



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 29 November 2012**

**16986/12**

**PROCIV 204  
JAI 852  
COHAFA 152**

**NOTE**

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

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

**Working Programme of the Irish EU Presidency in the field of Civil Protection**

**January - June 2013**

The priorities of the Irish Presidency programme are part of the three-presidency programme created by the Irish, Lithuanian and Greek Presidencies. The Presidencies will rely very much on a mutually beneficial cooperation with the European Commission and are looking forward to the input provided by the European Commission on the basis of its respective work programmes. They will also work closely with the European Parliament, whose role has been enhanced by the Treaty of Lisbon.

**The Commission's legislative proposal for a new Civil Protection Mechanism and Financial Instrument**

The Irish Presidency will continue the on-going work to merge the Civil Protection Mechanism and Financial Instrument into a single legal act, in line with the new civil protection legal basis introduced by Article 196 of the Lisbon Treaty, which aims at improving the effectiveness of systems for preventing, preparing for and responding to natural and man-made disasters of all kinds within and outside the Union. The importance of having in place a sound legal footing for the Civil Protection Mechanism and Financial Instrument is essential for the continuation of the excellent co-operation during disasters both within and without the Union. Importantly, the need for enhanced prevention and preparedness, as provided for in the draft legislation, is heightened by the increasing economic impact of natural and man-made disasters. Ireland's Presidency will focus on the swiftest possible adoption of the draft legislation and the subsequent implementation measures required. We will work closely with the Member States, the European Commission and the European Parliament to achieve this.

**Review of the Directive on the Identification and Designation of European Critical Infrastructure and the assessment of the need to improve their protection (ECIP directive)**

Ireland's Presidency will ensure due consideration is given to the forthcoming outcome of the review of the critical infrastructure directive, and any necessary follow-up. The cross-sectoral nature of critical infrastructure protection, and any proposals to re-shape the EU policy framework in this area, will require comprehensive consideration by ProCiv.

### **The EU CBRN Action Plan**

Following a comprehensive report on the implementation of the EU CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Security) Action Plan and enhancing the security of Explosives during the Danish and Cyprus Presidencies, and shortly expected Council Conclusions, the Irish Presidency will look forward to the presentation of the European Commission's report on its review of the Action Plan and will facilitate subsequent discussions in this risk area. We will liaise as necessary with the European Commission, Council Secretariat and the Terrorism Working Party to ensure that this is brought forward.

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

The Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) (Lisbon) contains a new provision for a "solidarity clause" (Article 222 TFEU accompanied by Declaration 37) establishing that the "Union and its Member States shall act jointly in a spirit of solidarity if a Member State is the object of a terrorist attack or the victim of a natural or man-made disaster". Once the Commission and the High Representative have submitted their proposal foreseen under Article 222 of the TFEU (expected shortly), the Irish Presidency will ensure due consideration and deliberation in the Working Party, and subsequent implementation requirements within its remit.

## **Events taking place in Ireland**

### **30th Meeting of the Directors-General for Civil Protection, Dublin Castle, 22-23 May 2013**

The European Commission's half yearly meeting of the Directors General will be held on 22 and 23 May 2013 in Dublin Castle (located in Dublin city centre) to review progress in the area of civil protection and discuss future policy initiatives. The meeting, which will be chaired by the European Commission, aims to allow the exchanging of experiences and discussions on the future trends in Civil Protection among the Directors General of EU member states, together with representatives from the European Commission. Representatives from the EEA Countries and Candidate Countries are also invited. An official dinner will be held in Farmleigh House, Phoenix Park, Dublin on the night of 22 May. Full details will be circulated in due course.

### **EU Training February 2013**

The classroom module of the next Operational Management Course (OPM) will be held in Dublin during Ireland's Presidency. The course is being run in collaboration with DEMA (Denmark) and THW (Germany). This is the first EU Civil Protection course to be run in Ireland. The objective of the OPM course is to prepare the participants to be sent by the European Commission as co-ordination or liaison officers in an emergency, co-ordinating with other international teams and reporting back to MIC. The OPM course is scheduled for mid-February.

**Schedule of ProCiv Meetings during the Irish Presidency January to June 2013**

**JANUARY 2013**

22 January

**FEBRUARY 2013**

11 February

**MARCH 2013**

5 - 6 March

**APRIL 2013**

10 April

**MAY 2013**

7 - 8 May

**JUNE 2013**

5 June

25 June

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