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**SETTING UP A CO-OPERATION GROUP FOR THE PREVENTION OF,
PROTECTION AGAINST,
AND ORGANISATION OF RELIEF IN MAJOR NATURAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL
DISASTERS**

*(adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 20 March 1987
at the 405th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

The Representatives on the Committee of Ministers of France, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, Spain and Turkey,

Considering Resolution (72) 6 on precautions against natural and other disasters and the planning and provision of disaster relief, adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 18 February 1972;

Having regard to, the Declaration of the ministers responsible for the prevention of, and protection against, major natural and technological disasters in southern Europe (*Note of the Secretariat : Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Republic of San Marino, Spain, Turkey*), adopted in Ravello on 10 June 1985;

Having regard to the principles for the use of resources in the event of disasters adopted on 11 December 1985 at the 2nd informal meeting of the ministers responsible for the prevention of, and protection against, major natural and technological disasters in southern Europe;

Considering the interest and the different activities of the Commission of the European Communities regarding the problems of civil defence (protection civile);

Having regard to the training programmes undertaken in the field of prevention of, and protection against, major disasters at the European University Centre for the Cultural Heritage of Ravello and at the European Centre for Disaster-related Medicine of San Marino;

Having regard to the conclusions adopted at the 4th informal meeting of the ministers responsible for the prevention of, and protection against, major natural and technological disasters in southern Europe in Istanbul on 8 and 9 December 1986, proposing the establishment of an Open Partial Agreement;

Having regard to the Committee of Ministers' Resolution (51) 62 concerning Partial Agreements;

Recognising the need to enable the informal meeting of ministers responsible for the prevention of, and protection against, major natural and technological disasters in southern Europe to carry on its activities as efficiently as possible,

Resolve to set up a Co-operation Group for the prevention of, protection against, and organisation of relief in major natural and technological disasters.

I. The aim of the group shall be to make a multidisciplinary study of the co-operation methods for the prevention of, protection against, and organisation of relief in major natural and technological disasters.

II. The working methods employed hitherto by the group shall be maintained under this Partial Agreement.

i. Meetings. In private, at ministerial level, as a general rule every two years, but circumstances and urgency may justify special meetings of the group in addition to these two-yearly meetings;

ii. Each state is represented at the meetings either by the minister(s) concerned with the subject being dealt with, or by the minister instructed by his Government to co-ordinate the action of ministries concerned with major natural and technological disasters. A permanent correspondent appointed for each state is responsible for preparing the group's ministerial meetings in personal liaison with the minister(s) attending them; he may be assisted by experts;

iii. The permanent correspondents and their experts meet twice during the interval between ministerial meetings to follow the application of the guidelines adopted and to prepare the ministers' future meetings in accordance with a given mandate. Their duties, in this connection, include:

- arranging the agenda and subjects of the coming ministerial meeting,
- collecting material for the preparation of basic documents,
- making arrangements for the practical preparation of ministerial meetings,
- exchanging information on the latest developments in the participating countries concerning the subjects dealt with by the ministers at previous meetings;

iv. The group decides on the publication of documents drawn up by the permanent correspondents as well as resolutions adopted by it;

v. The languages used at meetings are English and/or French;

vi. The meeting papers are reproduced in English and/or French.
Activities. Co-operation programmes on:

- relief organisation: doctrines, information, simulation, assistance, etc.,
- training and research

implemented in co-operation with specialised centres forming networks.
(Note 1)

III. Any member state of the Council of Europe may join this group at any time by notification addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

IV. States not members of the Council of Europe and the European Communities may join the group with the unanimous agreement of the member states of the group.

V. The Secretariat General of the Council of Europe will provide the group, with the help of the European University Centre for the Cultural Heritage of Ravello and other specialised centres and, particularly as regards the ministerial meetings mentioned under 3 below, with the help of the centre responsible for the practical organisation, with the following secretariat services:

1. Preparation and distribution of papers for the group's meetings at both ministerial and permanent correspondent level;
2. Convening of meetings;
3. Practical organisation of the group's ministerial meetings;
4. Practical organisation of the group's meetings at permanent correspondent level at the rate of two in each interval between ministerial meetings;
5. Translation of the group's papers into English or French;
6. Provision of the staff required by the group for its functioning;
7. Preparation and circulation of the conclusions of the group's meetings.

VI. The group's operational expenditure under the Partial Agreement shall be apportioned as follows:

1. The travel and subsistence expenses of persons attending the group's meetings (ministers, permanent correspondents and experts) shall be paid by the member state concerned;
2. Additional expenditure arising from the organisation of meetings elsewhere than at the seat of the Council of Europe shall be borne by the host country;
3. Expenditure relating to the implementation of co-operation programmes and common secretariat expenditure (papers, staff, missions, translation, interpretation and all other operational expenditure) shall be covered by a Partial Agreement budget funded by the group's member states and governed by the same financial rules as foreseen for the other budgets of the Council of Europe.