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**NOTE**

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

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

**Working Programme of the Italian Presidency in the field of Civil Protection**

**July - December 2014**

As the first Presidency of the trio, to be followed by Latvia and Luxemburg, the Italian Presidency will work on an agreed programme that intends to make progress on the issues related to the implementation of the new Decision on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism. In particular, it will focus on aspects of prevention and the related work on risk management capability and information sharing on risk management, as well as on response, aiming at further strengthening the support of civil protection capacities to humanitarian aid in emergency situations.

**1. Prevention policy within the Union Civil Protection Mechanism Decision -  
the risk management capability concept**

One of the main priorities of the Italian Presidency is to make progress on implementing Decision No 1313/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism, particularly in the area of prevention.

This decision establishes that Member States shall make available to the Commission the assessment of their risk management capability at national or appropriate sub-national level every three years following the finalisation of the relevant guidelines developed by the Commission together with the Member States. The guidelines will define the content, methodology and structure of the assessment of risk management capability that the Member States will have to make available.

The Italian Presidency intends to facilitate and inform the development of the guidelines by the Commission with the active contribution and involvement of the Member States, and to make substantial progress towards a common understanding of the concept of risk management capability.

The Presidency workshop on *Risk Management Capability* will be entirely dedicated to an in-depth discussion of this issue, in order to gather and understand Member States' views on this topic.

In April a questionnaire was circulated to all Member States via the General Secretariat of the Council to gather preliminary information on this topic. This will serve as the basis for discussion during the workshop and will give an initial picture of risk management methodologies across the European Union.

The outcome of the workshop will be compiled into a final report which will be available to all Member States. Based on this report and previous relevant work on the subject, the Italian Presidency will present **draft Council Conclusions on Risk Management Capability** and will lead the discussion in PROCIV.

## **2. Strengthening co-operation between civil protection and humanitarian aid authorities**

In supporting the implementation of Decision No 1313/2013/EU on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism, the Italian Presidency also attaches great importance to promoting consistency and co-operation between civil protection and humanitarian aid in the field of Disaster Risk Management (DRM). The decision stresses the importance of a consistent intervention outside the European Union and promotes synergies between assistance provided under the Union Mechanism and the humanitarian response, in compliance with humanitarian principles.

Although the Mechanism was created to foster cooperation among the Participating States to assist disaster-stricken countries both inside and outside the European Union, the figures on its activations since 2001 show that it has been used more frequently for emergencies outside the European Union than inside.

Since then, a lot of progress has been made towards the mutual reinforcement of co-operation between civil protection and humanitarian aid as part of a general effort to ensure a coordinated, coherent and visible EU response integrated into the overall international support provided to the affected country.

Following recent experience outside the European Union and the opening of the new Emergency Response and Coordination Centre in Brussels, the Italian Presidency believes that now is the time to develop further measures for improving co-operation between civil protection and humanitarian aid in the existing institutional framework.

Three dimensions will be approached:

- the international dimension, which refers to field coordination with the UN-led response system;
- the European dimension, mainly referred to co-operation and synergies between the Union Civil Protection Mechanism and humanitarian aid expertise and resources; and
- the national dimension, including the information-sharing mechanisms between relevant authorities and stakeholders involved in large-scale humanitarian emergencies.

To this end, a debate will be held during the DG meeting in Rome. As preparatory work, Member States will be asked to take part in a consultation process, through the circulation of a concept paper and a technical meeting which will be organized before the DG meeting, with the support of the European Commission. The consultation process will aim to stimulate reflections on building new partnerships at all levels of the disaster management cycle and possible innovative and concrete proposals for joint use of resources based on complementarity, coherence and efficiency.

The debate will be undertaken in close collaboration with the Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid (COHAFA).

The Italian Presidency will present **draft Council Conclusions on strengthening co-operation between civil protection and humanitarian aid** and will lead the discussion in PROCIV.

### **Issues related to civil protection**

#### **3. Solidarity Clause Implementation (SCI) – Integrated Political Crisis Response (IPCR)**

The Italian Presidency welcomes the positive outcome of discussions on the implementation of the solidarity clause and the IPCR and will bring forward further work on preparedness policy (training activities, exercises and lessons learned, communication) within the Friends of the Presidency Group in accordance with interest expressed by Member States. The Italian Presidency will ensure that PROCIV is duly involved.

#### **4. Council Directive 2008/114/EC of 8 December 2008 on the Identification and Designation of European Critical Infrastructure and the European Programme for Critical Infrastructure Protection (EPCIP)**

The Italian Presidency will follow the ongoing work on the EPCIP, subsequent to the recently published Commission Staff Working Document on a new approach to EPCIP entitled "Making European Critical Infrastructures more secure"<sup>1</sup>. The Italian Presidency will ensure any relevant follow-up required on this work and may bring the matter into consideration by PROCIV.

#### **5. New CBRNE Agenda**

Following the Council Conclusions on a new CBRNE Agenda approved at the end of 2012<sup>2</sup>, discussions have continued in different fora.

The Commission has recently published a "Communication on a new EU approach to the detection and mitigation of CBRN-E risks"<sup>3</sup>. The Communication, taking stock of the achievements of the two Action Plans on CBRN and Explosives, suggests a more practical approach to promoting a new CBRN-E Agenda. The Italian Presidency will facilitate subsequent discussions in this area.

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<sup>1</sup> 13280/13.  
<sup>2</sup> 16980/12.  
<sup>3</sup> 9550/14.

## **Events in Italy**

### **6. Informal Justice and Home Affairs Council of the European Union, Milan, 8-9 July 2014**

During the afternoon of the first day of the informal meeting of Justice and Home Affairs Ministers, the Italian Presidency will promote a European Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction jointly planned with the European Commission in compliance with the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction.

On this occasion, the EU Member States Ministers and those of the other countries participating in the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction will have the opportunity to exchange views on the development of the post-2015 Disaster Risk Reduction agenda (post-2015 Framework for Action) to be approved at the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, scheduled to take place from 14 to 18 March 2015 in Sendai, Japan.

### **7. Workshop on "Risk Management Capability", Rome, 15-16 July 2014**

Experts from Member States, the EEA countries, candidate countries, the European Commission and the Council Secretariat, as well as participants from countries that are part of the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) will be invited to participate. The experts involved should specifically be skilled in the technical or financial/administrative aspects of risk management capability.

The Italian Civil Protection Department will make all necessary practical and content-related arrangements for the workshop. The workshop will be a valuable opportunity to further advance the European debate on how to strengthen prevention and preparedness measures according to the new Union Mechanism legislation. In particular it will facilitate and inform the development of relevant guidelines on risk management capability by the Commission with the active contribution and involvement of the Member States. As mentioned above, the workshop will constitute the basis for subsequent work within PROCIV on risk management capability.

## **8. 33<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Directors-General for Civil Protection, Rome, 29-30 September 2014**

The Meeting of the Directors-General will be held on 29-30 September in Rome. It will review progress in the area of civil protection and discuss future policy initiatives, allowing exchange of experiences and discussions among the Directors-General and representatives from the European Commission and the Council Secretariat, particularly on the issues of risk management capability and on strengthening co-operation between civil protection to humanitarian aid authorities. Representatives from the EEA countries and candidate countries will also be invited. A joint meeting with Directors General of the IPA Countries is included in the DG Meeting programme.

## **9. National Civil Protection Training Coordinators meeting, Rome, 15 October 2014**

The annual National Training Coordination meeting will be held on 15 October in Rome. This meeting, organized and chaired by the Commission, is hosted by way of tradition by the Member State holding the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. All National Training Coordinators coming from the Participating States are invited for a one-day meeting during which various issues related to the Union Civil Protection Mechanism training programme are addressed, analysed and further developed.

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

**JULY 2014**

<u>8-9 July</u>	Informal meeting of JHA Ministers (including the European Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction), Milan
<u>15-16 July</u>	"Risk Management Capability" workshop, Rome
<u>24 July</u>	PROCIV

**SEPTEMBER 2014**

<u>September (TBD)</u>	Technical Meeting on “strengthening co-operation between civil protection and humanitarian aid authorities”
<u>15-16 September</u>	PROCIV
<u>29-30 September</u>	33 <sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Directors-General for Civil Protection (including joint meeting with the Directors-General of the IPA Countries), Rome

**OCTOBER 2014**

<u>9-10 October</u>	JHA Council, Luxembourg
<u>14 October</u>	PROCIV
<u>15 October</u>	National Civil Protection Training Coordinators Meeting, Rome

**NOVEMBER 2014**

<u>4 November</u>	PROCIV
<u>26-27 November</u>	PROCIV

**DECEMBER 2014**

<u>4-5 December</u>	JHA Council
<u>16 December</u>	GAC



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