

**AGREEMENT**

**ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF**

**THE CIVIL- MILITARY**

**EMERGENCY PLANNING**

**COUNCIL FOR**

**SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE**

## **PREAMBLE**

**The States-Parties to this Agreement, hereinafter referred to as the Parties;**

**Reaffirming their dedication to the purposes and principles provided by the United Nations Charter;**

**Cognizant of the fact, that civil military cooperation has become a very important element for enhancing mutual assistance among nations in the field of disaster relief;**

**Believing that close cooperation and coordination among the nations of Southeastern Europe must be further developed;**

**Stressing the importance of International Organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations - in the disaster relief and response field;**

**Supporting the United Nations', North Atlantic Treaty Organization's, and Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council's efforts in disaster relief.**

**We have agreed as follows:**

## **ARTICLE I. PURPOSE**

**The purpose of the present Agreement is to create the legal framework necessary for the immediate and efficient planning and coordination of the available resources, according to the decision of each Party, for disaster relief and intervention. For this purpose the Parties hereby establish a Civil Military Emergency Planning Council for Southeastern Europe, hereinafter referred to as the Council.**

## ARTICLE II. DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of the present Agreement, the following definitions shall apply:

“Civil defense institutions” or “Civil protection institutions” means the national emergency management authorities or bodies, which take preventive measures and action in the event of a disaster, hereinafter referred to as the Institutions.

"Disaster" means a natural or technological event, which causes or threatens destruction or damage to life or property of such magnitude as to seriously endanger the public health, safety and welfare of populations. Natural or technological disasters include, *inter alia*, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, landslides, floods, droughts, environmental pollution,

**pest infestations, forest fire, dam failures, epidemics, nuclear power plant accidents, chemical and industrial accidents, air-crashes, railway accidents and ship wrecks.**

**“Disaster relief” means any action taken for saving life, protecting property and returning life as soon as possible to normal activity.**

**“Other States” means any State not a Party to this Agreement.**

### **ARTICLE III. ROLE OF THE COUNCIL**

**The role of the Council shall be to consult each other as necessary about the Parties’ methods, practices, and circumstances in order to enhance practical cooperation in disaster management. It is**

**recognized that this consultation shall help alleviate the magnitude of damages from disasters.**

**The Council shall coordinate efforts in all phases of the disaster management cycle: mitigation, prevention, planning, response, and reconstruction.**

#### **ARTICLE IV. COUNCIL'S AREAS OF COOPERATION AND ACTIVITIES**

**The Council's areas of cooperation and activities shall include the following:**

**Develop processes and means for practical regional cooperation in disaster management;**

**Develop improved coordination methods for all phases of the disaster management cycle: mitigation, prevention, planning, response, and reconstruction;**

**Develop a regional risk assessment;**

**Develop recommended response plans for the greatest risks,**

**Develop standard operating procedures for additional Council activities and interoperability; and**

**Plan, organize, and conduct exercises and training.**

**The Council's fora shall include:**

**Annual gatherings, or as necessary, to consult on plans and procedures and the exchange of information, including inventories of any personnel, response organizations, materials, and equipment available for disaster relief.**

**Other fora as may be necessary for additional consultation between the Parties and Other States, International Organizations, and Non-Governmental Organizations**

## **ARTICLE V. STRUCTURE**

**The consultation and decision making of the Council shall be done with civilian and military personnel. The Council shall be composed of the heads or their representatives of the Institution(s).**

**The Council shall form working groups as necessary to explore and develop the Council's areas of cooperation and activities. The Council shall approve the terms of reference for the working groups.**

**The Council shall form a Provisional Secretariat. The Provisional Secretariat shall meet as needed to coordinate the Council's areas and activities and to plan the annual meeting.**

**If a Permanent Secretariat is needed, it shall be agreed to in a supplementary agreement.**



**Each Council gathering shall be chaired and hosted by a Party. The position of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall be rotational according to the agreed order and hold office for a designated time period. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall be chosen at the first formal meeting of the Council. The position of Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall last for one year beginning on the first of January. The Party that chairs the Council shall organize and host the annual meetings.**

## **ARTICLE VI. DECISION MAKING**

**All decisions of the Council shall be made by a consensus of the Parties.**

## **ARTICLE VII. FUNDING**

**Each Party shall be responsible for funding its national participation in the Council meetings and activities. Other possible sources may be asked to contribute and the Council can accept contributions to support the Council's efforts to the accomplishment of this agreement.**

## **ARTICLE VIII. EXTERNAL RELATIONSHIPS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS**

**Decisions of the Council shall be submitted to Parties' national authorities for implementation and for approval if necessary. The non-acceptance of one Party does not preclude the execution of the decision by the other Parties.**

**Inasmuch as it is probable that the pattern for mutual aid among two or more Parties may differ from that appropriate among other Parties, nothing contained in this agreement shall preclude any Parties from entering into agreements with other Parties, Other States or International Organizations.**

**The Council may invite disaster relief agencies of Other States, International Organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations to act as a consultative body under this agreement. The Council may also invite other states or representatives of their agencies, International Organizations or Non-Governmental Organizations to attend the respective meetings of the Council in a non-decision making capacity, as observers.**

**The Council shall promote an active policy in order to attract other resources.**

**Nothing in this agreement will prejudice rights and obligations of the Parties deriving from international law, international agreements and arrangements to which they are parties.**

## **ARTICLE IX. ACCESSIONS**

**The present agreement shall remain open for accession by other states, able and willing to contribute to its purpose by invitation or request.**

**Accession shall be subject to Approval by consensus of Parties.**

## **ARTICLE X. AMENDMENTS**

**Any Party may suggest amendments to this agreement at any time. The Parties suggesting the amendments should provide the other Parties copies of the amendment at least thirty (30) days before the Council meetings on the amendment. Amendments shall enter into force according to provisions of Article XII.**

## **ARTICLE XI. DISPUTES**

**All disputes arising from the interpretation or application of this agreement shall be settled by consultation between the Parties without recourse to outside jurisdiction.**

## **ARTICLE XII. RATIFICATION – ENTRY INTO FORCE**

**This agreement shall be subject to ratification.**

**All instruments of ratification shall be deposited in the country where this agreement is signed. The Depository shall notify the Parties of each deposit. Thirty (30) days after four signatory Parties have deposited their instruments of ratification, this agreement shall enter into force among them. For the remaining signatory Parties the agreement shall enter into force thirty (30) days after the deposit of their instruments of ratification.**

**For Other States acceding to this Agreement, it shall enter into force thirty (30) days after the deposit of its instrument of accession.**

### **ARTICLE XIII. DURATION AND TERMINATION**

**This Agreement is valid for a ten-year period and subject to automatic renewal for additional ten-year periods, unless the Parties decide otherwise.**

### **ARTICLE XIV. DENUNCIATION**

**Any Party may denounce the present Agreement at any time. This denunciation shall be effected by a written notification addressed by this Party to the depositary. The denunciation shall take effect one month after the receipt of the notification. After the expiration of this period, the Agreement shall cease to be in force as regards the Party which denounced it, but it shall continue to be in force for the remaining Parties.**

**This Agreement signed at Sofia, Bulgaria, on 03 April 2001 in one original in the English language, shall remain deposited in the Archives of the Depository. Duly certified copies shall be transmitted to the Parties.**



.....

**Nikola Nikolov  
Chairman of the State Agency for Civil Protection**



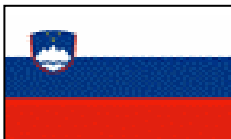
.....

**Zarko Katic  
Assistant Minister of Interior**



.....

**Dusan Gorgievski  
Assistant to the Minister of Defense for  
Civil Protection**



.....

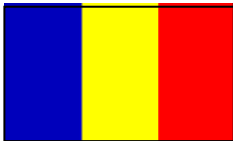
**Damjan Lah  
Deputy Director of the Administration for Civil  
Protection and Disaster Relief**



**On behalf of the government of Romania,**

**I, the undersigned, Secretary of State, Ministry of Interior of the  
Republic of Romania, hereby subscribe to the Agreement on the  
Establishment of the Civil-Military Emergency Planning Council  
for South-Eastern Europe.**

**Signed in Sofia, on this 27 day of November 2002.**



.....  
**General Nikolae Berechet  
Secretary of State  
Ministry of Interior**

**On behalf of the government of Republic of Turkey,**

**I, the undersigned, Deputy Prime Minister, Council of Ministers of  
the Republic of Turkey, hereby subscribe to the Agreement on the  
Establishment of the Civil-Military Emergency Planning Council  
for South-Eastern Europe.**

**Signed in Bourgas, on this 26 day of September 2003.**



.....  
**Mehmed Ali Şahin**  
**Deputy Prime Minister**  
**Council of Ministers**