



**COUNCIL OF
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NOTE

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

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

Programme of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the field of Civil Protection 2011

The programme of Polish Presidency is an integrated part of the three-Presidency programme prepared by Poland, Denmark and Cyprus.

Keeping in mind the current development of the areas of freedom, security and justice, the Polish Presidency will focus its efforts on initiatives that are crucial for the implementation of the Stockholm Programme and the EU Internal Security Strategy. The Presidency will work to ensure further development of mechanisms that guarantee the protection of citizens.

Natural and man-made disasters increasingly affect the safety and security of citizens. Those emergencies prompt the Union to develop its activities in the field of disaster management. The Union's crisis management should be based on an integrated approach covering the entire disaster management cycle, which consists of: prevention, preparedness, response and recovery, regarding operations conducted both inside the Union and beyond.

Therefore the Polish Presidency intends to devote special attention to the issue of crisis communication. The most recent emergencies – i.e. those in Libya and Japan - have illustrated the need to react in an efficient and coordinated manner to provide the maximum level of security for citizens. It is our objective to adopt Council Conclusions in order to strengthen the integrated approach to crisis communication.

1. INTEGRATED APPROACH TO MORE EFFECTIVE CRISIS COMMUNICATION

Bearing in mind that crisis communication is one of the biggest challenges in the field of civil protection, the Polish Presidency makes it the priority for the second half of 2011. Draft Council Conclusions will be presented at PROCIV, preceded by a workshop on “An integrated approach to more effective crisis communication” in Warsaw. Crisis communication is understood as the process of interaction between actors at the local, regional, national and international level. Its aim is to ensure citizens’ security and enable them to react swiftly to threats. The additional purpose is to accelerate the decision-making process of public entities. Actions in the area of crisis communication should be taken also before a disaster occurs, to prepare society to react appropriately to all kinds of threats.

The main objective in this area is to create a comprehensive approach for more effective crisis communication at both the national and international levels. This approach should be based on two pillars: technological and social. Detailed objectives in this area are, inter alia:

- 1) to discuss effective crisis communication between public authorities, emergency responders and society, adapted to national capabilities in the field of prevention, early warning, alerts, disaster monitoring;
- 2) to accelerate decision-making by public authorities in order to mitigate the effects of crisis situations;
- 3) to promote research into modern technologies which could be used in crisis communication, in particular by strengthening cooperation with research centres and the private sector;
- 4) to use best practices and field experiences in the communication process with the public in the event of emergencies;
- 5) to act in the field of public awareness and education;
- 6) to improve public safety (with special attention paid to people with disabilities, reduced mental and sensory capacities, the elderly, foreigners, the digitally excluded) and enhance the cooperation of stakeholders at all levels of governance (local, regional, national, international);
- 7) to increase awareness among civil protection and humanitarian aid communities in the field of modern technologies which could be used to support crisis communication.

2. ENHANCING CIVIL PROTECTION IN THE EU

The review process of the European Civil Protection's legal framework, initiated by the Communication from the Commission "Towards a stronger European disaster response: the role of civil protection and humanitarian assistance", will continue during the Polish Presidency, aimed at increasing the effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and visibility of the civil protection policy. The Polish Presidency supports the discussion on the future shape of EU Civil Protection in order to achieve the proper balance between national and EU instruments in the area of prevention, preparedness and response. We emphasize the primary responsibility of Member States in guaranteeing the safety and security of their citizens and welcome the Commission's intention to identify gaps in existing measures, while stressing the need to look for cost-benefit solutions. The Presidency awaits the publication of the impact assessment and legislative proposals by the Commission. Accordingly, we believe that the discussion on the changes to the Civil Protection Mechanism and the Financial Instrument will be continued at the 27th Meeting of the Directors General for Civil Protection in Krakow, as well as at PROCIV meetings once the draft legislation is published.

In addition, a number of actions defined in the EU CBRN Action Plan¹, should be implemented during the Polish Presidency.

In accordance with the "Action Plan Implementing the Stockholm Programme", the Commission is committed to implementing by 2014 the provisions concerning the development of the licensing system for certain high-risk chemicals, to developing a European approach to CBRN detection, standardization and certification of detection equipment, and to the development of minimum standards for the detection of CBRN.

We also emphasize the importance of the work initiated in the area of Host Nation Support (HNS), and are looking forward to being presented with the results of the HNS implementation and the guidelines on HNS. The improvement of EU-level disaster risk management is of interest to the Presidency.

¹ 15505/1/09 REV 1.

3. EU CARPATHEX 2011 FULL SCALE INTERNATIONAL EXERCISE

The EU CARPATHEX 2011 exercise will be held on 12-16 September in South-Eastern Poland.

The overall objective of that major emergency simulation exercise, carried out in the context of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, will be to improve response to man-made disasters and mitigation of their consequences.

The exercise scenario provides for cooperation between Polish, Czech, Slovak, Hungarian and the Ukrainian rescue services during a large CBRN incident such as the collision of two trains (one of them transporting hazardous substances, and the other carrying supporters during the European Championship football tournament), a forest fire and a bursting of a river's banks causing a flood and an explosion at a chemical plant.

Taking into consideration that such scenario is possible during high-profile events, the exercise enables all actors, such as EU modules, EU experts, the Monitoring and Information Centre (MIC), the national focal points to be well prepared.

EU CARPATHEX 2011 creates a good opportunity for all the players involved to verify and (if necessary) improve their operational procedures.

Poland and neighbouring countries need to be prepared for an increasing number of incidents, including terrorist attacks, connected with large-scale public events. Joint exercises are a good opportunity to test existing procedures for emergencies, (especially CBRN incidents) and to share knowledge about the Civil Protection Mechanism with strategic partners of the European Union (including Ukraine), especially through the dissemination of minimum civil protection standards and procedures at the European level.

4. CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION

In the field of critical infrastructure protection the Polish Presidency will focus on the review of Council Directive 2008/114/EC² on the identification and designation of European critical infrastructures and the assessment of the need to improve their protection, which will begin on 12 January 2012.

The Presidency will also keep track of the external dimension of the European Programme for Critical Infrastructure Protection.

In addition to the abovementioned issues, the Polish Presidency will monitor the work on the establishment of the European Reference Network for Critical Infrastructure Protection project (ERN-CIP), and the development and establishment of the core features necessary for the operation of the network and on functionality and usability of the Critical Infrastructure Warning Information Network (CIWIN).

5. OTHER ISSUES: SEVESO FRAMEWORK

Directive 96/82/EC on the control of the major-accident hazards involving dangerous substances (hereinafter the Seveso II Directive) is aimed at preventing major accidents involving large quantities of dangerous substances (or mixtures thereof) as listed in its Annex I and at limiting the consequences of such accidents for man and the environment. There is a tiered approach to the level of controls, with the greater the quantities of substances, the stricter the rules.

The main reason for the revision of the Seveso II Directive is to align its Annex I with Regulation (EC) No. 1272/2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of dangerous substances and mixtures (hereinafter the CLP Regulation), which amends and repeals Directives 67/548/EEC and 1999/45/EC to which the Seveso II Directive currently refers. The CLP rules become definitive with effect from 1 June 2015.

² OJ L 345, 23.12.2008, p. 75.

During the Polish Presidency discussions will continue in the Working Party on the Environment.

Moreover, on 12-14 October 2011, the 26th meeting of Committee of Competent Authorities established under the Seveso II Directive is scheduled to take place in Poland.

PROCIV will be updated about the developments in this area.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS AND MEETINGS DURING THE POLISH PRESIDENCY

July 2011

19-20 July **Presidency Workshop on integrated approach to more effective crisis communication, Warsaw**

August 2011

No events planned

September 2011

7 September **Working Party on Civil Protection (PROCIV), Brussels**
12-16 September **EU Carpathex full scale international exercise, South-Eastern Poland**
20-21 September **The Security Research Conference, Warsaw**
27-29 September **Meeting of the DGs for Civil Protection, Cracow**

October 2011

5 October **Working Party on Civil Protection (PROCIV), Brussels**
12-14 October **Meeting of the Committee of Competent Authorities for the Implementation of the SEVESO II Directive, Warsaw**
first half of October **National EU CIP Contact Point Meeting, Warsaw**

November 2011

15 November **Working Party on Civil Protection (PROCIV), Brussels**
15-16 November (tbc) **National Training Coordinators Meeting, Warsaw**
22-23 November **Lesson Learnt meeting after EU Carpathex, Warsaw**

December 2011

15-16 December **Working Party on Civil Protection (PROCIV), Brussels**