



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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NOTE

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

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

Working Programme of the Hellenic Presidency in the field of Civil Protection**January - June 2014**

The priorities of the Hellenic Presidency are part of the trio programme of the Irish, Lithuanian and Hellenic Presidencies based on a common understanding of the main challenges in the field of civil protection and the result of an excellent cooperation.

1. Multinational Modules: Enhancing Response Capabilities

One of the main priorities of the Hellenic Presidency is to advance the work *on joint/multinational modules*. These modules consist of capacities of more than one Participating State. They are specifically mentioned in the new Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) and, in the Hellenic Presidency's view, they can make a significant contribution to successfully achieving the UCPM's objectives in terms of response capabilities.

A relevant questionnaire was sent to Member States in mid-November. The results gathered will be analysed at three levels:

- (a) strategic level - distribution to all Member States,
- (b) operational level, and
- (c) tactical level within the framework of the EU PROMETHEUS 2014 Project.

This will be the first time that the results of a Presidency questionnaire will be tested at operational level. This process has already been started at tactical level during the EU PROMETHEUS 2014 Table Top Exercise (TTX) which took place on 4 and 5 November 2013 in Athens.

The Presidency will also host a workshop in Athens entitled "*Enhancing the European Disaster Response Capacity: Multinational Modules*". The outcome of this workshop will be compiled into a report which will be distributed to all participants. Based on this report and other relevant work on the subject, the Presidency will present **draft Council Conclusions on Multinational Modules** and will lead the discussion in PROCIV. The concept of the multinational modules will be tested in the "*EU Prometheus 2014*", a Full Scale Exercise (FSE), scheduled for May/June 2014 in Athens.

This initiative of the Hellenic Presidency is being implemented with the cooperation and support of the General Secretariat of the Council and DG ECHO of the European Commission.

2. The Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM)

As the procedure for adopting the new UCPM is currently in the final phase of the ordinary legislative procedure, and its adoption is expected before the end of 2013, the Hellenic Presidency will oversee the implementation of the new Mechanism in its initial stages. The Presidency will contribute to the development of new concepts, such as the roles of the ERCC, the voluntary pool of pre-committed assets and the joint modules. During the Hellenic Presidency, work will focus on the timely adoption of the implementing acts required in the various provisions of the new legislation and to launch the practical implementation of these new tools and instruments. The Presidency will work closely with the Member States, the European Commission and the European Parliament to achieve the best possible results.

The new UCPM also represents a key element of the EU's contribution to the implementation of the UN Hyogo Framework for Action for Disaster Risk Reduction and the ongoing revision of this Framework. During the first half of the Hellenic Presidency the Commission is expected to adopt a Communication outlining the potential EU contribution to the 2015 Hyogo revision covering a number of EU policies. The Hellenic Presidency will propose draft Council conclusions based on the Communication and Member States' contributions and lead the debate in COHAFA, PROCIV and possibly other working groups.

Issues related to civil protection

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

The Lisbon Treaty introduced the "Solidarity Clause" (Article 222). It stipulates that the Union and the 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. 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. Discussions of that joint proposal within the Council are ongoing. The Hellenic Presidency will aim to finalise the discussions early in its Presidency.

As regards the IPCR arrangements (formerly CCA), following the discussions in the relevant working groups and other Union bodies, the Council decided that they should support the Solidarity Clause Implementation. Work on IPCR implementation measures (e.g. preparedness, integrated situational awareness and analysis concept, operating procedures, further development of the IPCR Web Platform, etc.) continues and a new IPCR preparedness policy was approved recently (training activities, exercises and lessons learnt, communication).

Work on the SCI and the IPCR is being conducted in the Friends of the Presidency Group and the Presidency will ensure that PROCIV is kept properly informed.

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 Hellenic Presidency will facilitate the ongoing work on the EPCIP, following the recently published Commission Staff Working Document on a new approach to EPCIP "Making European Critical Infrastructures more secure"¹. The 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 2012², discussions have continued in different fora. The Hellenic Presidency will look forward to the presentation of the Commission Communication, planned for the first quarter of 2014. The Communication should take stock of the achievements of the two Action Plans on CBRN and Explosives and suggest a more practical approach to promoting a new CBRN-E Agenda. The Hellenic presidency will also facilitate subsequent discussions in this area.

¹ 13280/13.

² 16980/12.

Events taking place in Greece

6. EU-China Steering Committee, Athens, 14 January 2014

The General Secretariat for Civil Protection of Greece will host the 4th Consortium Meeting in Athens on 14 January 2014. The meeting will provide a good opportunity to monitor the implementation of the EU-China DRM (Disaster Risk Management) project and the actions after the first six months and make progress on priority issues.

7. Workshop "Enhancing the European Disaster Response Capacity: Multinational Modules", Athens, 21-22 January 2014

Experts from Participating States (one expert per country – Member States, the EEA countries and candidate countries), the European Commission and the Council Secretariat will be invited to participate. Participants should have knowledge and experience of planning operations and responses in the context of the UCPM. Speakers will be invited to introduce topics and to facilitate discussions.

All participants will be invited to a welcome reception on 20 January and to the workshop on 21 and 22 January. The Greek General Secretariat for Civil Protection (GSCP) will make the arrangements regarding the practical and strategic planning of the workshop. The workshop will provide valuable input in the form of guidelines and recommendations concerning the role and operations of the multinational modules, resulting from a wide debate and exchange of experience. As already mentioned, the workshop will be the basis for subsequent work within PROCIV on multinational modules.

8. EU PROMETHEUS - Steering Committee, Athens, 26 February 2014

The "EU PROMETHEUS 2014" Project, co-funded by the EU, with the participation of the National CP Authorities of Greece (Lead Partner), Croatia, Cyprus and Italy, and the Greek Red Cross, aims to test the activation of the UCPM in an extreme wildfire scenario, followed by a technological accident (a twin disaster). The Steering Committee will be the last step before the Full Scale Exercise (FSE) and the main purpose of the meeting will be to prepare the FSE within the framework of the new UCPM.

9. EU EVITA (Seveso II) Table Top Exercise & Workshop, Athens, 27-28 March 2014

Controlled and organised evacuation should be examined as a prevention measure. An evacuation needs to be carried out in a timely manner and under defined conditions. Such conditions can only be evaluated at local level. Experience with wildfires in Southern Europe has shown that in the framework of minimising risk, a proactive approach is more appropriate than a reactive one. To that end, the EVITA Table Top Exercise and Workshop aims to help national and regional CP authorities as well as industrial managers, hoteliers and local inhabitants to answer the following vital question in case they see a wildfire approaching: *"Should I initiate an evacuation and how much time do I have to evacuate safely?"*.

The objective of this exercise is to design and present a base scenario of a wildfire approaching a Seveso II installation in the Thriassio Field near Athens, in preparation for the operational exercise. The Greek National CP authority (GSCP) is responsible for its design and implementation.

10. The EU PROMETHEUS 2014 - Full Scale Exercise (FSE), Athens, 31 May – 4 June 2014

EU PROMETHEUS 2014 FSE scenario baseline is a twin-disaster scenario involving a mega forest fire near an inhabited and industrial area where a technological accident involving building collapses has taken place, generating the need for reinforcements in forest firefighting and search and rescue operations. The scenario envisages that the UCPM would be activated and Joint EU modules deployed at the disaster site. The FSE will be the continuation of the Table Top Exercise (TTX) which took place in Athens last November.

EU PROMETHEUS 2014 is a project of "initiatives" and "records". In fact, the EU PROMETHEUS 2014 TTX was the last exercise to be conducted based on the existing Community Civil Protection Legislation. EU PROMETHEUS 2014 FSE will be the first exercise to be conducted under the new Union Civil Protection legislation, which will enter into force on 1st January 2014.

The EU PROMETHEUS 2014 TTX introduced one of the most innovative aspects of this project - the testing of new communication technologies and media (for releasing information) at all levels. About 20 different means of communication – from SMS, email or social media messages to media reports produced in real time – were used during the exercise, making EU PROMETHEUS 2014 TTX the first INTERACTIVE Table Top Exercise in the history of the Community Civil Protection Mechanism. For the first time in the Mechanism Exercise history, professional journalists from Greek newspapers, websites, TV stations and news agencies participated as real players in the TTX. They released reports, sent tweets, interviewed those involved at all levels (national, tactical and operational) and produced special newspaper editions (of the PROMETHEUS 2014 journal) reporting on the progress of events and operations in the field, as well as their comments on the authorities' response and effectiveness. More than 130 participants and observers from Greece, Cyprus, Italy, Croatia and Lithuania took part in the two-day EU PROMETHEUS 2014 TTX. The participants included: High Level representatives of the Greek Civil Protection National Authorities including the Secretary General for CP and the Chief of the Greek Fire Corps, the National Commanders of the National Operational Level and High Level Political Representatives of the Regions and the Municipalities. In addition, there were participants from Italy, Cyprus, Croatia and Lithuania, officers of the Greek Fire Corps, the Greek Police, the Greek Armed Forces and Air Force, the National Emergency Aid Centre, the Greek Atomic Energy Committee, the Greek Red Cross, Municipal Authorities and their Civil Protection Departments.

Union Civil Protection modules from Italy, Croatia and Cyprus, as well as all Greek CP modules will participate in the Full Scale Exercise. The total number of Union CP Modules on site is estimated to be 15, acting simultaneously and including the joint modules. This is yet another record with the highest number of modules that has ever been deployed in an exercise in the history of the Community Civil Protection Mechanism. The full scale exercise will be 'back-to-back' with the 32nd Meeting of Directors-General. On 1st June 2014, for the first time in the history of the UCPM, the entire Civil Protection leadership will all meet together in the field in the framework of an exercise.

The basic schedule is as follows:

DAY 1, Saturday 31 May 2014 – STARTEX, RQ via CECIS

DAY 0, Sunday 1 June 2014 – ARRIVAL of MODULES & Reception Centre

DAY 1, Monday 2 June 2014 – OPERATIONS

DAY 2, Tuesday 3 June 2014 – OPERATIONS ENDEX & Evaluation Workshop

DAY 3, Wednesday 4 June 2014 – DEPARTURE

www.prometheus2014.gr

11. 32nd Meeting of the Directors-General for Civil Protection, Athens, 2-3 June 2014

The Meeting of the Directors-General will be held on 2 and 3 June 2014 in Athens. 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. Representatives from the EEA countries and candidate countries will also be invited. The meeting will be organised back-to-back with the EU PROMETHEUS 2014 FSE and the Directors-General will have the opportunity to visit the field of operations.

**TIMETABLE OF EVENTS AND MEETINGS DURING THE HELLENIC PRESIDENCY
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EU****JANUARY 2014**

<u>14 January</u>	EU-China Steering Committee, Athens
<u>21-22 January</u>	Workshop "Enhancing the European Disaster Response Capacity: Multinational Modules", Athens
<u>23-24 January</u>	Informal JHA
<u>29 January</u>	PROCIV

FEBRUARY 2014

<u>21 February</u>	PROCIV
<u>26 February</u>	EU PROMETHEUS - Steering Committee, Athens

MARCH 2014

<u>6-7 March</u>	JHA
<u>14 March</u>	PROCIV
<u>27-28 March</u>	EU EVITA (Seveso II) Table Top Exercise & Workshop, Athens

APRIL 2014

<u>15 April</u>	PROCIV
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MAY 2014

<u>7 May</u>	PROCIV
<u>31 May – 4 June</u>	EU PROMETHEUS 2014 Full Scale Exercise, Athens







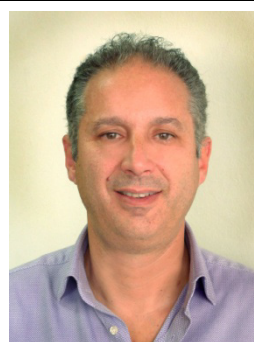



JUNE 2014

<u>2-3 June</u>	32 nd Meeting of the Directors-General for Civil Protection, Athens
<u>5-6 June</u>	JHA Lux
<u>18 June</u>	PROCIV

THE HELLENIC PRESIDENCY TEAM "G.S.C.P. 2014"

Our Motto: ONE VOICE-ONE TEAM



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