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INFORMATION NOTE

From: Presidency
To: Delegations

Subject: **'Actions to strengthen cooperation between civil protection and humanitarian actors in emergencies outside the European Union' - Presidency survey results**

Delegations will find attached the results of a Presidency survey among Member States and the Commission on "Actions to strengthen cooperation between civil protection and humanitarian actors in emergencies outside the European Union"

'Actions to strengthen cooperation between civil protection and humanitarian actors in emergencies outside the European Union'

Presidency survey results

The Presidency received responses from 25 Member States¹ and DG ECHO to a questionnaire circulated in July 2017 concerning the follow-up actions agreed by the Working Party on Civil Protection and the Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid in November 2015 (14896/15).

The purpose of the inquiry was to assess the progress achieved so far in implementing the Council conclusions of 16 December 2014 on '*Cooperation between humanitarian aid and civil protection authorities: Building a new partnership for disaster management*' (15831/14) and the follow-up actions subsequently agreed by the Working Parties.

An analysis of the Member States' responses to the questionnaire led to the following findings:

- Almost all Member States who replied have used joint meetings of the respective authorities as a means of closer cooperation between Civil Protection (CP) and Humanitarian Aid (HA) communities. This practice is in fact already implemented by several Member States independently of the above-mentioned call for action at EU level. In a number of cases the need for such coordination has been driven by recent emergencies and the migration crisis of 2016 and 2017. Meetings between the two communities have also been held at international level.
- Around two-thirds of the Member States who replied have held joint exercises, and more than half held joint trainings involving both CP and HA authorities. In particular the TRIPLEX exercise held in Norway was highlighted as an appropriate environment and scenario enabling both capabilities and cooperation between the sectors to be tested. The EDREX exercise was similarly mentioned. The involvement of HA actors in CP exercises and training within the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) framework as well as at national level has been found to be particularly useful for a better understanding of each other *modus operandi*.

¹ AT, BE, BG, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, HR, HU, IT, LT, LU, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, UK

- Almost half of the Member States responding stated they were actively promoting the use of new technologies and innovation as a means to strengthen cooperation between CP and HA actors. Mentioned actions varied from the improvement of the management processes and decision-making to software solutions provided for the HA actors as well as directly implementing new sustainable technologies like solar energy for the field operations.
- Coordinated CP contribution to the overall international (UN) effort is as well applied by half of the responding, with inclusion of CP experts to UN missions, sharing of information and activities within the IHP framework serving as an examples.
- More than half of the Member States that replied reported on actions supporting a stronger role of the European Commission's Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC).
- Only three of the four Member States who responded supported establishing standard operating response plans for the UCPM's European Emergency Response Capacity (EERC).
- There also was a low level of interest in the development of a common CP-HA communication platform during the current two-year period or in the future.
- As an additional suggestion, two Member States called to review the operational coordination agreements between EU Civil Protection Teams and the UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC).

Perspectives for the next 12 Months

- The perspective for the following twelve months generally mirrors the activities carried out during the 2015-2017 period. Participants expect to see the continuation and improvement of the ongoing consultation formats at national level and the inclusion of actors from both sectors in each other's communications, field activities and training formats as an efficient means of cooperation, facilitating interoperability, which leads to enhanced common capabilities.

Conclusions

- The survey results show that the actions jointly agreed upon in 2015 have been widely implemented by Member States. This implementation is set to continue in the next twelve months, demonstrating a commitment by Member States to strengthen the cooperation of civil protection and humanitarian aid actors in the future, in line with the 2014 Council conclusions.
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Enclosed are the tables illustrating the distribution of the activities implemented by the participants.

Table 1. Follow-up activities ranked according to the implementation frequency by the Member States

Joint meetings of the civil protection and humanitarian aid authorities	24
Joint exercises	18
Joint training courses	14
Coordinated CP contribution to the overall international (UN) effort	13
Strengthening the role of the Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) as an operational emergency coordination platform	13
Promoting new technologies and innovation	12
Sharing of knowledge and expertise in the field of disaster management, in particular using social media	10
Lessons Learned Workshops in particular as regards interaction between CP and HA actors	10
Sharing EU CP expertise and building capacities in risk-prone countries	9
Development of standard response plans with assets available in the EERC/reserve pool. Linking relief with longer-term efforts	4
Promoting an analysis of the possible development of a common open CP HA communication platform	1

Table 2. Planned activities in CP-HA cooperation during the next 12 months

Joint meetings of the civil protection and humanitarian aid authorities	14
Promoting new technologies and innovation	8
Joint training courses	7
Coordinated CP contribution to the overall international (UN) effort	7
Joint exercises	5
Sharing EU CP expertise and building capacities in risk-prone countries	4
Sharing of knowledge and expertise in the field of disaster management, in particular using social media	3
Lessons Learned Workshops in particular as regards interaction between CP and HA actors	3
Strengthening the role of the Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) as an operational emergency coordination platform	2
Development of standard response plans with assets available in the EERC/reserve pool. Linking relief with longer-term efforts	2
Promoting an analysis of the possible development of a common open CP HA communication platform	0