



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 23 November 2009

16544/09

**MED 47
PROCIV 186
JAI 869**

COVER NOTE

Subject : **Union for the Mediterranean
Meeting of the Director-General of Civil Protection of the Union for the
Mediterranean (18 June 2009, Marseille)
- "Recommendations"**

Delegations will find attached the following documents:

ANNEX I: Recommendations of the meeting of the Directors-General of Civil Protection of the Union for the Mediterranean held on 18 June 2009 in Marseille (France).

**Meeting of the Directors-General of Civil Protection
Of the Union for the Mediterranean State Members**

MARSEILLE

18 June 2009

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Directors-General of Civil Protection of the Union for the Mediterranean Member States met, under the auspices of the Egyptian and French co-presidency, Thursday, 18 June 2009 in Marseille, to develop a working strategy that defines and implements Civil Protection within the Union for the Mediterranean.

The effects of technological evolutions and climate change on the safety of our populations and environment were reiterated because, every year, Mediterranean landscapes incur an increasing amount of damage from catastrophes. Neither the European continent nor the Mediterranean region is exempt of this trend: The countries in the Euro-Mediterranean Geographic Area share a great number of risks.

It was reiterated that the Heads of State and Government of the Union for the Mediterranean who met in Paris on 13 July 2008 decided that the implementation of a Joint Program for Civil Protection more closely tying the Mediterranean region with the EU Mechanism for Civil Protection, was one of the major priorities;

Given the deadline for the cooperation program, called PPRD South, of December 2011, they deemed it necessary to establish jointly the overall framework and the modalities of the next stage of their cooperation, allowing the reinforcement, for the benefit of all, the efforts of the European and Mediterranean players in Civil protection.

Particular emphasis was given to the Mediterranean's existing mechanisms and frameworks. **This refers mainly to** the European Mechanism for Civil Protection for the European Union Member States and the potential candidates and various Agreements of partnership and assistance for the Mediterranean countries.

It was also reiterated that, since 1998, a financial instrument exists which is adapted to the civil protection objectives. Hence the EUROMED Pilot Project, then EUROMED Intermediate Programme for Prevention, Preparedness and Response to Man-Made and Natural Disasters (PPRD South) were followed since 5 March 2009, under the direction of Algeria, Egypt, France, Italy and the UN/SIPC, by a third Euromed program that materializes the regional cooperation between the European Union and the Mediterranean countries.

The framework provided by the guidelines of the European Union for Civil Protection regarding Union for the Mediterranean ministerial meetings was also discussed, as well as the importance of relying on existing bases: the UE mechanism for civil protection, the PPRD South program, and the existing regional cooperations such as European Rapid Intervention Force (FIRE 6).

Furthermore, the European Union is also developing partnerships with Mediterranean countries which, on their end, have undertaken a series of autonomous and collective improvements on their systems.

Thus, based on a dynamic already in place and on past experience in the field of cooperation, the Directors-General of Civil Protection wish to rely on these bases and create a real strategy for civil protection in the Mediterranean.

They feel that the progressive implementation of a Euro-Mediterranean Civil Protection Area is the objective to attain in order to preserve human lives and assets. To this effect, the combined efforts and the priority recourse to existing systems must accompany the work in Civil Protection in the Union for the Mediterranean context.

The representatives of the Euro-Mediterranean countries have agreed that the various actions envisaged should make it possible to edify this Euro-Mediterranean area for Civil Protection by progressively integrating the member states into the European Mechanism. The opportunity offered by the Mechanism to establish bilateral agreements with partner countries already makes it possible to begin this process.

Confirming the need to avoid duplicating the existing structures and programs in progress, they confirmed their interest in focusing, starting now, on the work necessary for the implementation of a strategy in **five major cooperation fields:** prevention, joint coordination to foresee catastrophes and accidents, training, preparation and engagement of various players and operational cooperation.

a) Prevention

This part constitutes a substantial point that must be rapidly developed, mainly: the identification of shared risks, the cartography of these risks, the development of exchanging experience and know-how in terms of norms. These points constitute some of this cooperation's objectives, this cooperation having to be reinforced by developing coherent actions, namely in prevention planning preparation.

b) Joint coordination to foresee catastrophes and accidents

The Mediterranean Basin does not yet have joint coordination to foresee catastrophes and accidents, particularly regarding the risk of tsunami. In order to provide for it, the Mediterranean countries, and other UfM partners, with the support of the European Commission, in the framework of a system validated by the UNESCO (SATANEM), have to get organized in order to implement a real joint coordination to foresee catastrophes and accidents for the populations.

c) Training

The objective is to reinforce the development of mutual knowledge and of experience-sharing to attain the convergence of organizations, practices, and standards through the European network – under construction – national schools for Civil Protection and associated academic institutes, a network that can be extended to the Mediterranean partners. Therefore, diploma training courses recognized by all the Civil Protection departments in the Euro-Mediterranean Area can be developed, and a “Euro-Mediterranean manual for Civil Protection” can be elaborated. Moreover, in the continuity of the reinforcement of a training network, the possibility of focal points presenting the necessary guarantee of quality could be explored in order to create recognized training with diplomas.

d) Preparation for operational engagement

The joint engagement of the Civil Protection departments in many countries requires first a good acquaintance with partners and with several joint exercises. A specific program that will include an exercise policy aiming at developing the operational cohesion, may be developed for a transitory period (for instance 2012-2017).

e) Operational cooperation

The 8 November 2007 Decision of the Council instituting a revised Mechanism for Civil protection already provides that Non-Member countries can cooperate in this Mechanism. In order to establish a larger Euro-Mediterranean Area in the field of Civil Protection, via cooperation fields, to be identified, the partner countries closely associated to the Mechanism with the possibility to get eventually connected to the CSIS network for the exchange of information, to declare their modules and other Civil Protection capacities and to contribute, in all forms, to the coordinated rescue operations.

In light of the importance of these issues in order to create a real Euro-Mediterranean strategic area for Civil protection, they have decided to make advances in this analysis and reflection, and agreed to meet during the second half-year 2009 in one of the countries of the Southern shore. This discussion should in due time continue in the appropriate bodies of the UfM.

In the framework of these major fields of cooperation, and in addition to the systems described in the recommendations, several plans and guidelines have been presented and could comprise useful directions to get into for pursuing work within the Union for the Mediterranean Project; they can be found in the appendix.

CURRENT PLANS AND DIRECTIONS

- Regarding the joint coordination to foresee catastrophes and accidents, it should take into account the existing systems and remain coherent with the work carried out in this framework by UNESCO. It could be a modular system, open to changes, which would integrate the totality of issues related to the known risks in the Mediterranean area.
- Overall, the reinforcement of prevention measures should be given preference
- The importance of developing resilience capacities was underlined. Likewise, certain cooperation fields could be developed such as dangerous materials, earthquakes, epidemics.
- The participation of Mediterranean countries in the network of training schools and the definition of a program of joint exercises have also been identified as central projects making it possible to attain identified objectives. The creation of a Euro-Mediterranean institute on the science of risk would be an interesting direction in this field, as well as support in the field of research (imaging, improving knowledge of meteorological and telluric phenomena, and the impact of climate change)
- Operational cooperation was discussed with emphasis on the importance of avoiding setting up redundant structures. Consequently, the definition of joint operational rules (manual, reflex sheets) and joint programs for simulation exercises, would thus make it possible to favor interoperability and sharing. Likewise, the exchange of data and feedback from experience could be systematized.
- Other directions have also been discussed which deserve further examination, such as marine pollution, the fight against desertification...