



Council of the  
European Union

Brussels, 3 January 2018  
(OR. en)

15928/17

PROCIV 117  
JAI 1223  
COHAFA 111  
ENFOPOL 636

**NOTE**

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From: Presidency  
To: Working Party on Civil Protection

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Subject: Work programme of the Bulgarian Presidency in the field of Civil Protection

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Delegations will find in the annex the work programme of the Bulgarian Presidency in the field of civil protection.

**Work Programme of the Bulgarian Presidency in the field of civil protection**  
**January – June 2018**

Bulgaria is the second country within the current Trio (Estonia-Bulgaria-Austria) to hold the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

As the Bulgarian Presidency begins, we see that over the recent years the EU has faced many challenges – from complex security threats to unprecedented migration flows and unpredictable extreme weather events. A multifaceted approach has been applied to address these challenges. Many existing mechanisms have been strengthened while at the same time new ones have been adopted. Some of those measures were focused on providing short-term response to pressing situations, others provided for long-term and sustainable results. In general, their overarching aim was to build a stronger EU. Now is the time to consolidate our efforts and to find solutions that will allow us not only to respond even more effectively to crises but also to make the EU more resilient and enable it to act in a more preventive and predictable manner.

In order to achieve this, the Bulgarian Presidency will focus in particular on best use of disaster risk reduction strategies and facilitating the discussions on the Commission's proposal to amend the Union Civil Protection Mechanism.

**1. Best Use of Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies**

To launch a dialogue on best use of disaster risk reduction strategies, the Presidency will organise a workshop for PROCIV delegates and experts on disaster risk reduction strategies from the Participating States on 30-31 January. One of the global objectives of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction is to increase substantially the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020. It is expected that the achievement of this target will be an important driver for improving disaster risk reduction policies worldwide. The workshop will provide the countries with the opportunity to further advance in this domain by discussing, sharing good practices and lessons learnt regarding development and implementation of disaster risk reduction strategies.

A questionnaire from the Bulgarian Presidency on disaster risk reduction strategies was disseminated to the Participating States in December 2017 in order to collect information on the availability and use of such strategies in Europe. The results will serve as a basis for discussions during the Presidency workshop.

Based on the outcomes of the workshop, the Presidency will identify topics for follow-up discussions in PROCIV.

## **2. Proposal for a Decision amending the Union Civil Protection Mechanism**

Over the last couple of years Europe has suffered a wide range of disasters resulting in excessive human and economic losses. In November 2017 the Commission adopted a proposal for a Decision amending Decision 1313/2013/EU on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism, with the aim of strengthening prevention, preparedness and response in the EU.

The Commission presented the proposal to PROCIV in December, and initial discussions took place.

## **3. Other relevant topics**

PROCIV will be informed as and when appropriate on the status and implementation of the **CBRN action plan**, the future of the **European Programme for Critical Infrastructure Protection (EPCIP)**, including the review of **Council Directive 2008/114 on European Critical Infrastructure**, the current status of the arrangements for **Integrated Political Crisis Response (IPCR)** and the planning of **EU PACE 18**.

## **4. Presidency-related events in Sofia**

- Presidency workshop on best use of disaster risk reduction strategies, 30-31 January;
- 8<sup>th</sup> EU-US-Canada expert meeting on critical infrastructure protection, 12-13 April;
- 40<sup>th</sup> meeting of Directors-General for Civil Protection of the Participating States of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism, 30 May-1 June.

## 5. PROCIV meetings

- 11 January;
- 19-20 February;
- 27-28 March;
- 20 April;
- 23-24 May;
- 25-26 June.

## 6. Deliverables

A Presidency Report on the progress made in the area of civil protection will be submitted to the Council in June.

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