

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



Marrakech, 21 November 2006

AP/CAT (2006) 50  
Or. English

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

**MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT  
CORRESPONDENTS**

**Hotel Kenzi Farah, MARRAKECH, Morocco**

**Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> October 2006**

**CONCLUSIONS**

## **1. OPENING BY THE CHAIR AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

*AP/CAT (2006) OJ 7 rev.3*

The meeting of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents was held on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2006 at the Hotel Kenzi Farah, Marrakech, Morocco. The Chair, Mrs. Rajae CHAFIL (Morocco), opened the meeting and welcomed participants (see the list in Appendix 1). She noted the progress of the Agreement since the last Ministerial Session.

The draft agenda was adopted as it figures in Appendix 2 to this document.

## **2. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR, DELEGATIONS AND EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

*AP/CAT (2006) 38*

- **Forest fires in Spain during July and August 2006**

The Under-Secretary of the Interior of Spain, Mr. Justo ZAMBRANA PINEDA, explained in detail the events and circumstances relating to the forest fires having affected North West Spain in summer 2006.

The Committee took note of the information presented and recalled its invitation to the European Commission to make a presentation at a forthcoming meeting on the European Civil Protection Mechanisms, with a view to possible future co-operation with the Agreement.

- **Pollution in the Eastern Mediterranean (Lebanon)**

The representative of Lebanon, Mr. Alexandre SURSOCK, made a presentation on the oil spill in the Eastern Mediterranean following the dramatic events in summer 2006. The oil discharged (approximately 7000 tons from the tanks of a power station) had caused major pollution in the region. The impact of the conflict and the pollution on tourism and the economy has been devastating.

The Committee conveyed its sympathy towards the victims of the conflict and its concern for the dramatic consequences on the people, the economy and the environment of the region.

- **The role of Cyprus during the evacuation of Lebanon – lessons learnt**

Mr. Christos KYRIAKIDES, Commissioner of Civil Defence, Cyprus, made a presentation on the role of his State with regard to the evacuation of refugees from Lebanon.

The delegates of Lebanon and the Russian Federation warmly thanked the Government of Cyprus for all the help offered during this crisis.

### **3. MOROCCAN PERSPECTIVES ON EARTHQUAKES**

- **The operational response to the Al-Hoceima earthquake**

Colonel Mohamed BENZIANE of the Moroccan Civil Protection Department made a presentation on the operational response to the Al-Hoceima earthquake. The lessons learnt were that the damage could have been greatly reduced had seismic norms been properly respected, prevention plans better known and implemented and coordination more effective.

The Committee took note with interest of the information presented and acknowledged the efforts made by Morocco since then to improve its civil protection as well as its efforts in the field of planning and legislation.

- **Main activities for the period 1996-2005 of the Euro-Mediterranean Centre for Evaluation and Prevention of Seismic Risk (CEPRIS) Rabat, Morocco**

Mr. Azelarab EL MOURAOUAH, Coordinator of CEPRIS (localised within the National Centre for Scientific and Technical Research), presented the activities of the Centre, one of the 25 specialised Centres of the Agreement.

The Committee took note of the information presented and welcomed the fact that CEPRIS collaborates with six other countries from the Mediterranean Basin on its seismic cartography and the related coastal risks.

### **4. PROGRESS OF THE AGREEMENT'S 2006 ACTIVITIES**

#### **4.1. *Audits of Specialised Centres of the Agreement***

European Centre on Insular Coastal Dynamics (ICoD), Valletta, Malta  
*(document AP/CAT (2006) 25)*

Euro-Mediterranean Centre for Information and Communication Technologies applied to Risk Management (CETICA) Draguignan, France  
*(document AP/CAT (2006) 22)*

European Centre for Geodynamics and Seismology (ECGS), Walferdange, Luxembourg  
*(document AP/CAT (2006) 44)*

European Centre for Rehabilitation of Buildings (ECBR), Bucharest, Romania *(document AP/CAT (2006) 45)*

European Centre of New Technologies for the Management of Natural and Technological Major Hazards (ECNTRM), Moscow, Russia  
*(document AP/CAT (2006) 42)*

European Mediterranean Seismological Centre (EMSC), Bruyères-le-Châtel, France

European Centre for Disaster Medicine (CEMEC), San Marino.

Mr. Jean-Mathias GOERENS, Chairman of the Audit Sub-Committee, summarised the audits of the seven specialised Centres visited. He indicated that on the whole they fulfil the financial and scientific requirements. However he questioned the dissemination of their work to the authorities and the population, as well as the potential role of the Permanent Correspondents in this dissemination.

Given the importance of the topic, the Executive Secretariat proposed that a full discussion on the work of the Centres be held at the next session of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents.

The Committee agreed to have such a discussion at its next meeting.

**4.2.        *Thoughts on the European Specialised Centres of the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement***

*AP/CAT (2006) 46*

It was agreed that this report would be presented at the next meeting of the Committee.

**4.3.        *Information on relevant events***

- **Kick-off meeting “Creation of regional capacity and task force for post-disaster damage assessment”, Skopje, 14-15 June 2006**

Mr. Mihail GAREVSKI, Director of the Institute of Earthquake Engineering and Engineering Seismology (IZIIS), Skopje, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, made a short presentation of this project which aims at defining a common methodology for evaluating damages and losses as well as setting up a “task force” to be implemented in the event of a disaster.

The Committee took note of the information presented and welcomed this co-operation between different Centres of the Agreement on a common theme.

- **The interministerial management of major hazards: conclusions of the seminar held in Paris on 28 June 2006 and future work**

Mrs. Monique BERNAERTS, Director of the Higher Institute of Emergency Planning (ISPU), Florival, Belgium, made a short presentation of the progress of this project. Although interministerial management depends on a country’s administrative and legislative structure, ten general recommendations have been able to be identified and the importance of a more thorough study on coordination with the local and regional authorities was stressed.

The Committee expressed interest in the continuation of this project since it would contribute to the implementation of the recommendation on local and regional authorities submitted to the Ministers’ approval.

- **Conference on the Management of Coastal Recreational Resources, Gozo, Malta, 25-27 October 2006**

The Executive Secretariat made a brief oral report of the conference. A written report and specific recommendations on marine related risks will be presented at the next meeting of the Committee.

**5. PRESENTATION OF THE 11<sup>th</sup> MINISTERIAL SESSION OF THE AGREEMENT**

Review of the programme of speakers

*AP/CAT (2006) OJ 2 rev. 8*

Compendium of texts submitted for adoption

*AP/CAT (2006) 47*

*Draft Medium Term Plan 2007-2011 (document AP/CAT (2006) 1 rev.3)*

*Draft Resolution on priorities for action in the European and Mediterranean space (document AP/CAT (2006) 20 rev)*

*Draft Recommendation on disaster risk reduction through education at school (document AP/CAT (2006) 33 rev.)*

*Draft Recommendation on local and regional authorities and disaster prevention (document AP/CAT (2006) 24 rev.2)*

The Committee ultimated details for the Ministerial Session.

**6. SPECIAL INTERVENTIONS FROM PARTNER ORGANISATIONS**

The following organisations made presentations

- Ms. Paola ALBRITO, United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR): Presentation of *Let our Children Teach Us*, report on education and risk reduction
- Mr. Karl-Otto ZENTEL, German Committee for Disaster Reduction (DKKV) within ISDR: *Initiative on European national platforms*
- Mr. Jérôme BEQUIGNON, Programme Coordinator, European Space Agency : *The Global Monitoring for Environment and Security programme (GMES)*
- Ms. Anne LECLERC, IFRC, Regional Office for North Africa: *Building safer communities*
- Mr. E. VASILIEV, Secretary General Assistant , ICDO: *Activities carried out under the Framework Convention on Civil Defence Assistance*

The Committee underlined the interest of the interventions made and warmly thanked all partner organisations for their very positive input to the work of the Agreement.

**7. EXAMINATION OF THE AGREEMENT'S 2007 DRAFT BUDGET**

*AP/CAT (2006) 48*

The Executive Secretariat presented the main features of the Agreement's budget for 2007. Such a programme of activities and budget are in phase with the main priorities of the new Medium Term Plan 2007-2011 to be adopted at the Ministerial Session.

The Committee instructed the Bureau to follow the implementation of the 2007 programme of activities.

**8. ELECTION OF THE CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT CORRESPONDENTS**

Mrs. Rajae CHAFIL (Morocco) was elected Chair. Mr. Gyula BARA (Romania), Vice-Chair and Mr. Vladimir KAKUSHA (Russian Federation), Vice Chair.

**9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Executive Secretariat informed the Committee that, following the II International Congress “Education and Training on Disaster Prevention” held in Madrid, Spain (26-28 September 2006), it was preparing a European-scale seminar to be held (perhaps in Cyprus) in 2007, to promote the draft recommendation on this topic to be possibly adopted at the Ministerial Session and to launch a number of European initiatives.

The Committee supported this initiative and encouraged proposals to develop education to disaster risk prevention.

**10. DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents will be held in Strasbourg in spring 2007. The date will be fixed by the Bureau at its next meeting.

## APPENDIX 1

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## APPENDIX 2

### DRAFT AGENDA

**9:00 – 9:30      Registration of participants**

**9:30 – 10:00**

**1.      Opening by the Chair and adoption of the agenda**

*document: AP/CAT (2006) OJ 7 rev.3 draft agenda*

**10:00 – 10:45**

**2.      Communications from the Chair, Delegations and Executive Secretary**

*document: AP/CAT (2006) 38 Conclusions of the last Committee meeting in Paris,  
26-27 June 2006*

- ***Forest fires in Spain during July and August 2006***

Presentation by Mr. Justo ZAMBRANA PINEDA, Under-Secretary of the Interior, Spain

- ***Pollution in the Eastern Mediterranean (Lebanon)***

Presentation by Mr. Alexandre SURSOCK, Permanent Correspondent, Lebanon

- ***The role of Cyprus during the evacuation of Lebanon – lessons learnt***

Presentation by Mr. Christos KYRIAKIDES, Commissioner of Civil Defence, Cyprus

**10:45 – 11:00      Break**

**11:00 – 13:00**

**3.      Moroccan perspectives on earthquakes**

***The operational response to the Al-Hoceima earthquake***

Presentation by Colonel Mohamed BENZIANE, Directorate of Civil Protection, Ministry of the Interior, Morocco

***Main activities for the period 1996-2005 of the Euro-Mediterranean Centre for Evaluation and Prevention of Seismic Risk (CEPRIS), Rabat, Morocco***

Presentation by Mr. Azelarab EL MOURAOUAH, Coordinator of CEPRIS (localised within the National Centre for Scientific and Technical Research)

**4.      Progress of the Agreement's 2006 activities**

**4.1.      Audits of Specialised Centres of the Agreement**

Presentation by Mr. J.-M. GOERENS, Chair of the Audit Sub-Committee

European Centre on Insular Coastal Dynamics (ICoD), Valletta, Malta

*(document AP/CAT (2006) 25)*

Euro-Mediterranean Centre for Information and Communication Technologies applied to Risk Management (CETICA) Draguignan, France *(document AP/CAT (2006) 22)*

European Centre for Geodynamics and Seismology (ECGS), Walferdange, Luxembourg  
*(document AP/CAT (2006) 44)*

European Centre for Rehabilitation of Buildings (ECBR), Bucharest, Romania  
*(document AP/CAT (2006) 45)*

European Centre of New Technologies for the Management of Natural and Technological Major Hazards (ECNTRM), Moscow, Russia (*document AP/CAT (2006) 42*)  
 European Mediterranean Seismological Centre (EMSC), Bruyères-le-Châtel, France  
 European Centre for Disaster Medicine (CEMEC), San Marino

- 4.2     *Thoughts on the European Specialised Centres of the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement***  
*document AP/CAT (2006) 46*
- 4.3     *Information on relevant events***
- **Kick-off meeting “Creation of regional capacity and task force for post-disaster damage assessment”, Skopje, 14-15 June 2006**  
     Presentation by Mr. Mihail GAREVSKI, Director of the Institute of Earthquake Engineering and Engineering Seismology (IZIIS), Skopje, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
  - **Interministerial management of major hazards: conclusions of the seminar held in Paris on 28 June 2006 and future work**  
     Presentation by Mrs. Monique BERNAERTS, Director of the Higher Institute of Emergency Planning (ISPU), Florival, Belgium
  - **Conference on the Management of Coastal Recreational Resources, Gozo, Malta, 25-27 October 2006**

**13:00 – 14:00                  Lunch**

**14:00 – 15:00**

**5.     Presentation of the 11<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Session of the Agreement**

Review of the programme of speakers  
*document AP/CAT (2006) OJ 2 rev.8    Draft agenda*

Compendium of texts submitted for adoption  
*document AP/CAT (2006) 47*

*Draft Medium Term Plan 2007-2011 (document AP/CAT (2006) 1 rev.3)*  
*Draft Resolution on priorities for action in the European and Mediterranean space (document AP/CAT (2006) 20 rev)*  
*Draft Recommendation on disaster risk reduction through education at school (document AP/CAT (2006) 33 rev.)*  
*Draft Recommendation on local and regional authorities and disaster prevention (document AP/CAT (2006) 24 rev.2)*

**15:00 – 16:15**

**6.     Special interventions from partner Organisations**

- Ms. Paola ALBRITO, ISDR: *Presentation of “Let our Children Teach Us”, report on education and risk reduction*
- Mr. Karl-Otto ZENTEL, German Committee for Disaster Reduction (DKKV) within ISDR: *Initiative on European national platforms*
- Mr. Jérôme BEQUIGNON, Programme Coordinator, European Space Agency : *The Global Monitoring for Environment and Security programme (GMES)*
- Ms. Anne LECLERC, IFRC, Regional Office for North Africa:  
*Building safer communities*

- Mr. E. VASILIEV, Secretary General Assistant , ICDO: Activities carried out under the *Framework Convention on Civil Defence Assistance*

**16:15 – 16:30**                  Break

**16:30 – 16:45**

7.       **Examination of the Agreement's draft budget for 2007**  
*document AP/CAT (2006) 48*

**16:45 – 17:15**

8.       **Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee of Permanent Correspondents**

**17:15 – 17:30**

9.       **Any other business**

10.      **Date and place of the next meeting.**

11.      **Adoption of conclusions**

On the evening of 30<sup>th</sup> October, a welcome dinner for participants at the 11<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Session will be offered by the Government of Morocco. Departure by bus at 8.00 p.m. from the Hotel Kenzi Farah.