

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

8880/88 (Presse 160)

1270th meeting of the Council  
and of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States  
meeting within the Council  
(Ministers for the Interior/Civil Protection)

Brussels, 4 November 1988

President: Mr Apostolos TSOCHATZOPOULOS

Minister for the Interior of the  
Hellenic Republic

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

Belgium

Mr Louis TOBBACK  
Minister for the Interior, for  
Modernization of the Public Utilities  
and for National Scientific and  
Cultural Institutions

Mr Balder POSTHUMA  
Minister Plenipotentiary

Denmark

Mr Thor PEDERSEN  
Minister for the Interior and for  
Nordic Co-operation

Germany

Mr Carl-Dieter SPRANGER  
Parliamentary State Secretary to the  
Federal Minister for the Interior

Greece

Mr Apostolos TSOCHATZOPOULOS  
Minister for the Interior of the  
Hellenic Republic

Mr Kimon KOULOOURIS  
State Secretary for the Interior

Spain

Mrs Pilar BRAVO  
Director-General for Civil Protection

France

Mr Gérard RENON  
State Secretary with responsibility for  
the prevention of major technological  
and natural risks

Ireland

Mr Dennis O'LEARY  
Deputy Permanent Representative

Italy

Mr Vito LATTANZIO

Minister for Civil Protection

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 José Antonio da SILVEIRA GODINHO

Minister for Internal Administration

United Kingdom

The Earl FERRERS

Minister of State, Home Office

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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 approved the following Resolution on the new developments in Community co-operation on civil protection:

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

Recalling the resolution of 25 June 1987 on the introduction of Community co-operation on civil protection;

Having taken note of the Commission communication on the new developments in Community co-operation on civil protection;

Having regard to the initial results obtained from implementation of the above Resolution and the application of the initial measures decided;

Convinced that to continue this action and introduce new initiatives at Community level for a whole series of sectors linked with protection of people and property, and with assistance and solidarity in the event of serious crises, or natural or man-made disasters, would do more to advance a people's Europe;

Convinced that the action taken in response to the Resolution of 25 June 1987 has seen the start of more rational and co-ordinated handling of crisis situations arising from disasters which can be on a scale beyond the response capacity of the Member State concerned;

Convinced that new initiatives and appropriate measures in this field would also promote the co-ordination and integration of present knowledge and of existing scientific and technical resources and facilities, with more effective mobilization of human resources;

Emphasizing that the new measures do not interfere with States' handling or preparation of emergency plans for dealing with disasters;

Whereas a number of risks, including nuclear risks, continue to be subject to specific procedures applying to them;

Whereas it is desirable by way of more effective protection to introduce an emergency telephone number as called for in the guidelines set out by the Telecommunications Council on 11 June 1988;

Whereas the possibilities offered by recent developments in telecommunications should be exploited for civil protection purposes;

Convinced of the need to conduct extensive civil protection information campaigns;

1. TAKE NOTE of the work done by the Commission, in liaison with the Member States, on the inventory of data banks concerning civil protection and their systems;
2. AGREE to encourage a better exchange of the information contained in the data bank existing in the Member States;

3. TAKE NOTE of the Commission's intention of assessing in co-operation with national experts, within the next 12 months at most. Member States' needs with particular reference to the feasibility of a system for interconnecting data banks as described in its communication. If appropriate, subject to further referral to the Council, a pilot scheme concerning the organization of a common response to needs might be launched;
4. CALL UPON the Commission to take steps to compile - before 1990 - a multilingual glossary on civil protection terminology, the need for which is recognized not only from the technical angle (data banks) but also to ease technical communication between rescue teams called to help in emergencies beyond their frontiers;
5. STRESS the desirability of a standard Europe-wide additional emergency telephone number which will in particular enable the public in an emergency to call the relevant national emergency services, and which should be introduced gradually in the Member States;
6. HEREBY DECIDE that it is necessary to improve the transmission of the information needed to prevent and contend with disasters by promoting the use of advanced information and telecommunications systems and, in particular, aerospace resources. For this purpose, they support the Commission proposal to compile before the end of 1989, together with national experts, an inventory of requirements and an analysis of ways of satisfying them and to draw from the simulation exercises planned for 1989 practical lessons as regards the most promising communication systems, including the use of satellites;

7. SUPPORT the Commission's intention of launching a study on the feasibility and cost of an initial Community 12-month campaign (May 1990 - April 1991) to increase and develop information and education in civil protection. The results of this study, including the financing of any campaign, and any proposal for action that the Commission deems it appropriate to submit, will be communicated to the Council before 1 May 1989;
  
8. CALL UPON the Commission to prepare a survey, within six months, of all the protection measures taken by the various Commission departments to combat fire and disaster risks and to ensure civil protection.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISION

Research

The Council adopted the Decision on a Community Action in the field of Information Technology and Telecommunications applied to Health Care - Advanced Informatics in Medicine (AIM) - Exploratory Action.

The action, which was adopted for a maximum period of 24 months starting on 1 June 1988, with a Community financial contribution of 20 MECU, is designed to make available to citizens and health services, at minimum cost and minimum delay, improvements in health care, thereby contributing to social and economic objectives.

The action is designed to promote development of a European infrastructure and framework within which existing developments and new advances can be brought to health care by co-operation between public and private activities at national and international levels.

The action consists of the development of a common conceptual framework for co-operation, prenormative work and technology exploration and the investigation of the non-technological factors as required for the objective of concerting European efforts in improving health care by means of the application of information technology and telecommunications to this field.



The action is intended to provide cost effective advances in the care of the individual citizen and in the development, planning and management of health care services. In work relating to patient information, the action will place priority on the development of safe and reliable methods for the protection of medical records, in particular against loss, data corruption or unauthorized disclosure.

Commercial policy

The Council adopted:

- the Regulation extending for a maximum of two months as from 9 November 1988 the provisional anti-dumping duty on imports of serial impact fully formed character printers (daisy-wheel printers) originating in Japan;

This extension is necessary because the examination of the facts with a view to a decision on definitive measures has not yet been completed.

- Regulations opening, allocating and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for

= certain hand-made products (1989)

= certain hand-woven fabrics, pile and chenille (1989).

Environment

The Council adopted the Decision authorizing the Commission, on behalf of the Community, to negotiate, within the framework of the UNEP, a comprehensive convention on the control of transfrontier movements of hazardous wastes.

Consumer protection

The Council formally adopted the Resolution on the improvement of consumer involvement in standardization. (See Press Release - Internal Market/Consumer Protection Council on 7 June 1988 - 6635/88 (Presse 78)).

Public works contracts

The Council formally adopted the common position on the Directive amending Directive 71/305/EEC concerning the co-ordination of the procedures for the award of public works contracts. (See Press Release - Internal Market Council on 14 October 1988 - 8674/88 (Presse 151)).

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Bruxelles, le 4 novembre 1988

NOTE BIO(88) 346 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX  
CC. AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE-PAROLE

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CONSEIL PROTECTION CIVILE (M. SANTOPINTO)

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Le Conseil s'est déroulé dans une ambiance positive et le débat a permis d'aboutir à des conclusions qui ouvrent des perspectives nouvelles à la coopération communautaire en matière de protection civile.

La résolution approuvée par le Conseil reprend pratiquement tous les points proposés par la Commission à l'exception de celui concernant l'adoption d'un "logo" communautaire pour la protection civile qui fera l'objet d'une discussion et d'un approfondissement ultérieurs.

Voici les points principaux adoptés par le Conseil :

1. Les ministres ont confirmé la nécessité d'un échange d'informations par l'interconnexion des banques de données.

La Commission effectuera dans un délai de 12 mois une étude de faisabilité qui devra ensuite permettre de déterminer les conditions selon lesquelles l'interconnexion pourra être effectuée.

2. La Commission prendra les initiatives nécessaires pour réaliser avant 1990 un lexique de terminologie multilingue en matière de protection civile dont la nécessité est reconnue non seulement sur le plan technique (banque de données), mais aussi pour faciliter les communications entre les équipes de secours.

3. L'opportunité de la création d'un numéro d'appel unique a été également reconnue. Ce numéro d'appel devra notamment permettre de s'adresser en cas d'urgence aux services de secours nationaux compétents. Son adoption dans les Etats membres devra s'effectuer progressivement.

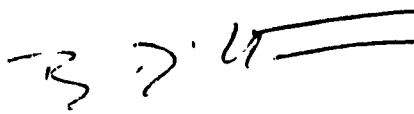
4. Les ministres ont décidé qu'il est nécessaire d'améliorer la transmission des informations concernant la prévention et le contrôle des catastrophes en favorisant l'utilisation des systèmes de télécommunications avancés et notamment des moyens aérospatiaux.

5. En ce qui concerne la campagne d'information et d'éducation du public sur le problème de la protection civile, il a été décidé que la Commission effectuera une étude de faisabilité qui devrait permettre le lancement de la dite campagne entre mai 1990 et avril 1991.

Par ailleurs, M. Ripa di Meana a annoncé des prochaines propositions de la Commission en ce qui concerne la coopération communautaire contre les incendies des bois et la sauvegarde du patrimoine culturel en cas de catastrophe.

M. Ripa di Meana a également annoncé que sur initiative de la Commission se tiendra en avril 1989, à la frontière franco-espagnole, un exercice de secours en haute montagne à laquelle assisteront les experts de tous les pays de la Communauté.

Amitiés,



C.D. Ehlermann