURG

**Monsieur J. SPAUTZ, Ministre de l'Intérieur, 19 rue Beaumont,
L - LUXEMBOURG
Tél (356) 47.94.441 fax (352)47.94.335**

**Monsieur J.-M. GOERENS, Correspondant Permanent, 1er Conseiller du Gouvernement, Ministère de l'Intérieur,
19, rue Beaumont, LUXEMBOURG
Tél (352)478.46.17 fax (352)478.46.66**

**Monsieur J. FLICK, Directeur du Centre européen de géodynamique et de sismologie,
Directeur, Administration communale de la Ville de Luxembourg, 51 Bld Royal,
L - 2449 LUXEMBOURG
Tél (352)47.96.28.31 fax (352) 45.89.40 / 46.37.49**

MALTE / MALTA

**Dr. I. GALEA, Minister of Home Affairs and Social Development, Casa Leone,
SANTA VENERE, VALLETTA
Tél (356)485.100 to 105 fax (356)44.35.95**

**Mr. I AGIUS, Permanent Correspondent, International Office of the University of Malta,
Tal-Qroqq, MSIDA
Tél. (356)332.055 fax (356)336.4560**

**Mr. F. MIFSUD, Secretary, Ministry for Home Affairs and Social Development,
"Casa leoni" 476, St. Joseph High Road, Sta. Venera HMR 18
Tél. (356) 485100-5 fax (356) 443595**

**Mr. A. MICALIEF, Director, Euro-Mediterranean Centre on Marine Contamination Hazards,
Foundation for International Studies, St. Paul Street, VALLETTA
Tél. (356) 240 746 / 234 121 fax. (356) 230 551**

PRINCIPALTE DE MONACO / PRINCIPALTY OF MONACO

**S.E.M. G.G. SOLAMITO, Délégué Permanent auprès des Organismes Internationaux,
16 Bld de Suisse, MC - 98030 MONACO CEDEX
Tél. (33) 93.30.33.71 fax (33) 93.30.24.74**

Monsieur E. FRANZI, Correspondant Permanent, Délégué Permanent Adjoint auprès des Organismes Internationaux.

16 Bd de Suisse, MC - 98030 MONACO CEDEX

Tél. (33) 93.30.33.71 Fax (33) 93.30.24.74

Monsieur F. DOUMENGE, Secrétaire Général, Institut Océanographique, Musée Océanographique, Avenue Saint-Martin, MC - 98000 MONACO

Tél. (33) 93.15.36.00 Fax (33) 93.50.52.97

PORTUGAL

Monsieur J.A.S. NICOLAU, Correspondant Permanent, Vice-Président du Service National de Protection Civile.

Serviço Nacional de Protecção Civil, Rua da Bela Vista à lapa 57.

P - 1200 LISBON

Tél. (351) 1.52.22.02 Fax (351) 1.52.18.09

REPUBLIQUE DE SAINT MARIN / REPUBUC OF SAN MARINO

Monsieur R. GHIOTTI.

Ministre de la Santé et de la Sécurité Sociale.

SAN MARINO

Tél (39)549.99.44.38 - 99.42.45 Fax (39)549.90.67

Monsieur A.L. VOLPINARI.

Ministre de l'Intérieur et de la Protection Civile.

SAN MARINO

Monsieur P.N. MULARONI

Ministre de l'Environnement.

SAN MARINO

Madame D. ROTONDARO, Correspondant Permanent, Centre Européen pour la Médecine des Catastrophes (CEMEC).

Hôpital d'Etat, SAN MARINO

Tél. (39) 549.99.45.37 / 549.99.45.35 Fax (39) 549.90.37.06 / 90.39.67

Monsieur G. GALASSI, Secrétaire Général du Centre Européen pour la Médecine des Catastrophes (CEMEC), Hôpital d'Etat, SAN MARINO

Tél. (39) 549.99.45.35 Fax (39) 549.90.37.06

ESPAGNE / SPAIN

Monsieur J.P. LAHORE LACOSTE-PEDELABORDE, Technical Counsellor for International Affairs.

Dirección General de Protección Civil, calle Evaristo San Miguel 8-2, E - 28008 MADRID

Tél. (34) 1. 547.07.10 Fax (34) 1. 547.50.82 / 559.78.31

TURQUIE / TURKEY**Mr. E.A. YILDIRIM.****Deputy Under Secretary, Minister of Public Works and Settlement, Bakanliklar Cad 1.****TR - 06430 ANKARA****Tél (90) 4.425.12.80 Fax (90) 4.418.04.06****Mr. O. ERGUNAY, General Director, General Directorate of Disaster Affairs, Ministry of Public Works and Settlement, Necatibey Cad 63, TR - 06430 ANKARA****Tél. (90) 4.287.89.45 - 46 Fax. (90) 4.287.89.24****Mrs. H. IIGEN, Director, European Training Centre for Natural Disasters (AFEM), Ministry of Public Works and Settlement, Necatibey Cad 63, TR - 06430 ANKARA****Tél. (90) 4.229.88.40 Fax (90) 4.230.74.22****RUSSIE / RUSSIA****Mr. Y. VOROBIEV, Permanent Correspondent, First Deputy Chairman, State Committee of the Russian Federation for Civil Defence Affairs, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters.****St. Teatralny Proezd 3, 103012 MOSCOW****Tél. (7) 095.924.43.75 Fax. (7) 095.975.23.63****Mr. D. LOBANOV, Expert, State Committee of the Russian Federation for Civil Defence Affairs, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters.****St. Teatralny Proezd 3, 103012 MOSCOW****Tél. (7) 095.924.84.10 Fax (7) 095.975.23.63****ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONALES / INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS****Commission des Communautés Européennes : Commission of the European Communities****Monsieur F. PAOLINI, Correspondant Permanent.****Président du Groupe interservices "Aides d'Urgence".****Secrétariat Général de la Commission des Communautés Européennes.****Bureau Brey 6/322, 45 avenue d'Auderghem.****B - 1049 BRUXELLES****Tél. (32) 2. 235.16.92 / 235.90.14 Fax (32) 2. 236.59.60****Monsieur J.P. VAN DER STRAETEN, expert****Melle Mirella RACIC, assistante****UNESCO****Monsieur M. VIGNEAUX, Correspondant Permanent, Département des Relations Internationales.****UNESCO, 7, Place Fontenoy, 75007 PARIS****Tél. (33) 1.45.68.18.21 - 44 Fax (33) 1.45.67.16.90**

OBSERVATEURS / OBSERVERS

Suisse / Switzerland

**Monsieur Felix HUGGEL, Project Coordinator, Observer of the Swiss Disaster Relief Unit, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Eigerstrasse 71, CH - 3003 BERNE
Tél. (41) 31.61.31.65 Fax. (41) 31.45.83.34**

Schweizerischer Erdbebendienst / Institut für Geophysik

**Mr. D. MAYER ROSA,
Schweizerischer Erdbebendienst,
Institut für Geophysik,
ETH-Hönggerberg,
CH - 8093 ZURICH**

Tél. (41) 1.3772627 3772605 Fax (41)1.3711864

EXPERTS

**Monsieur J. BONNIN, Coordonnateur de la Coopération Internationale, Centre Européen sur les Risques Géo et Morphodynamiques, CSEM, 5 rue René Descartes, F - 67084 STRASBOURG CEDEX
Tél. (33) 88.41.63.81 Fax (33) 88.60.04.01**

CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE / COUNCIL OF EUROPE

**ACCORD EUR-OPA RISQUES MAJEURS / EUR-OPA MAJOR HAZARDS AGREEMENT
B.P. 431 R6
F - 67006 STRASBOURG CEDEX**

Tél. (33) 88.41.26.14 / 26.15 / 26.16 Fax. (33) 88.41.27.87

**Monsieur J.-P. MASSUE
Secrétaire Exécutif de l'Accord EUR-OPA Risques Majeurs /
Executive Secretary of the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement**

Madame S. PFISTER

Madame N. FENEON

APPENDIX 2

PROBLEM OF SECURITY IN NUCLEAR PLANTS IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Esteemed colleagues,

The Chernobyl nuclear disaster in April 1986 as well as the one in the Three Mile Island nuclear plant caused a profound crisis of confidence in the nuclear energetics. These events have shown how vital it is to underline that the security of nuclear plants is the main problem which determines the very existence and further development of the nuclear energetics. The next disaster of this kind in the life of the present or forthcoming generations, wherever it may happen, will mean the end of the "nuclear age" of our civilization.

According to the assessments by independent experts, the losses for the national economy of Russian Federation due to the delay in construction of new nuclear plants reach 60 billion dollars annually, starting from the year 1989.

Immediately after the Chernobyl catastrophe, measures were elaborated to compensate and remove the principle defects in design and construction of reactors of all kinds which exist in the ex-USSR.

For information: In the Russian Federation there are 12 VVER (PWR type) and 11 RBMK (Chernobyl type) acting reactors.

The above mentioned measures primarily provide for the improvement of neutro-physical and thermo-physical characteristics of the reactor devices including RBMK reactors in order to ensure nuclear safety. They include the following:

1. Change of nuclear fuel for the one containing 2.4 per cent of Uranium-235 instead of 1.8 per cent in order to lower steam reactivity coefficient.
2. Use of high density fuel.
3. Improvement of correlation of fuel, graphite and water.
4. Developing of the shape of control and protection rods in order to exclude introduction of positive reactivity in initial phase of protection's action due to the displacement of water column.
5. Inculcation of means of technical control of the automatic protection's speed efficiency with regards to real position of rods and energy division of neutron field. This item consists of:
 - elaboration and inculcation of a system of quick emergency protection as well as of a system of metal and pipe-lines' diagnostics;
 - modernization of control and protection systems to enhance its efficiency and quick operation;
 - improvement of counter-seismic tenacity of the equipment and developing of seismic warning systems;
 - lowering of inflammability by using non-inflammable materials;

- revision and improvement of operation manuals in order to provide higher level of culture of security.

The major part of these technical measures has been implemented in the nuclear plants of Russia.

Much attention is paid to the improvement of the relevant legislation.

The Supreme Soviet (Parliament) of Russia is preparing the following laws:

- On the state policy in dealing with radio-active waste.
- On the application of atomic energy.

The system of supervision and technical norms that are in force in the Russian Federation embrace all major problems pertaining to the safety of nuclear plants.

The comparison of Russian regulations for nuclear plants' design and employment thereof with the foreign ones does not show any considerable differences. Nevertheless their application still needs thorough supervision.

For this reason the Government of the Russian Federation has adopted a special decree on setting up of the Russian System of Disaster Management in April 1992. Under this decree the general control and coordination of disaster mitigation and relief activities of all the state organs is assigned to the State Committee of the Russian Federation for Civil Defence, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters (EMERCOM).

A component of this system is constituted by a special sub-system of nuclear safety. Within the framework of this sub-system the Rules for the urgent assistance to nuclear plants in case of radiation-dangerous situations was prepared at the initiative of the Russian Ministry for Atomic Industry and the EMERCOM of Russia and adopted in July 1992. These Rules regulate the methods of cooperation of the Russian bodies of state control, responsible for the security and protection of population in emergencies.

The creation of such a system within the international project "Guarant" has been in process in Russia since 1990. This project provides for the setting up of national systems of security, which would constitute the international system of nuclear safety.

According to the project there will be a created and automated system of analysis and control of the nuclear plant's logistics centers, nuclear emergency center as well as an international center for mathematical simulation for verification of programmes.

The results of conversion of Russian military-industrial complex are also to be used for the implementation of this project, including space communication means.

We attach a major importance to studying foreign experience in organization of security control systems for the safe use of nuclear plants. We will accept with gratitude the offers for cooperation, especially in the setting up of a mathematical simulation center, whose tasks would include the coordination of activities with international and national organizations of foreign countries.

We consider the creation of international institutions for coordination as well as the implementation of mechanisms for cooperation within the Commonwealth of Independent States and our participation in the international projects and programmes to be the most important ways to guarantee the safety of nuclear plants.

We think it would be useful to arrange a meeting of the experts of the EUR-OPA member states for the elaboration of a practical programme for cooperation.

APPENDIX 3**Statement by M. F. PAOLINI**

I would like to recall you the conclusions of the Lisbon Council (27 June 1992) in which for nuclear safety:

The European Council notes the considerable effort undertaken in the framework of the PHARE programme for Central and Eastern Europe as well as in the Technical assistance programme for the CIS to improve the safety of nuclear power plants of Soviet design.

The European Council considers that, in addition to the bilateral contributions under the coordination of the G 24, the setting up of a multilateral mechanism would be desirable to take action that will not be covered by bilateral measures; it invites the other G 7 partners to respond positively to this initiative.

Given the urgency of this problem, the European Council asks the Commission to increase further the amounts foreseen for this purpose in both programmes.

As far as the "upgrading" of these nuclear power stations is concerned, the European Council requests the Council to consider the possibility of extending the EURATOM loans to investments for this purpose.

On the basis of the Memorandum of Understanding negotiated with the Soviet authorities, which was signed in December 1991, the TACIS programme of technical assistance to the former Soviet Union provides for expenditure on nuclear safety totalling ECU 54.5 million (14% of the total budget for 1991), divided between measures designed to improve the operational safety of nuclear power stations (ECU 40 million) and measures aimed at strengthening the regulatory authorities (ECU 14.5 million). Funds of at least this magnitude are provided for under the 1992 budget; they could amount to as much as ECU 100 million, so discussions will have to take place with the recipient countries and their other priorities will have to be considered.

Most of the projects included in the programme are generic - they cover all existing nuclear reactors presently operating in the former Soviet Union. The choice for a generic approach is, amongst others, based on the practical considerations such as the fact that the reactor designs - the WWER (pressurised water reactor) and the RBMK (light water graphite moderated reactor).

Consequently the community programme is concerning:

1. Operational safety of WWER 440/230 reactors
2. Operational safety of RBMK reactors
3. Operational safety of all other reactor types
4. Training
5. Support for Regulatory Authorities and improvement of public information.

**EUROPEAN COMMUNITY HUMANITARIAN OFFICE (ECHO)
Rm 226, Hotel i, Zagreb, Croatia
Tel/fax: (041) 615 867**

INFORMATION MEMO

Subject:Community humanitarian aid for the populations affected by the conflict in the former Yugoslavia

With the approach of winter, the situation of the refugees and displaced persons in the former Yugoslavia is becoming increasingly dramatic. To date, over 2.000.000 people have had to flee their homes, not including the hundreds of thousands of others who are caught in the fighting and/or have been cut off from vital sources of supplies.

To help these populations, the European Community has set up a vast emergency aid programme headed by the "European Community Humanitarian Office" (ECHO), whose Task force in Zagreb is implementing a programme of direct action.

* *

Recapitulation of the European Community's humanitarian aid contributions for the populations of the former Yugoslavia:

Since the outbreak of the fighting, the European Community has been present on the territory of the former Yugoslavia, and has actively participated in the humanitarian aid efforts in two ways:

Firstly, in the context of the Community's contribution to the UNHCR humanitarian aid plan for the populations of the former Yugoslavia, the Commission of the European Communities is financing a large number of indirect actions, both by funding a major part of the UN and ICRC programmes (up to 70-75 %) and by co-operating with different humanitarian organisations (Red Cross, NGOs, etc), the aim being to supply various essential products (food, medicines, medical equipment, etc).

Since the start of July 1992, the Commission of the European Communities has thus conducted a huge programme of emergency aid for the victims of the fighting, for a sum totalling over 200 million ECU. These funds have been used in the following operations:

- **A "roadlift" comprising 4.640 lorries which have transported around 92.800 tonnes of relief supplies;**
- **logistical assistance for the UNHCR in local distribution activities;**
- **Participation, at a level of over 80 % of the supplies transported, in the airlift from Zagreb to Sarajevo, with the aid of aircraft from the Member States and other donors;**
- **The dispatch and distribution on the territory of the former Yugoslavia of over 470.000 family aid parcels and the implementation of medical programmes;**

Secondly, with the aid of ECHO and the Task Force set up in Zagreb, the Commission of the European Communities has undertaken a vast programme of direct aid.

* *

Recapitulation regarding the creation and objectives of ECHO:

The European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO) was set up following a meeting of the Commission on 6 November 1991, with effect from 1 March 1992, as an operational and management body responsible for organising humanitarian aid programmes for the populations of any non-member countries affected by natural disasters or exceptional events which demand rapid responses and/or the implementation of accelerated procedures.

In addition, it contributes to improving co-ordination between Member States and international relief organisations, and also draws greater attention to European aid measures.

The responsibilities assigned to the Office are as follows:

- Humanitarian aid for populations in non-member countries:
- Emergency food supplies for non-member countries:
- Mobilisation of relief and materials/equipment.

Contact: Commission of the European Communities
European Community Humanitarian Office (Brussels)
Mr Gerard MOLINIER, Head of Division

Tel: 02/2993245 Fax: 02/2992877

* *

The ECHO Task Force - Zagreb

The ECHO Task Force, which has been in Zagreb for several months, has set up a logistics base in the Croatian capital. This enables it to deal with storage, distribution and monitoring until the Community supplies needed to meet the basic needs of the populations reach their final destinations.

The Task Force's first direct-action project ("pilot project"), which was based on a programme agreed by the Commission on 31 July 1992, involved the distribution in Croatia of 100,000 family aid parcels for refugees or displaced persons living with host families. The parcels were distributed through a programme drawn up by the Task Force in liaison with the humanitarian unit of the EC monitoring mission (ECMM), which determined requirements in the field.

Following the success of this first programme, the Task Force is now launching a new, large-scale, direct-action project, which will run until the end of the winter: in a period of only three months, it aims to dispatch and organise the distribution of over 40,000 tonnes of food supplies (flour, dried skimmed milk with added vitamins, pasta, tinned meat, potatoes, apples, etc) for refugees and displaced persons in Croatia. In addition, the Task Force has warehouses, staff and independent logistics support capable of handling any donations from private or public bodies in the European Community.

I should like to take the opportunity offered by this Ministerial Meeting of the Council of Europe Open Partial Agreement to appeal to member countries and non-member countries of the Community to send any donations to the following address:

**Commission of the European Communities
Mr Fulvio Paolini
Representative of European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO)
Hotel "I". Remetinecka 106
41000 Zagreb, Croatia**

Tel: 38/41 65.00.87 - 61.58.67 fax: 38/41 61.58.67

APPENDIX 4**Press release****Nuclear disasters and earthquakes
Prevention and relief****Council of Europe EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement
IVth Ministerial Meeting, San Marino**

The IVth Ministerial Meeting of the Council of Europe EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement was held in San Marino under the chairmanship of Mr R Ghiotti, Minister of Health and Social Security of the Republic of San Marino.

During the discussions on the safety of nuclear plants, Mr S K Shoygu, the Russian Minister for Civil Defence, indicated that the Russian Federation currently had 12 VVER pressurised-water reactors (PWR) and 11 RBMK (light-water, graphite-moderated) Chernobyl-type reactors in operation. After the Chernobyl catastrophe, a number of measures had been taken to improve the safety of the reactors, in particular, the Chernobyl-type plants. These included:

- Use of high-density fuel
- Improvement of the correlation between fuel, graphite and water
- Development of monitoring and protection systems for control rods, in particular using automatic systems.

Minister Shoygu stressed the importance he attached to the immediate implementation of the Agreement's Chernobyl Programme, particularly with a view to conducting statistically representative tests regarding the increased incidence of thyroid cancer noted in children.

As regards follow-up to the United Nations Rio de Janeiro Conference, the Ministers agreed to give practical support to the proposal of HSH Prince Rainier of Monaco to set up an independent liaison bureau to monitor the implementation of the various conventions covering the Mediterranean and Black Seas, through the participation in this project of the EUR-OPA Agreement's European Oceanological Observatory. It was also agreed that a conference on the comparative analysis of European states' national legislation on major disasters should be held in Belgium.

In a declaration, the Ministers called for more stringent application and control of earthquake-resistant building standards.

Aware of the problems posed by information concerning the prediction of natural disasters and, in particular, earthquakes, the Ministers approved the creation of a European Advisory Evaluation Committee to advise governments on scientific opinion regarding earthquake prediction.

The Ministers took note of the appeal for solidarity launched by the European Community representative, who, with the approach of winter, called for the member States of the Council of Europe EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement to send humanitarian aid to the populations of the former Yugoslavia through the ECHO Zagreb Office.