



Council of the  
European Union

070091/EU XXVI. GP  
Eingelangt am 01/07/19

Brussels, 1 July 2019  
(OR. en)

10862/19

PROCIV 46  
JAI 768  
CT 66  
ENFOPOL 328

**NOTE**

---

From: Presidency  
To: Working Party on Civil Protection  
Subject: Work programme of Finland's Presidency in the field of civil protection

---

Delegations will find in the Annex the work programme of Finland's Presidency in the field of civil protection.

**Work Programme of Finland's Presidency in the field of civil protection**

**Working Party on Civil Protection (PROCIV) July-December 2019**

Finland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union follows Romania in the current Presidency trio. Finland will hold the Presidency of the Council for the third time.

In the field of civil protection, Finland's Presidency will focus on resilience and cross-sectoral cooperation (an all-hazards approach) in responding to the changing threat landscape in Europe. The need to increase the EU's resilience against both natural and man-made disasters, as well active solidarity and the pooling of resources, was recently highlighted in the new Strategic Agenda 2019-2024 agreed by the European Council on 20 June 2019.

In the Working Party on Civil Protection, particular attention will be paid to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) threats with hybrid threat elements. The Presidency will also promote a strategic, forward-looking discussion on critical infrastructure protection, including cooperation with the private sector.

The main topics on the PROCIV Working Party's agenda will be:

**1. Resilience and cross-sectoral cooperation in responding to the changing threat landscape in Europe**

Finland's Presidency will focus on the importance of resilience and cross-sectoral cooperation between various actors in responding to the variety of evolving threats and risks Europe is currently facing. In particular, the focus will be on CBRN-related threats that can be further complicated by hybrid elements. The discussions will also build on the work started by the Romanian Presidency on the management of high-impact, low-probability (HILP) events and cooperation between the EU and NATO in the field of civil protection. The Romanian Presidency cooperated with the European Centre of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats (Hybrid CoE) on this work.

'Resilience and cross-sectoral cooperation in responding to CBRN threats with hybrid elements' will be the priority theme of the Presidency Workshop to be held in Helsinki on 22-23 July 2019. The aim of the Presidency workshop is to discuss ways to strengthen resilience and preparedness for CBRN threats, including ways to bridge possible gaps in preparedness. The workshop will include an interactive approach in the form of a 'serious gaming' concept, using a scenario-based case example of a CBRN incident with extreme weather and hybrid threat elements.

Based on the discussions and key outcomes of the workshop, the Presidency will continue policy discussions in the Working Party. The Presidency will promote a policy discussion on the implementation of the revised EU legislation on the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) and the development of the new rescEU capacities. In order for the UCPM and the new rescEU capacities to be strong and effective, there is a need to think strategically beyond traditional risks and ensure the mechanism can be used in a fully flexible manner to respond to a variety of threats, including CBRN-related threats.

New and complicated combinations of threats force authorities - including civil protection authorities - to evaluate the resilience and flexibility of the systems currently in place. Flexibility and cross-sectoral cooperation with other authorities and actors is particularly important in dealing with CBRN and hybrid incidents. Several national services and agencies might have competence in the field of CBRN. The Presidency will seek to promote discussion on possible areas of further cooperation between authorities and other actors in CBRN preparedness.

The Presidency will promote cooperation between civil protection and law enforcement sectors by arranging a joint discussion of the Terrorism Working Party (TWP) and PROCIV in September, with the aim of raising awareness of existing CBRN risks and emphasising a risk-based approach to CBRN capability development. The meeting will promote cross-sectoral cooperation by sharing information on best practices and also by discussing civil-military cooperation in preparing for CBRN threats.

## **2. Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2021-2027: Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Decision 1313/2013/EU on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism**

The legislative proposal related to the management of the UCPM financial envelope for 2021-2027 was presented by the Commission at the PROCIV meeting in March. The discussion on the proposal started during the Romanian Presidency.

Finland's Presidency will take the work forward and aim to begin negotiations with the European Parliament in the latter part of 2019.

## **3. Forward-looking approach to critical infrastructure protection**

The Presidency will promote a forward-looking discussion on critical infrastructure protection at European level and closely follow the evaluation process of Council Directive 2008/114 on European critical infrastructure protection.

The Presidency, together with the Commission, will host an EU/US/Canada Critical Infrastructure Protection experts' meeting in Helsinki in October. The Presidency will also promote discussion related to critical interdependencies, cascading effects, security of supply and hybrid threats, as well as the role of the private sector in critical infrastructure protection.

The Presidency will organise a high-level conference together with the European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS) on critical infrastructure and security of supply, in Brussels in early November. The conference aims to inform policy-makers about new approaches to critical infrastructure protection and security of supply in the context of hybrid threats.

#### **4. Other relevant topics**

Global perspectives on enhancing resilience, disaster prevention and disaster risk reduction will be presented and discussed in PROCIV. The UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) in cooperation with Hybrid CoE and the Presidency will present a concept for a potential stress test tool that would help countries understand and improve their ability to reduce the risk of hybrid threats and cascading disaster scenarios. The Council will also be informed about tools for supporting effective legal frameworks for disaster risk reduction and preparedness for disasters (by the Red Cross).

A proposal and a Recommendation for two Council Decisions related to the Agreement for Co-operation in Dealing with Pollution of the North Sea by Oil and Other Harmful Substances (the Bonn Agreement) will be presented by the Commission for subsequent adoption by the Council.

#### **5. Related Presidency events**

- PROCIV workshop on resilience and cross-sectoral cooperation in responding to CBRN threats with hybrid elements, Helsinki, 22-23 July 2019.
- 43rd meeting of Directors-General for Civil Protection of the Participating States of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism, Helsinki, 9-10 October 2019.
- EU-US-CAN Critical Infrastructure Protection experts' meeting, Helsinki, 29-30 October 2019.
- Seminar on hybrid threats and critical infrastructure protection, Brussels, 6 November 2019.

#### **6. PROCIV meetings**

- 12 September (AM: TWP & PROCIV, PM: PROCIV)
- 14 November
- 9 December (possible)

## 7. Deliverables

After the completion of Finland's Presidency, a Presidency report on the progress made in the area of civil protection will be submitted to the Council.

**Home page of Finland's Presidency of the EU Council:** [www.eu2019.fi](http://www.eu2019.fi)

**Social media:** @EU2019FI #EU2019FI

Twitter

Instagram

Flickr

YouTube

---