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From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Delegations

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Subject: List of follow-up actions to strengthen cooperation between civil protection and humanitarian actors in emergencies outside the European Union

Delegations will find in Annex the list of follow-up actions to strengthen cooperation between civil protection and humanitarian actors in emergencies outside the European Union, agreed jointly by the Working Party on Civil Protection (PROCIV) and the Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid (COHAFA) on 30 November 2015.

List of follow-up actions to strengthen cooperation between civil protection and humanitarian actors in emergencies outside the European Union

The workshop on *coordination and cooperation between civil protection and humanitarian actors in the aftermath of natural and man-made disasters* held in Luxembourg on 15-16 July 2015 (the Presidency Report, 12070/15)¹ stressed the need to develop more specific arrangements for cooperation between the civil protection and humanitarian aid communities. With that objective in mind, this list of follow-up actions also aims to contribute to the implementation of the Council conclusions adopted under the Italian Presidency on *cooperation between humanitarian aid and civil protection authorities: building a new partnership for disaster management*².

This list builds on recommendations from the above-mentioned Presidency report and was further refined during joint PROCIV and COHAFA meetings. It identifies concrete follow-up actions which could contribute to the improvement of cooperation between the two communities in cases where they are both responding to the same emergency situation **outside the EU**. Therefore, all the actions mentioned refer exclusively to emergency response outside the EU.

There is a need for two-way cooperation, which means respecting each other's differences, raising awareness and fostering mutual understanding at all levels (at headquarters and in the field), and building on each other's experience and know-how.

The respect of the humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence is the basis of the humanitarian response.

¹ 12070/15: 'Coordination and cooperation between civil protection and humanitarian actors in the aftermath of natural and man-made disasters, Presidency Report from the workshop held in Luxembourg on 15-16 July 2015'.

² 15831/14.

It is important to respect the specificities and complementarities of both communities. Civil protection teams are mainly 'first responders' that are deployed for short term missions, whereas humanitarian actors are usually engaged for longer periods of time. The primary responsibility for civil protection lies with the Member States, whereas in terms of humanitarian aid, the EU and Member States share competencies. Furthermore, civil protection assistance is usually delivered at the request of the government of the affected country.³

The implementation of the actions mentioned below should be developed within the existing structures and instruments. The different roles of the Member States, the European Union and the UN need to be recognised and respected when implementing these actions to ensure a harmonious transition between the current stage and the next.

The actions mentioned below are non-binding and are not listed in priority order.

The indicative time frame for the implementation of the proposed actions is within **two years**. Incoming Presidencies are invited to take forward the work of this list of follow-up actions, as appropriate.

³ According to Article 16(1) of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism Decision, the assistance may also be requested through or by the United Nations and its agencies, or a relevant international organisation.

Action	Contributor
<p>1. Organising an international gathering of the two communities (Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid) every two years in order to raise mutual awareness and discuss concrete ways of fostering synergies. This could be done through existing fora.</p>	<p>- Commission - Member States</p>
<p>2. Promoting and exploring the use of social media to speed up the information exchange between the competent authorities of the host country and local communities, to avoid misinformation during a disaster. The host country is in charge of communication with local media and the local population. The data produced by social media users should be analysed, updated and shared between responders to organise the response effectively in the event of an emergency.</p> <p>Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - use of social media analytics - early warning by sending out messages and advice on appropriate behaviour following a specific emergency using modern communication technologies. 	<p>- Commission - Member States</p>
<p>3. Promoting new technologies and innovation projects and integrating them into existing frameworks, emphasising that research should be fully in line with the needs of emergency responders from both communities. Funding and financing decisions will be taken according to the appropriate procedures.</p> <p>Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - funding research projects related to prevention and preparedness (on national and EU level) (e.g. portable solutions for electrical power; innovative communication devices; sheltering solutions). 	<p>- Commission - Member States</p>

<p>4. Lessons Learned Workshops, in particular as regards interaction between CP and HA actors.</p> <p>Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the CP LL workshops may include, where appropriate, a joint session on cooperation between CP and HA actors with stakeholders from the UCPM and the UN. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commission - Member States - involving the UN
<p>5. Joint exercises. Exercises that are intended to train both CP and HA actors should be jointly planned and designed by the two communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commission - Member States
<p>6. Joint training courses. Consideration should be given to the inclusion of a CP dimension in HA training (e.g. training organised at Member State level) and vice versa through joint planning and design (e.g. humanitarian component in the EUCP training courses). The mutual recognition of qualifications issued by the UN, the UNDAC and the EU will be further pursued.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Member States - Commission - involving the UN
<p>7. Building up local capacities through EU advisory missions in risk-prone countries and disaster-affected countries. The group of EU experts that participates in these advisory missions may include HA and CP experts if appropriate. Funding and financing decisions will be taken according to the appropriate procedures.</p> <p>Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ENP (European Neighbourhood Policy) countries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commission - Member States

<p>8. Encouraging the identification of EU civil protection liaison officers in the relevant global clusters, both at global level (for preparedness activities, training, etc.) and at a local (operational) level in the affected country, in order to ensure a fully plugged-in and coordinated CP contribution to the overall international effort.</p> <p>Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CP could work as a liaison officer between the EU, the UN and the LEMA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commission - Member States - involving the UN
<p>9. Strengthening the role of the ERCC as an operational emergency coordination platform, notably by convening coordination meetings during crises involving both civil protection and humanitarian aid, and strengthening links between the ERCC and Member States' humanitarian services through a single national humanitarian point of contact⁴, while respecting the Member States' role and responsibilities. The role of this humanitarian point of contact will be without prejudice to the role of the civil protection contact points in the framework of the UCPM. This humanitarian point of contact will serve as an entry point for the ERCC for the exchange of information on a voluntary basis on the humanitarian assistance of the respective Member State in a specific crisis.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Member States - Commission

⁴ Practical arrangements will be decided by each Member State.

<p>10. Promoting an in-depth analysis of the possible development of a common open CP-HA communication platform, while avoiding duplication with existing platforms. Confidentiality of sensitive information which could affect the essential interests of Member States' security has to be guaranteed.⁵ Any new open platform will not provide automatic access to the existing ones.</p> <p>Example:</p> <p>- standardising/harmonising the information.</p>	<p>- Commission</p> <p>- Member States</p>
<p>11. Improving the planning for a major (humanitarian) emergency outside the EU through the development of standard deployment plans (in accordance with Article 10 of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism Decision).</p>	<p>- Commission</p> <p>- Member States</p>

⁵ Article 6 of Decision No 1313/2013/EU on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism.