

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

6733/87 (Presse 82)

1166th Council meeting
- Civil Protection -
Brussels, 25 May 1987

President: Mr Joseph MICHEL

Minister for the Interior, the Civil Service
and Decentralization of
the Kingdom of Belgium

The Governments of the Member States and the Commission of the European Communities were represented as follows:

Belgium:

Mr Joseph MICHEL	Minister for the Interior, the Civil Service and Decentralization
Mr Balder POSTHUMA	Minister Plenipotentiary

Denmark:

Mr Ole ASMUSSEN	State Secretary
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Germany:

Mr Carl-Dieter SPRANGER	Parliamentary State Secretary, attached to the Federal Minister for the Interior
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Greece:

Mr Emmanouil PAPASTEPHANAKIS	Minister for the Interior
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Spain:

Mr José BARRIONUEVO PENA	Minister for the Interior
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France:

Mr Robert PANDRAUD	Minister attached to the Minister for the Interior, with responsibility for security
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Ireland:

Mr Denis O'LEARY	Deputy Permanent Representative
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Italy:

Mr Guisepe ZAMBERLETTI

Minister without portfolio, with
responsibility for Civil Defence

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean SPAUTZ

Minister for the Interior;
Minister for Family Affairs,
Housing and Social Solidarity

Netherlands:

Mrs D.I.J.W. de GRAAFF-NAUTA

State Secretary for the Interior

Portugal:

Mr Pedro José RIBEIRO DE MENESES

Deputy Permanent Representative

United Kingdom:

Mr David ELLIOTT

Deputy Permanent Representative

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Commission:

Mr RIPA di MEANA

Member

The Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council (¹) approved the following Resolution on the introduction of Community co-operation on civil protection:

THE COUNCIL AND THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE MEMBER STATES MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL:

- BELIEVING that an initiative in the civil protection field would be of direct benefit in protecting the European citizen and would help to establish a People's Europe;
- WHEREAS all the Member States have arrangements for taking action to deal with any disasters which might occur in their territory; whereas these arrangements vary in organization, extent and resources available for mobilization;
- WHEREAS there is no need for Community intervention in the Member States' management of disasters or finalization of emergency plans;

(¹) One delegation agreed subject to confirmation.

- BELIEVING that co-operation between the Member States in the civil protection field would increase the ability of all Member States to respond according to circumstances and requirements; whereas such co-operation could improve the efficiency of individual disaster management operations; whereas practical steps are therefore called for at Community level, such as the drawing up of a Guide to Civil Protection in the European Community;
 - WHEREAS exchanges should be organized or stepped up between Member States as part of staff training, particularly in the course of simulation exercises;
 - WHEREAS it is advisable to see that better use is made of the data banks which exist in the civil protection field;
 - WHEREAS a number of risks, including nuclear risks, will continue to be covered by their own special procedures;
1. HEREBY DECIDE to introduce a Guide to Civil Protection at Community level. The Commission
- is requested to finalize this Guide within six months with the help of a Committee of Experts from the Member States;
 - will regularly update the Guide.

2. HEREBY DECIDE that the abovementioned Guide will include a list of liaison offices from the Member States and the Commission in the civil protection field so that the information collected will help to produce a clearer picture of the assistance available in each Member State in the event of a disaster, enabling such assistance to be better and more swiftly used.
 3. HEREBY AGREE that regular meetings of Ministers and senior civil servants responsible for civil protection in the Member States may be held to ensure that the Member States are implementing the various initiatives which they will be responsible for deciding.
 4. HEREBY DECIDE to encourage, in co-operation with the Commission, exchanges of persons responsible for civil protection as part of training programmes undertaken by the Member States, in particular in the course of regular simulation exercises which might receive Community support in a form or forms to be determined and be co-ordinated at Community level. The lessons learned from such exercises will be made available to the Member States.
 5. HEREBY AGREE to work towards better use of the data banks which exist in the civil protection field in order to promote detailed exchanges of information by all the Member States on the structures and resources available to deal with disasters; they therefore undertake to prepare together with the Commission, an inventory of the existing data banks with a view to improving their effectiveness.
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