



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

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Seminar on the interministerial management of major hazards

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Council of Europe Office

55, Avenue Kléber, 75784 PARIS Cedex 16

## **Comparative analysis of the interministerial management of major hazards**

The comparative analysis of the interministerial management of major hazards takes as its starting point the fact that there is often a lack of co-ordination or integrated approach among the four components of risk management (risk identification, prevention, preparation, crisis management, recovery and incorporation of the lessons learned): ministries at national level in centralised countries and those at federal and regional level in decentralised countries have tended to be anchored in a vertical approach to risk management, with each authority concerned managing its own specific responsibilities within its field of competence.

Local authorities, which have to apply all the regulations adopted at higher levels, are left to cope with any lack of consistency in measures and are obliged to try and piece them together in order to adopt a global approach to the risk.

States therefore need to establish a co-ordinating structure at national level to bring about a global policy for the management of major hazards. Four examples have been identified so far and are presented in the Analysis with studies of interministerial management in four countries: Belgium, France, Russia and Bulgaria<sup>1</sup>.

### **Objectives of the seminar**

Representatives from Belgium, Bulgaria, France and Russia will give a presentation of the main points of the interministerial management system in their respective countries and will discuss possible improvements in the light of the recommendations set out in the enclosed working document.

The other participants will then be invited to supplement the analysis and its recommendations with their own experience of interministerial management, highlighting existing best practice and their priorities vis-à-vis the recommendations referred to above.

All this should lead us towards a global approach to risk management, designed to simplify the task falling to local authorities of combining all the different measures. The crucial role played by local authorities in the management of major hazards will be illustrated by a presentation on the Moroccan experience following the Al Hoceima earthquake.

Please note that the Institute of Emergency Planning will in its future activities be focusing attention on the role of local authorities in the management of major hazards. To begin with, it will extract all the relevant information contained in its previous analyses. Then, with the assistance of the Moroccan authorities, it will carry out a legal and organisational analysis of the situations in Belgium and Morocco.

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<sup>1</sup> Commissioned by the Institute of Emergency Planning, and drafted by Kathleen Van Heuverswyn, a legal expert. Doc. AP/CAT(2005)30. You should already have received this document from the Secretariat. You may also download it from the following address: <http://crisis.ibz.be/apcat.htm>, using the password "erisk2005" in order to open the zip-file.