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From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 2)/Council
No. prev. doc.: 13013/14
Subject: Draft Council conclusions on risk management capability
- Adoption

1. In the light of the outcome of the Presidency's workshop on risk management capability, held in Rome on 15 and 16 July 2014, the Presidency drew up a set of draft Council conclusions.
2. These draft Council conclusions were examined by the Working Party on Civil Protection on 24 July and on 15 September 2014. Agreement was subsequently reached through a written procedure, on 19 September.
3. On this basis, the Permanent Representatives Committee is asked to agree on the text set out in the Annex and to submit it to the Council for adoption at a forthcoming meeting.

Draft Council conclusions on risk management capability

1. Recalling that Decision No 1313/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism¹ stated 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 that the Commission will develop together with the Member States by 22 December 2014;
2. Taking into account that the above Decision defines 'risk management capability' as the ability of a Member State or its regions to reduce, adapt to or mitigate risks (impacts and likelihood of a disaster), identified in its risk assessments to levels that are acceptable in that Member State and that risk management capability is assessed in terms of the technical, financial and administrative capacity to carry out adequate: (a) risk assessments; (b) risk management planning for prevention and preparedness; and (c) risk prevention and preparedness measures, and states that the guidelines on the assessment of risk management capability will concern the content, methodology and structure of those assessments;
3. Recalling the Council conclusions of 11 April 2011 on further developing risk assessment for disaster management within the European Union², which emphasised that risk assessment is a continuous and necessary building block for the development of a coherent risk management policy;

¹ OJ L 347 of 20.12.2013, p. 924.

² 8068/11.

4. Recalling the Council conclusions of 30 November 2009 on a Community framework on disaster prevention within the EU³, which responded to the Commission Communication of 4 March 2009 on a Community approach on the prevention of natural and man-made disasters⁴ as an initial step towards a comprehensive and consistent Union disaster prevention framework or strategy contributing to an integrated approach to the EU's disaster management policy;
5. Having regard to Risk Assessment and Mapping Guidelines for Disaster Management of 21 December 2010⁵, prepared by the European Commission and the Member States;
6. Taking note of the outcome of the workshop on risk management capability held in Rome on 15-16 July 2014, which initiated an analysis of the risk management capability concept, highlighted the importance of having an inclusive process whereby the Member States and the Commission will further work together to complete this analysis and proposed suggestions on how to carry out this common task, which will lead to the drafting of Guidelines on the assessment of risk management capability;
7. Having regard to the ongoing process aimed at revising the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015, in preparation for the post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction; recalling the Council Conclusions of 5 June 2014 on the post 2015 Hyogo Framework for Action: Managing risks to achieve resilience⁶, adopted following the Commission Communication of 8 April 2014⁷, and acknowledging the Outcome Document of the European Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Milan, Italy, on 8 July 2014;

³ 15394/09.

⁴ 7075/09; COM(2009) 82.

⁵ 17833/10; SEC(2010) 1626.

⁶ 8216/14.

⁷ 8703/14; COM(2014) 216.

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8. Recognises that the assessment of risk management capability is foremost an endeavour of the Member States and should be internally driven and owned, due to the high level of national and local engagement that is needed for a proper and efficient risk management policy.
9. Emphasises the importance of identifying a clear Union objective and expected outcomes in developing a methodological approach within the Guidelines on the assessment of risk management capability.
10. Notes that Member States' assessment of their own risk management capability should be conducted with the aim of evaluating their abilities to carry out risk assessments and planning and preparedness measures in an integrated way. The technical, financial and administrative capacity, which are integral components of the risk management capability, constitute essential elements for each of these actions.
11. Emphasises the importance of the dissemination of national and international good practices in managing natural and man-made risks and notes the possibility of having trans-national and/or macro-regional risk assessments, already in place in some European regions, in case of cross-border risks.
12. Agrees that creating a comprehensive and flexible methodology for the assessment of risk management capability will make it easier for the Member States to assess their risk management capability at national or appropriate sub-national level and investigate possible gaps or improvements. It will also improve the collective capability of having a comprehensive risk overview in the EU.

13. Notes the financing possibilities offered by the existing EU Structural Funds and by the European Investment Bank for investments in favour of disaster risk prevention and reconstruction and looks forward to further exploring possibilities in this regard, in order to maximise the use of available resources and the efforts of the Member States. This could include the possibility to establish a financial facility pooling existing European resources and facilitating investments aimed at post-disaster recovery as well as disaster risk prevention and preparedness, possibly in combination with EU Structural Funds, and available to all Member States.

Invites the Member States to:

14. Establish internal frameworks and/or methodologies for the assessment of their risk management capability, according to their national risk management policy and taking into account the forthcoming Guidelines on the assessment of risk management capability.
15. Aim at designing inclusive processes when establishing such frameworks and/or methodologies, by:
 - addressing all relevant administrations at all levels and across sectors including, where relevant, regulatory authorities, as well as private actors (particularly, but not limited to critical infrastructures owners and operators), research centres and academia, media operators, auditing committees, civil society organisations and the general public, as well as other relevant stakeholders;
 - promoting an appropriate involvement of civil society in risk management activities, especially at local level, particularly when it comes to risk awareness campaigns and risk prevention and preparedness measures such as mitigation programs and actions;
 - taking into account to a maximum extent existing structures, guidelines and standards.

16. Make full use of the evaluation of past disasters, exercises and the lessons identified as important tools for assessing their risk management capability.
17. Consider participation, on a voluntary basis, in peer reviews aimed at assessing, inter alia, their frameworks and/or methodology for the assessment of risk management capability, as a useful and complementary instrument to national internal assessments.
18. Aim to ensure the consistency of risk management policies at national or appropriate sub-national level by optimising the available resources and making full use of the available EU funding supported by clearly identified objectives, including those emerging from the assessment of their risk management capability.

Invites the Commission to:

19. Identify and share good practice examples of risk management in Member States, particularly those related to coordination mechanisms of stakeholders, to allow for comparison and mutual learning.
20. Promote close synergies and exchange of experiences with international organizations such as United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to ensure consistency among disaster risk management activities and to facilitate the dissemination of good practices on risk management among the Member States.
21. Promote, where appropriate and cost-effective, transnational risk assessment initiatives, including within the frameworks of the EU macro-regional strategies.
22. Promote the involvement of an international network of experts which can support risk management capability assessment at all stages of the process and provide advice to Member States requesting such support.

23. Encourage the development of systems, models or methodologies for collecting and exchanging data on ways to assess the economic impact of disasters on an all-hazard basis.
 24. Identify the most suitable existing expert group for the drafting of brief and succinct Guidelines as well as for the follow-up activities related to risk management capability.
 25. When drafting the Guidelines:
 - further define the technical, financial and administrative capacity, respecting Member States' individualities in terms of systems, structures and methodologies developed for the various types of risks that are already in place at national or appropriate sub-national level, as well as their territorial features. In this process, take account of the possible local dimension of risk assessment;
 - develop a common terminology and, where relevant, use the existing one as a point of reference for risk management -related activities;
 - take into account good practices on risk management capability developed by the Member States within their own systems or in cooperation with the European Union, OECD, UNISDR and other organisations;
 - include a non-exclusive checklist of possible issues to be assessed as well as approaches and tools (which could cover reference procedures, structures, measures and indicators for capability assessments) that could be of assistance to the Member States when undertaking the assessment of their risk management capability.
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