



Saint Petersburg, 28 September 2010

**EUROPEAN AND MEDITERRANEAN
MAJOR HAZARDS AGREEMENT (EUR-OPA)**

Resolution 2010 – 1 of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents “Working together in Europe and the Mediterranean for the Prevention of Disasters, Preparedness and Response: Priorities for Action”,

adopted at the 12th Ministerial Session of the European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA), Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation, 28 September 2010

The Ministers,

- A. Warmly thank the government of the Russian Federation for the excellent preparation and hosting of the 12th Ministerial Session of the European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA).
- B. Express their concern for the increase in the effects of disasters having occurred in Europe and the Mediterranean since they last met in Marrakech in October 2006 and extend their sincere condolences and sympathy to the communities affected by those disasters.
- C. Note that many of those disasters are linked to extreme weather conditions, coastal hazards and forest fires, threats which are all likely to increase with climate change.
- D. Welcome the accession of the Republic of Serbia to the European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement and hope other States may accede in the coming years.
- E. Welcome the Memorandum of Cooperation signed between the Council of Europe (European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement, EUR-OPA) and the Secretariat of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN-ISDR) in April 2008 and note its successful implementation since its signature.
- F. Welcome the establishment in December 2009 of a European Forum on Disaster Risk Reduction grouping European National Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction and Hyogo Framework of Action Focal Points and its close cooperation with the EUR-OPA Agreement.
- G. Take note with interest of the summary report on the implementation of the Medium Term Plan adopted at the last Ministerial Session held in Marrakech in October 2006 and express their satisfaction for the way in which it has been steered by the Committee of Permanent Correspondents, supported as appropriate by the Executive Secretariat of the EUR-OPA Agreement.

RESOLVE to:

1. continue promoting that disaster risk reduction – including prevention, preparedness and efficient response to emergencies – becomes a political priority at all levels of government and that international negotiations recognise the need to prepare societies to the challenges of increased risk from climate change and other phenomena;
2. invite European and Mediterranean States which are not part of the Partial Agreement to join this co-operation structure so as to create coherent European and Mediterranean synergy;
3. support an increased collaboration with the European Union, the United Nations and other appropriate organisations and fora concerned with disaster reduction and relief;
4. adopt the Medium Term Plan 2011-2015 (document AP/CAT 2010 05 rev.) of the European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA) as guidelines for priority action in this field over the next five years;
5. instruct the Committee of Permanent Correspondents of the Agreement to follow the implementation of the Medium Term Plan, adapting it as required to new circumstances and making proposals and recommendations to improve its effectiveness;
6. instruct the network of twenty-six Euro-Mediterranean Specialised Centres of the Agreement to support, in their respective spheres of competence, the implementation of the priorities set in the Medium Term Plan, working in a cross-sectoral manner, pooling their expertise in the accomplishment of sound, coordinated programmes.

Furthermore REQUEST

The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to support as appropriate the implementation of the Medium Term Plan 2011-2015 of the European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA) and to encourage the member States of the Council of Europe which are not party to the Partial Agreement to consider joining this intergovernmental co-operation framework.