



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 21 June 2013**

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**PROCIV 81  
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COHAFA 76**

**NOTE**

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| from:    | Lithuanian Delegation                                                   |
| to:      | Working Party on Civil Protection                                       |
| Subject: | Programme of the Lithuanian Presidency in the field of Civil Protection |

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Delegations will find annexed the programme of the Lithuanian Presidency in the field of Civil Protection.

**Working Programme of the Lithuanian EU Presidency in the field of Civil Protection**  
**July – December 2013**

**Presidency priorities**

Natural and man-made disasters are an inevitable part of everyday reality and they challenge global society, taking a heavy toll including human loss, financial damage, and a negative impact on social welfare. The security and safety of EU citizens is a matter of key importance in the EU agenda. Strengthening the Union's capacity to respond to current challenges remains one of the main strategic objectives according to the common Trio-Presidency Programme established jointly by Ireland, Lithuania and Greece (17426/12, pages 52-53).

The Lisbon Treaty and the provisions and strategic guidelines of the Stockholm Programme lay down a clear direction for the Union in terms of disaster management and civil protection. Lithuania will make every effort to contribute to the implementation of long-term EU aims so as to create a Europe that protects the lives and safety of its citizens.

The Lithuanian Presidency will continue to support efforts in areas related to civil protection, particularly Justice and Home Affairs, cross-cutting issues such as the implementation of the Solidarity Clause (Article 222 of the Lisbon Treaty), and other activities aimed at managing crises at European level.

Bearing in mind that 2013 is the European Year of Citizens, the Presidency will organise events with the intention of improving EU citizens' safety. The Presidency will host a workshop to discuss the safety of EU citizens in the event of disasters and situations requiring the relocation of a significant number of people.

Important events will take place in Vilnius. The Directors-General meeting will offer an opportunity to assess recent achievements and discuss future developments in the field of civil protection. Issues related to dangerous substances will be addressed in a seminar. Matters related to the training of EU civil protection experts will be arranged together with international partners.

## **The Commission's legislative proposal for a new Civil Protection Mechanism**

The Lithuanian Presidency is assuming responsibility for the conclusion of negotiations on the Civil Protection Mechanism. The Presidency will work closely with the European Parliament and the European Commission, and will do its utmost to achieve a swift and favourable result. The Mechanism will strengthen cooperation within the entire disaster-management cycle of prevention, preparedness and response, both inside and outside the Union. The new multi-annual financial framework entering into force as from January 2014 will guarantee the financial basis for effective implementation.

## **Issues related to civil protection**

### **Solidarity Clause (TFEU Article 222)**

The Lisbon Treaty contains a new provision often referred to as the Solidarity Clause (Art. 222 TFEU). It provides for the EU and the Member States to act jointly in a spirit of solidarity if a Member State is the subject of a terrorist attack or the victim of a natural or man-made disaster. The Commission and the High Representative have put forward a joint proposal for a Council Decision on the arrangements for the implementation by the Union of the Solidarity Clause. In continuing the work carried out during the previous semester, the Lithuanian Presidency will ensure appropriate handling within the Council with a view to the possible adoption of the aforementioned Decision.

### **EU Integrated Political Crisis Response (IPCR) Arrangements**

The Lithuanian Presidency will ensure an appropriate follow-up to the completion of the review of the Crisis Coordination Arrangements (CCA), now renamed the EU IPCR arrangements. The Presidency will seek finalisation of the development of the implementation measures, notably concerning training, exercises, lessons learned and crisis communication. In case of crisis, the Presidency will ensure political coordination and strategic direction, in line with the IPCR arrangements approved by the Council.

### **European Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP)**

In terms of Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP), the Lithuanian Presidency will work on the follow-up to a cross-sectorial CIP policy package to be presented to the Council. This package is expected to reshape the European Framework for Critical Infrastructure Protection. It will require a comprehensive analysis by the Council Working Party on Civil Protection (PROCIV).

## **New CBRNE Agenda**

Following the Council conclusions of 2012 on the new CBRNE Agenda, which aims to develop a more strategic and overarching approach to Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) and Explosives (E) policy fields, and the Commission's Progress Report of 2012 on the Implementation of the EU Action Plan on Enhancing the Security of Explosives, the Lithuanian Presidency will look forward to the Commission's report on the creation of the EU CBRNE Agenda. This Agenda will be based on evaluating the progress made during the implementation of the EU CBRN Action Plan, and the Action Plan on Enhancing the Security of Explosives. The Presidency will take the necessary action to achieve further preparation and implementation in these risk-mitigating fields. Horizontal issues will be coordinated as necessary with the relevant Council Working Groups and the European Commission.

## **Horizontal approach**

There are many links between civil protection and other safety - or aid - related fields. The necessary communication will be established in order to guarantee awareness in PROCIV on the progress achieved in horizontal matters. Chairs of various working parties may be invited to brief PROCIV on topics related to humanitarian aid, consular cooperation, CBRNE, the Solidarity Clause implementation and the new EU IPCR arrangements.

## **Events taking place in Lithuania**

### **Workshop on Mass Evacuation in Case of Disasters, Vilnius, 16–18 July 2013**

The Fire and Rescue Department under the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania, which is the leading institution for civil protection, will host and conduct a workshop on "Mass Evacuation in Case of Disasters" on behalf of the Lithuanian Presidency. As a result of the increased frequency and severity of natural and man-made disasters it may become necessary to evacuate a large number of people from a given territory if it is considered dangerous to remain there because of an imminent or actual disaster.

The Lithuanian Presidency expects that the workshop will increase awareness and improve understanding of challenges in the field of mass evacuation and provide an opportunity for Member States to exchange best practices and lessons learned. The Presidency hopes to develop new ideas and proposals on how to enhance European practices in the field of mass evacuation. The outcomes of the workshop will be presented in PROCIV and could possibly serve as a basis for Council conclusions on Mass Evacuation in Case of Disasters.

**31<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Directors-General for Civil Protection,  
Vilnius, 30 September – 2 October 2013**

The meeting of the Directors-General will be held on 30 September – 2 October 2013 in Vilnius. It will be hosted by the Fire and Rescue Department under the Ministry of the Interior. The meeting aims to provide an opportunity for the Directors-General representing national institutions responsible for civil protection to discuss important issues, exchange experiences and the latest good practices, and reflect on further developments in the field of civil protection.

**Seminar on chemical substance self-classification issues in the context of the Seveso Directive,  
Vilnius, 23 October 2013**

The seminar is scheduled to take place in Lithuania on 23 October 2013, back-to-back with the Seveso expert group meeting, which will be organised within the framework of the Committee of Competent Authorities.

Directive 96/82/EC on the control of major-accident hazards involving dangerous substances (Seveso II Directive) is aimed at preventing major accidents involving large quantities of dangerous substances and at limiting the consequences of such accidents for people and the environment. The Seveso III Directive was adopted in 2012 in order to align the Seveso II directive with Regulation (EC) 1272/2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures. Under recent European legislation to which the Seveso II and III directives refer, industry is obliged to self-classify substances with incomplete harmonised classification and substances with non-harmonised classification. This remains an issue as regards a consistent approach to the application of the Seveso Directive across the Member States, and it is scheduled to be discussed in Vilnius.

**EU National Training Coordinators Meeting, Vilnius, 19-20 November 2013**

The meeting will be hosted by the Fire and Rescue Department and will take place in Vilnius. The aim will be to discuss the evaluation of the results of the eleventh training cycle, the online preparation and testing tool, and other relevant topics. Representatives from UN OCHA will update the participants (national training coordinators) on training development and strategy relevant to EU Civil Protection, which includes UNDAC, INSARAG and CM Coordination training, as well as on strategy and methodology related to Disaster Response Preparedness (DRP) Missions. This will also allow the forum to explore opportunities for collaboration between the EU and UN (OCHA).

**TIMETABLE OF EVENTS AND MEETINGS DURING THE LITHUANIAN PRESIDENCY  
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EU**

**JULY 2013**

|                      |                                                            |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| <u>8 July:</u>       | FoP CCA/SCI (afternoon)                                    |
| <u>9 July:</u>       | ProCiv (CP)                                                |
| <u>16 - 18 July:</u> | Workshop on Mass Evacuation in Case of Disasters (Vilnius) |

**SEPTEMBER 2013**

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| <u>9 September:</u>              | ProCiv (CP) (afternoon)                                                          |
| <u>10 September:</u>             | ProCiv (CP)                                                                      |
| <u>30 September - 2 October:</u> | 31 <sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Directors-General for Civil Protection (Vilnius) |

**OCTOBER 2013**

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| <u>7 - 8 October:</u> | JHA Council                                                                                               |
| <u>7 October:</u>     | FoP CCA/SCI (afternoon)                                                                                   |
| <u>8 October:</u>     | ProCiv (CP)                                                                                               |
| <u>9 October:</u>     | ProCiv (CP) (morning)                                                                                     |
| <u>9 October:</u>     | ProCiv (CIP) (afternoon)                                                                                  |
| <u>23 October:</u>    | Seminar on chemical substance self-classification issues in the context of the Seveso Directive (Vilnius) |

**NOVEMBER 2013**

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|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <u>4 November:</u>       | FoP CCA/SCI (afternoon)                             |
| <u>5 November:</u>       | ProCiv (CP) (morning)                               |
| <u>5 November:</u>       | ProCiv (CIP) (afternoon)                            |
| <u>19 November:</u>      | ProCiv (CP) or ProCiv (CIP) (afternoon) (poss.)     |
| <u>19 - 20 November:</u> | EU National Training Coordinators Meeting (Vilnius) |

**DECEMBER 2013**

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|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <u>5 - 6 December:</u> | JHA Council                           |
| <u>10 December:</u>    | ProCiv (CP) or ProCiv (CIP) (morning) |

**THE LITHUANIAN PRESIDENCY TEAM**

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