

**EURO-MEDITERRANEAN MAJOR
HAZARDS AGREEMENT (EUR-OPA)**



COUNCIL CONSEIL
OF EUROPE DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 17 March 2006

AP/CAT (2006) 27
Or. Fr.

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

**MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT
CORRESPONDENTS OF THE EUR-OPA MAJOR HAZARDS AGREEMENT**

Council of Europe Office, Paris, France

10 March 2006

CONCLUSIONS

The meeting of the Bureau of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents of the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement was held in Paris, at the Council of Europe Office, on 10 March 2006 (the participants are listed in Appendix 1).

Summary of discussions and decisions:

1. Mrs Chafil (Morocco), in the Chair, welcomed the new Bureau member, Mrs Gaspar (Portugal), and welcomed the attendance of Mrs Battaini-Dragoni, Director General of DGIV, and Professor Vigneaux, in his capacity of chair of the Programme Sub-Committee, at this important meeting where the future of the Agreement would be discussed.
2. The Bureau adopted the agenda (document AP/CAT (2006) OJ 3).
3. The Secretariat reported on the conclusions of the meeting of the Directors of Centres on 2 and 3 February 2006 where the activities planned for 2006 and future contributions to implementation of the next Medium Term Plan 2007-2011 had been discussed. The Bureau took note of the information provided and expressed the wish that the Secretariat present more information to the Committee of Permanent Correspondents on the work of the Centres in order to make more of their activities.
 - 3.1 The participants agreed that it was important to concentrate on transnational projects around a specific theme. The Secretariat said that it was this synergy that had been aimed for at the Directors' meeting by encouraging the setting up of "work circles" bringing together various centres around common topics. In this connection, the participants stressed the value of the Centres as national focal points for developing work on future risk-related topics, as proposed by the Secretariat for future work on early warnings.
 - 3.2 The institutional relationship between Centres and Permanent Correspondents was discussed at length and it was concluded that the Permanent Correspondents should be provided with more information on the Centres' activities to permit adequate prior consultation between the two bodies. Given the disparity of situations in the different member countries in this respect, the concrete forms of their relationship would be discussed in greater detail at the Permanent Correspondents' next meeting, on 6 and 7 April 2006.
 - 3.3 The proposal to include the local Permanent Correspondent as a member of the new board of administration of each Centre would be discussed at that meeting. The participants further proposed that further thematic sessions be organised within the Permanent Correspondents' plenary meetings to consolidate the increased communication between the Agreement's bodies. Along similar lines, they thought it important and desirable that centre representatives participate in the Ministerial Session, in a form remaining to be determined.
4. The proposal for the Agreement's written contribution for the Third Conference on Early Warning was briefly discussed and a deadline of one week was set to send comments to the Secretariat. The Secretariat said that the non-scientific part of the

conference had been only recently agreed upon and no oral presentation would be possible: there was provision for only brief discussion at the end of the sessions. It was nevertheless agreed that the Chair, who would represent the Agreement at the Conference, would make a brief statement outlining the Agreement's future activity where early warning was concerned. The Secretariat would contact the organisers to establish what form the statement would take.

5. The Bureau debated the draft Medium Term Plan 2007-2011 and the running of the forthcoming Ministerial Session which would have to ratify it.
 - 5.1 The Chair confirmed that her government had agreed to host the Ministerial Session in Marrakech on 30 and 31 October 2006, with day one devoted to a preparatory meeting of the Permanent Correspondents, and the actual Ministerial Session taking place on day two. Concerning the provisional programme prepared by the Secretariat, there should be more time spent on debate and less time on presentations. The Secretariat would revise the second day's programme in the light of these new guidelines and send the revised version to the Bureau members for approval prior to its presentation at the plenary meeting.
 - 5.2 Following in-depth discussion of the content of the draft Medium Term Plan, the Secretariat was instructed to make some changes to its form before sending it to all the Permanent Correspondents, while changes to its substance would be discussed at the next plenary meeting. The participants emphasised the importance of the preamble in illustrating a new phase in the life of the Agreement (taking into account its previous work, the Hyogo Framework for Action and the priorities for the Council of Europe set at the Warsaw Summit). The definitive version of the Plan, and the three related recommendations (still in preparation), should be adopted at the plenary meeting of the Permanent Correspondents on 26 and 27 June 2006.
 - 5.3 To make the Ministerial Session more attractive, they agreed to give it a title with broad appeal (to be specified before the plenary meeting) and prepare a document aimed at the general public outlining the Agreement's main past activities as well as the thrust of future initiatives pursued in connection with the Medium Term Plan 2007-2011. It would also be made clear where these activities stood in relation to those of the other international organisations, such as the ISDR and the European Union.

APPENDIX 1**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS****MOROCCO (Chair of the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement)**

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