



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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**PROCIV 4
JAI 12
COHAFA 2**

NOTE

from: Presidency
to: Working Party on Civil Protection
Subject: Programme of the Danish Presidency in the field of Civil Protection

Delegation will find annexed the programme of the Danish Presidency in the field of Civil Protection.

The Working Programme of the Danish EU Presidency for the Council Working Party for Civil Protection (PROCIV)

Danish priorities for a Europe of security and solidarity

In a globalized world, European cooperation is crucial to ensure the security, welfare and interests of its citizens. This applies to everything from food security and combating transnational health threats, the protection against international cross-border criminality and securing of Europe's interests on the global scene. The Danish Presidency will work for a strong, joint effort in all those fields. The safety of the citizens and the international impact of Europe in a globalized world are best maintained through a joint effort and a strong European cooperation.

A safe Europe is also achieved by strengthening the European disaster preparedness. Natural and man-made disasters, such as forest fires, earthquakes, floods and terrorist attacks, constitute an ever-increasing influence on the security and safety of the citizens, and they demand further development of the Union's effort for prevention and handling of disasters. The Danish Presidency will work for a targeted strengthening and improvement of the EU civil protection instruments.

The Danish Presidency working programme regarding justice and home affairs cooperation (JHA) states that the EU in the spirit of solidarity will offer assistance through the Civil Protection Mechanism to countries afflicted by disasters, within Europe as well as outside. Based on the Commission's new proposal for a new legal instrument in the field of civil protection, the Danish Presidency will aim at the greatest possible drive in these negotiations. The Danish Presidency will further work for the strengthening of a systematic accumulation of experience related to disaster efforts in order to target the development of the European disaster response.

The Danish Presidency aims to ensure the continued work on critical infrastructure protection, and to follow up on the recommendations of the EU Action Plan for chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) risks.

In a close cooperation with Member States, the Commission and other relevant actors, the Danish Presidency will work to improve the robustness against natural disasters and for an increased cohesion between emergency assistance, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development in prolonged crises.

At the same time, the Presidency will support the role of the UN as the overall international coordinator of emergency assistance in the event of disasters and crises.

The Danish Presidency wants a discussion on future common challenges and possible ways ahead for international emergency response. The Danish Presidency will work for bringing together the central actors within the framework of the EU, in order to discuss common challenges and joint measures to secure efficient, supportive emergency assistance, when European citizens or countries outside the Union are afflicted by major disasters and crises.

The working programme of the Presidency in the field of civil protection

The Danish Presidency in PROCIV will give special attention to the negotiations on the Commission's proposal for new legislation in the area of civil protection. Furthermore, there will be a follow-up on the EU CBRN action plan and on the Commission's review of the EPCIP directive.

The Commission's proposal for a new Civil Protection Mechanism

In accordance to article 6 of the Lisbon Treaty, the Union has the competence to carry out initiatives to support, coordinate or supplement the initiatives of the member states. With the Lisbon Treaty civil protection is now covered by article 196. E.g. the provision states that the Union may support and supplement initiatives without any kind of harmonization of the legislation and administrative provisions of the member states.

Decisions regarding legal acts in the field of civil protection are made by a qualified majority in the Council and within the ordinary decision procedure with the European Parliament.

The Commission's proposal for a new legal act is expected to be negotiated in the coming year during the changing EU presidencies. The negotiations will proceed simultaneously with the negotiations on the multi-annual financial framework (2014-2020), running to the end of 2013, and should be finalized in relation to this.

The Danish Presidency will work to step up the negotiations on the Commission's proposal for a new legal act in the field of civil protection, including the initial joint dialogue with the European Parliament and the Commission.

The new proposal will replace the two existing acts in this field from 2007: The Council Decision on a Community Civil Protection Mechanism and the Civil Protection Financial Instrument. The Danish Presidency will work for a balanced and sustainable solution, benefiting and respecting the treaty's framework and conditions, while establishing an ambitious cooperation in the field of civil protection within the financial framework.

Following the Commission's presentation in October 2010 of its Communication on a strengthened European disaster response, the Commission has carried out a series of stakeholder meetings, where the member states and other partners have exchanged views on the main elements of the content of the Commission's Communication. Furthermore, an evaluation has been carried out of the two legal acts in the field of civil protection for 2007-2009. Since 2007 the member states have adopted a series of Council conclusions, which should be properly noted in connection with the upcoming negotiations on the new legislation.

The EU CBRN Action Plan

In 2009 the extensive CBRN Action Plan was adopted with 124 recommendations, of which 14 recommendations were key actions. In the Council conclusions of 2009 it is stated that the Commission must present a progress report. The report is expected to be presented in the first half of the Danish Presidency. The Commission will be invited to give a presentation of the results of the report. The Danish Presidency will follow up on this work with the necessary steps.

Review of the directive on the identification and designation of European critical infrastructures and the assessment of the need to improve their protection (EPCIP directive)

In 2008 the directive on the identification and designation of European critical infrastructures and the assessment of the need to improve their protection (EPCIP directive) was adopted by the member states. In 2011 the Commission has initiated the work on a review regarding the member states' experience with the implementation of the directive. The report is expected to be finalized by March 2012. The Danish Presidency will invite the Commission to give a presentation on the report, and will follow up on the report with the necessary steps.

Issues related to civil protection

The Danish presidency intends to support sharing of information between working parties on issues, which are related to civil protection. Therefore, working party chairmen will be invited on ad-hoc basis to present a status on relevant issues. The statements of member states' political positions are assumed to continue in the respective council working parties, concurrently with the coordination of the positions of the member states in their national coordinating systems and procedures.

Civil protection and humanitarian aid have been joined in the DG ECHO, and there is a number of links between the two fields. The chair of Council **working group on humanitarian aid (COHAF)** will be invited to give a briefing on cases regarding humanitarian aid. Among other things, COHAF deals with the establishment of a voluntary humanitarian corps (EVHAC), the follow-up on the midterm evaluation of the Humanitarian Consensus and partner meetings regarding the revision of the regulation on humanitarian aid.

According to the **solidarity clause** (TFEU article 222), the EU must use "all available instruments at its disposal" in order to assist a member state exposed to a terrorist attack or victim of a natural disaster or a man-made disaster. The implementation of the solidarity clause by the Union must be established by a decision made by the Council upon a joint proposal by the Commission and the Union's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. Lately, on 14 December 2011, the Security Policy Committee (PSC) and the Standing Committee for Operative Cooperation on Internal Security (COSI) have discussed the matter. The proposal for the implementation of the solidarity clause is expected to be forwarded at the end of the Danish EU presidency. PROCIV will be informed as needed.

During its presidency term, the Danish EU presidency intends to invite the **UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Aid (UN OCHA)** to give a briefing on the overall tasks of the UN in relation to international coordination in connection with disasters. This should be seen as a follow-up on initiatives made by former presidencies maintaining a close and solid cooperation between the EU and the UN.

Crisis Coordination Arrangements (CCA) was established in 2006 on the basis of negotiations in PROCIV. The general purpose of CCA is to create a political foundation for immediate decision-making and coordination in relation to major incidents or crisis. Since 2009, CCA has undergone a long overhaul in order to achieve greater functionality and applicability. In November 2011 Coreper concluded that CCA in its present form is not the right tool for coordination and handling of crises in the EU, and that the CCA needs to be reviewed. “Friends of the Presidency Group for the CCA review” will therefore continue to meet during 2012 with a view to developing new proposals for crisis coordination at EU level, comprising all relevant actors and tools. PROCIV will be informed as needed.

Arrangements during the Danish EU presidency in the field of civilian protection

As the previous presidencies, a series of activities in the field of civil protection will be carried out during the Danish EU presidency. A few of these activities are briefly described below. In addition to this, please check the calendar in the annex 2 of the working programme.

Apart from the discussions in PROCIV, the Danish presidency wants to promote the work for an efficient and balanced system for a future disaster response. The presidency has selected two activities which will be carried out at the beginning and at the end of the presidency term.

Danish EU workshop on lessons learnt

At the beginning of the presidency term, the Danish presidency will host a workshop on “improving disaster response through lessons learnt”. The workshop will take place 16 - 18 January 2012 in Copenhagen. The output of the workshop is expected to contribute to the further EU cooperation on lessons learnt.

Roundtable Meeting on the future challenges

At the end of the presidency term, the Danish EU presidency intends to host a high level discussion of the common challenges for efficient disaster response. The presidency therefore plans a roundtable meeting in Copenhagen on 11 June 2012 during the afternoon, ahead of the bi-annual Directors General meeting. To this session the general directors of all 31 participating states will be invited, including PROCIV representatives. Danish Minister of Defence Nick Hækkerup is expected to open the discussion on future common challenges and possible ways ahead for international disaster response. Representatives of the EU Commission (ECHO) and the UN Catastrophe Coordination Office (OCHA), among others, will be invited as speakers.

Director Generals meeting in Copenhagen

The Commission's bi-annual meeting of director generals will be held in Copenhagen 11 - 13 June 2012. The Commission will forward invitations and the agenda as usual, and the Danish presidency will offer a social programme.

The Danish Presidency Team – Civil Protection

PROCIV Working Party



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Calendar

JANUARY			FEBRUARY			MARCH		
S	1		W	1	PROCIV - 1	T	1	
M	2		T	2		F	2	
T	3		F	3		S	3	
W	4		S	4		S	4	
T	5		S	5		M	5	
F	6		M	6		T	6	
S	7		T	7		W	7	
S	8		W	8		T	8	JHA, Brussels
M	9		T	9		F	9	JHA, Brussels
T	10		F	10		S	10	
W	11	PROCIV - 0 (half day 14Hrs)	S	11		S	11	
T	12		S	12		M	12	
F	13		M	13		T	13	
S	14		T	14		W	14	CIP POC, Brussels
S	15		W	15		T	15	CIP POC, Brussels
M	16	EU workshop "lessons learnt", CPH	T	16		F	16	CIP POC, Brussels
T	17	EU workshop "lessons learnt", CPH	F	17		S	17	
W	18	EU workshop "lessons learnt", CPH	S	18		S	18	
T	19		S	19		M	19	
F	20		M	20		T	20	CPC meeting, B russels
S	21		T	21		W	21	CPC meeting, B russels
S	22		W	22		T	22	PROCIV - 4
M	23		T	23		F	23	PROCIV - 5
T	24		F	24		S	24	
W	25		S	25		S	25	
T	26	JHA (informal), Copenhagen	S	26		M	26	
F	27	JHA (informal), Copenhagen	M	27		T	27	
S	28		T	28	PROCIV - 2	W	28	
S	29		W	29	PROCIV - 3	T	29	
M	30					F	30	
T	31					S	31	
APRIL			MAY			JUNE		
S	1		T	1		F	1	
M	2		W	2		S	2	
T	3		T	3		S	3	
W	4		F	4		M	4	PROCIV - 8
T	5		S	5		T	5	
F	6		S	6		W	6	
S	7		M	7		T	7	JHA, Luxembourg
S	8		T	8		F	8	JHA, Luxembourg
M	9		W	9		S	9	
T	10		T	10		S	10	
W	11		F	11		M	11	"Round Table Meeting", CPH
T	12		S	12		T	12	DG meeting, Copenhagen
F	13		S	13		W	13	DG meeting, Copenhagen
S	14		M	14		T	14	
S	15		T	15	PROCIV - 7	F	15	
M	16		W	16		S	16	
T	17		T	17		S	17	
W	18		F	18		M	18	
T	19	PROCIV - 6	S	19		T	19	[CPC meeting, Brussels(tbc)]
F	20		S	20		W	20	[CPC meeting, Brussels(tbc)]
S	21		M	21		T	21	
S	22		M	22	[EU-USA meeting CIP, Brussels (tbc)]	F	22	
M	23	[7th CIP Workshop, Ispra (tbc)]	W	23	[EU-USA meeting CIP, Brussels (tbc)]	S	22	
T	24	[7th CIP Workshop, Ispra (tbc)]	T	24		S	24	
W	25		F	25		M	25	PROCIV - 9
T	26	JHA, Luxembourg	S	26		T	26	[CIP POC, Brussels (tbc)]
F	27	JHA, Luxembourg	S	27		W	27	[CIP POC, Brussels (tbc)]
S	28		M	28		T	28	
S	29		T	29		F	29	
M	30		W	30		S	30	
			F	31				

Meetings marked with square brackets need to be confirmed. Changes may occur during the presidency.