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PROCIV 65
JAI 711
COHAFA 60
ENFOPOL 372
JEUN 93

NOTE

From: Presidency
To: Working Party on Civil Protection
Subject: Work programme of the Estonian Presidency in the field of Civil Protection

Delegations will find in the annex the work programme of the Estonian Presidency in the field of civil protection.

Work Programme of the Estonian Presidency in the field of civil protection
July – December 2017

Estonia is the first of the Trio of Estonia, Bulgaria and Austria to hold the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

Today, at the beginning of the Estonian Presidency, the current legislation on the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) has been in force for three and a half years. We are in the middle of the implementation of this legislation and this is the agreed time for its evaluation.

In addition, the Estonian Presidency will focus in particular on raising public risk awareness and self-resilience.

1. Raising public risk awareness and self-resilience

According to the UCPM we have a common objective - to increase public awareness and preparedness for disasters (Article 3).

Risk awareness is an essential part of an effective risk management strategy. Awareness of the risks and sufficient knowledge about how to prepare for and act in a crisis situation is key to reducing negative consequences. Building resilience starts from grassroots level: individual and household resilience contributes to local and community resilience, which forms the backbone for national resilience.

The Presidency organised a workshop for the PROCIV delegates and risk communication experts on 4 and 5 July. The workshop was also linked to the activities of UNISDR and OECD as raising risk awareness is also one of the main targets of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030. In its recent EU co-financed review on risk communication policies, the OECD made some key recommendations in this regard: involving all stakeholders, including the private sector, increasing two-way interactive communication, communicating on actions individuals can take, and adopting an all-hazards approach.

The aim of the workshop was to identify best practices which could be shared between Member States and to discuss how to evaluate progress made on raising awareness and self-resilience and also to discuss a possible way forward at EU level.

The discussion in PROCIV will focus on the following questions:

- improving the measurement of the impact of actions contributing to risk awareness and preparedness, including through the use of indicators;
- a possible way forward to enhance non-legislative coordinated actions at EU level.

As a follow-up to the discussions in the workshop and in PROCIV, the Presidency will draw up recommendations in the Presidency Report on actions which the Commission and Member States could take in order to enhance awareness and preparedness raising at a personal and household level.

2. Interim evaluation of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism

According to the UCPM (Article 34 (a)), the Commission evaluates the application of the UCPM and submits to the European Parliament and to the Council an interim evaluation report on the results obtained and the qualitative and quantitative aspects of its implementation. The Commission will present the interim evaluation report in September. PROCIV will examine the report and the Presidency will encourage Member States to exchange views on the future of the UCPM.

3. Cooperation between civil protection and humanitarian actors in emergencies outside the European Union

In 2015 a list of follow-up actions to strengthen cooperation between civil protection and humanitarian stakeholders in emergencies outside the European Union was agreed jointly by PROCIV and COHAFA¹. The indicative time frame for the implementation of the proposed actions was two years, ending in September 2017. Incoming Presidencies were invited to take forward the work concerning this list of follow-up actions. The Estonian Presidency will discuss the follow-up actions in cooperation with COHAFA. A questionnaire was sent out to Member States at the beginning of July in order to evaluate the progress made.

4. Other relevant topics

The Commission intends to present a **CBRN communication or action plan** in October. The focus of the document will be on security, which is why the discussion will likely be led by the Working Party on Terrorism (TWP), with regular overviews given in PROCIV.

On 30 May the Commission adopted a proposal for a **Regulation on the European Solidarity Corps**², which includes amendments to the UCPM. Discussions on the regulation will be led by the Youth Working Party. Members of the other working parties concerned have been invited to liaise with their counterparts in the Youth Working Party and are welcome to attend relevant discussions.

5. Presidency-related events

The Presidency workshop 'Raising public disaster risk awareness and self-resilience' was held in Tallinn on 4-5 July.

PROCIV meetings will be held on 14 September, 11 October and 16 November, and if necessary also on 13 December.

¹ 14896/15.

² 9845/17, COM(2017) 262.

The Directors-General of Civil Protection of the Participating States to the Union Civil Protection Mechanism will be invited to their 39th Meeting in Tallinn on 3-4 October.

6. Deliverables

A Presidency Report on the progress made in the area of civil protection will be submitted to the Council in December. The Report will include a compilation of the outcomes of the discussion on raising public risk awareness and self-resilience.
