



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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"I/A" ITEM NOTE

from: General Secretariat

to: Coreper/Council

No. prev. doc.: 10679/11

Subject: Draft Council conclusions on the development of the external dimension of the European Programme for Critical Infrastructure Protection
- Adoption

1. On 17 May 2011 the Working Party on Civil Protection reached a broad consensus on the draft Council conclusions on the development of the external dimension of the European Programme for Critical Infrastructure Protection, subject to a scrutiny reservation by one delegation. Subsequently, an agreement was reached on the text set out in the Annex.
2. On this basis, the Permanent Representatives Committee is asked to invite the Council to adopt the conclusions set out in the Annex as an "A" item on the agenda.

Draft Council conclusions on the development of the external dimension of the European Programme for Critical Infrastructure Protection

1. **Taking note of** the Council Conclusions of 19-20 April 2007 on a European Programme for Critical Infrastructure Protection¹ recognising the external dimension of critical infrastructure protection and that Union cooperation with third countries must respect the competences of the European Union and the Member States as set out in the Treaties;
2. **Recalling** the Commission Communication of 12 December 2006 on a European Programme for Critical Infrastructure Protection² (EPCIP), which emphasized that threats cannot be seen in a purely national context and that the external dimension of critical infrastructure protection thus needs to be fully taken into account in the implementation of EPCIP;
3. **Welcoming** the European Parliament recommendation of 7 June 2005 on the protection of critical infrastructure in the framework of the fight against terrorism³ addressed to the European Council and the Council to ensure that the EPCIP is an essential element of future developments at continental and world level;
4. **Recalling** its conclusions on enhancing the links between internal and external aspects of counter-terrorism⁴;
5. **Stressing** that international cooperation, with an all-hazards approach to critical infrastructure protection, is an important component in establishing ongoing, dynamic national and international partnerships between critical infrastructure owners/operators and their country's governmental bodies, taking into account that a common understanding of critical infrastructure protection among Member States is essential;

¹ 7743/07.

² 16932/06, COM(2006) 786.

³ OJ C 124E, 25.05.2006, p. 250.

⁴ 10336/11.

6. **Mindful** that the external dimension of the EPCIP is intended to focus on exchanging good practice and on raising critical infrastructure protection capability in relevant third countries/regions, particularly in the sectors of transport and energy, with a view to minimising the risk and negative effects of potential disruptions of foreign critical infrastructure on the Union or on the Member States;

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7. Invites the Commission to:

- a) step up cooperation with relevant third countries, regions and international organisations in order to exchange good practice on critical infrastructure protection in close cooperation with the Member States, in particular as regards strategies, methodologies, research activities, training and methods of identifying global and regional interdependencies;
- b) identify appropriate funding in the available budget to be provided for actions in relevant third countries or for actions inside the Union with a third-country dimension aimed at enhancing capability in the field of critical infrastructure protection, taking account of the assessment of vulnerabilities of critical infrastructures in third countries, identifying ways to improve their security and monitoring the effectiveness of the measures taken, in close cooperation with the Member States;
- c) promote critical infrastructure protection-related research and studies with relevant third countries, in cooperation with the Member States;
- d) present proposals to the Council, where appropriate and according to the provisions of the Treaties, with a view to the Council authorising the opening of discussions with relevant third countries and international organisations on agreements in relation to critical infrastructure protection;
- e) share information and good practice with Member States in the field of critical infrastructure protection;

8. Invites the Member States to:

- a) step up cooperation with relevant third countries in identifying elements of infrastructures located in those countries that might, in case of disruption or destruction, significantly affect Member States and/or their critical infrastructures and initiate bilateral and/or multilateral discussions with those third countries;
- b) inform other potentially affected Member States about these discussions if necessary;
- c) inform the Commission, on a voluntary basis, about these discussions;
- d) identify a point of contact responsible for the external dimension of critical infrastructure protection, which may be their existing EPCIP point of contact;
- e) facilitate the exchange of good practice on critical infrastructure protection related strategies, methodologies and research activities with relevant third countries if sensitive information protection permits;
- f) encourage effective cooperation between public and private stakeholders in relevant third countries and their equivalents in the Member States;
- g) share information and good practice with other Member States and the Commission on developing close cooperation with relevant third countries in the field of critical infrastructure protection;

9. Invites the Commission, in close cooperation with Member States, to inform the Council and the European Parliament each year about progress and developments in this area, respecting the sensitivity of the information provided.