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

RESOLUTIONS

adopted at the 8th Ministerial meeting of the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement

**Athens-Vougliameni, Greece
21-22 February 2000**

Strasbourg, 10 March 2000

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

RESOLUTION

**adopted¹ at the 8th Ministerial meeting of the
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**Athens-Vougliameni, Greece
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- Resolution on the network of specialised Centres of the Agreement: a new policy

¹ with Italy abstaining

**THE NETWORK OF SPECIALISED CENTRES OF THE AGREEMENT:
A NEW POLICY**

RESOLUTION

The Ministers:

1. Recalling that in the framework of the Moscow Charter adopted at the 5th Ministerial meeting of the Agreement on 1 and 2 October 1993 in Moscow, the Ministers decided:
 - to use the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement of the Council of Europe as a suitable platform for co-operation between Eastern Europe, the South of the Mediterranean and Western Europe in the field of major natural and technological disasters;
 - that co-operation between the member countries of the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement shall cover scientific research activities and the training of specialists in the field of risk sciences, to be conducted by the European Centres of the Agreement and training establishments, as well as practical interaction in emergency situations using new technologies and the results of military conversion processes;
 - that the activities of the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement shall be organised in keeping with this political resolve and, in particular, in such a way as to avoid any overlap with the work of other international organisations;
 - to instruct the Executive Secretariat to implement a plan of action, in particular concerning the management of emergency situations and training in the field of risk sciences;
2. Welcoming the significant contributions made by the Euro-Mediterranean network of Centres to the specific programmes of the Agreement, in particular:
 - EDRIM (Electronic discussion group for risk management)
 - STRIM (The use of space technology to assist risk management)
 - FORM-OSE (European programme on training in the field of risk sciences);
3. Taking into account the fundamental objectives of the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement as defined in Resolution (87) 2 and after having examined the results of the audits carried out by the Audit Sub-Committee and the evaluation by the Programme Sub-Committee of the preparation of

the various Associate Centres of the Agreement from an administrative, technical and scientific point of view, and on proposal of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents;

4. **The Ministers decide** to grant the label of « European » or « Euro-Mediterranean » Centre to the following Associate Centres :

- ECILS - Associate European Centre for the Vulnerability of Industrial Installations and Infrastructures, (Skopje, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), *“European Centre”*
- CEPRIS - Associate Euro-Mediterranean Centre for Evaluation and Prevention of Seismic Risk (Rabat, Morocco) *“Euro-Mediterranean Centre”*
- GHHD - Associate European Centre on Geodynamical Risks of High Dams (Tbilisi, Georgia) *“European Centre”*
- ECTR - Associate European Interregional Educational Centre for Training Rescuers (Yerevan, Armenia) *“European Centre”*
- Associate European Centre on Training and Information of Local and Regional Authorities and Population in the Field of Natural and Technological Disasters (Baku, Azerbaijan), *“European Centre”*
- TESEC - Associate European Centre of Technological Safety, (Kiev, Ukraine), *“European Centre”*
- CRSTRA - Associate Euro-Mediterranean Centre for Arid Zones (Ksar Chellala, Algeria), *“Euro-Mediterranean Centre”*
- CERU - Associate European Centre for Urban Risks, (Lisbon, Portugal), *“European Centre”*
- CSLT - Associate European Centre for School Level Training on Risk Prevention (Sofia, Bulgaria), *“European Centre”*

5. Welcoming the fact that the Euro-Mediterranean network of Specialised Centres of the Agreement (see appendix 1, list of the Centres), has reached a level of maturity based on a strictly controlled budgetary and technical administrative functioning;

Request the Committee of Permanent Correspondents to continue its policy of rigour based on:

- at budgetary level, an annual financial control by the Council of Europe and by the Audit Sub-Committee
- at administrative and technical levels, regular audits organised by the Audit Sub-Committee

as well as on the new policy of budgetary support from the Agreement based on the subsidies granted according to the programmes proposed and their correspondence with the priorities of the Agreement (see Appendix 2, Budget 2000 of the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement).

6. **Instruct** the Executive Secretary to inform the European and International Institutions about the potentiality of the contributions which the Euro-

Mediterranean network of Specialised Centres of the Agreement may make towards co-operation in the field of risk management.