Conference on natural disasters and "one health", are we prepared? Brussels, 16 and 17th April 2015.

Member states collaboration, the role of the European Union throughout the EU civil protection mechanism.

By Yves Dussart

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Fundamentals of EU Civil Protection

- **Responsibility**: MS are responsible for the security and the safety of their citizens and foreigners on their territory.

- **Solidarity**: MS have the responsibility to support other Member States affected by a disaster when needed. (re-enforced by Lisbon Treaty Solidarity Clause)

- **Call for assistance**: MS and third countries can call for assistance when overwhelmed by a disaster affecting people, environment, property. MS are responsible for needs identification, they are responsible to receive / and for the use of EU/foreign assistance.

- **Voluntary**: Level of support / assistance is determined by the MS providing assistance.

- **Commission as facilitator**: EU supports preparation, facilitates cooperation, coordination and complements MS. (Art 196 Lisbon Treaty)
CHRISTOS STYLIANIDES


Also appointed by the European Council as EU Ebola Coordinator
The Union Civil Protection Mechanism

- **Response**: Facilitates cooperation in civil protection assistance interventions in the event of major disasters inside and outside the EU

- **Preparedness**: Training, exercises, exchange of experts, modules

- **Prevention**: Support MS in preventing risks or reducing harm to people, the environment or property resulting from emergencies

- **30 participating countries**: 28 MS + Iceland, Norway, and soon 33 with the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia.

- Close links with other alert systems (notably operated by DG SANTE, HOME, ENER, EEAS...)

- **Legal basis:**
  - Commission Implementing Decision No 2014/762/EU
UCPM

The European civil protection covers 3 phases of disaster management cycle:
Reinforced by new EU CP Legislation

PREVENTION
Improve knowledge methodologies and access to data.
Risk assessment guidelines, risk management plans; peer reviews;
Integration DRR into sectorial policies.
Climate Change adaptation etc.

PREPAREDNESS
Training programmes, exercises during simulated emergencies,
exchange of expert's programmes, cooperation projects.
Early warning tools.

RESPONSE
Assistance may include search and rescue teams, medical teams, shelter, water purification units and other relief specialised experts/items requested.

ALL HAZARDS APPROACH Including Biological
Types of disasters covered by EU CP Mechanism

- **Natural disasters**
  - Floods, earthquakes, forest fires, cyclones, typhoons

- **Manmade disasters**
  - Environmental disasters (oil spills, Deepwater Horizon, HU alkali sludge accident 2010),
  - Complex emergencies (Syria, Ukraine 2014)

- **Health emergencies**
  - Ukraine H1N1 / Ebola crisis 2014

- **Assistance to consular support**
  - Terrorist attacks (medical evacuation Mumbai- India)
  - Evacuations of EU citizens from Libya and TCN from Tunisia/Egypt; Yemen
The EU's Emergency Response Coordination Centre

The operational heart of CPM is the European Commission's new **Emergency Response Coordination Centre** (ERCC), which was launched on 15 May 2013 and is accessible **24 hours a day, seven days a week**. Any country inside or outside EU affected by a disaster and overwhelmed by its magnitude can make a request for assistance for assistance through the ERCC.
Country hit by disaster

Request for assistance
Accepts/rejects offers
Situation reports

Match needs with offers
Deploy EU CP Team
Facilitate /co finance
Transport

Activation of the Mechanism
Floods in Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina 2014

Humanitarian Aid & Civil Protection
Serbia experienced the most catastrophic floods unprecedented in its history. A State of Emergency was declared for the whole Republic from 15 – 23 May.

- 40 municipalities and 1.6 million people were affected. The Municipality of Obrenovac (near Belgrade) was mostly affected (90% flooded).

- 485 housing units have been completely destroyed by the floods and landslides. 16 200 houses were damaged.

- Infrastructure, Health Sector, Environment and Education sector heavy affected. Losses mount to € 1.5 billion.

- 60 casualties have been reported during the emergency – 26 as a result of drowning.

- 31 879 people were rescued and evacuated, 180 000 were in need of assistance.
On 15 May, Serbia has requested assistance through the UCPM in form of High Capacity Water Pumping (HCP) modules.

Due to worsening of the situation, on 16 May 2014, a second request for HCP modules, flood rescue teams with boats and helicopters for rescue and evacuation operations of the affected people; chemicals for suppression of larvas and adult forms of mosquitoes,

On 23 May, a third request for assistance followed for Water Purification Teams.

Assistance was provided by 9 Participating States (22 teams, with 563 members):
- Flood Rescue Teams
- Helicopters
- High Capacity Water Pumping
- Water Purification Teams
Continuous rainfall (4 months of rain fell in just three days) started on 13 May and led to exceptional flooding in many parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Over 3,000 landslides were triggered, landmines were uncovered - boats or helicopters provided the only possible evacuation methods.

300,000 inhabitants were directly affected. More than 1 million of people were hit by the flood indirectly.

Roads, infrastructure houses and entire villages were swept away.

In Posavina Canton, floods killed number of Poultry, Cattle and other animals. Serious epidemiological situation as dead animals still in the water. Needs boats and personal equipped with sanitary and hygienic items to pick up dead animals and move them to incinerators.
ERCC/ UCPM response for both countries

- **23 EU Member States** provided in-kind assistance, such as rescue boats, helicopters, high-capacity pumping modules and water purification units.

- More than **800 relief workers** with their equipment deployed through the UCPM.

- ERCC deployed **4 EUCP coordination and assessment teams** to support coordination on site. In total **26 experts** and **6 ERCC LO's**.

- **€ 430 000** has been requested by the Participating States of the Mechanism to co-finance transportation costs of Assistance. Over 40 grant requests were processed.

- **80 Satellite maps** of the flooded areas via the Copernicus Emergency Management Service.

- 4 experts deployed through UCPM for **Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA)**.

- **€ 3 million** in **humanitarian aid** allocated to address the most immediate needs.
Main focus of Decision No 1313/2013/EU

- Culture of prevention and preparedness
- Replacing ad-hoc response with a pre-planned approach
- Supporting Member States on capacity developments
Disaster prevention: Member States' actions

Develop **risk assessments** and make available to the Commission a summary of the relevant elements thereof within two years and then every three years.

Develop and refine their disaster **risk management planning**.

Make available to the Commission an **assessment of their risk management capability**.

Participate, on a voluntary basis, in **peer reviews**.
Disaster prevention: Commission's actions

- Promote Member States' **risk assessments and mapping through the sharing of good practice**;

- Establish and update a **cross-sectoral overview and map of the disaster risks** faced by the Union taking into account the likely impacts of climate change;

- Encourage exchange of good practices on preparing national civil protection systems.
Disaster preparedness

Key on-going developments

- the development of civil protection response **modules**;
- the identification of **experts** and teams for EU missions;
- **Training, exercises, exchange of experts and lessons learned**;
- Facilitate **Host Nation Support** (how to receive assistance).
- Use of **geo-spatial information/maps** (Copernicus emergency management service), in preparedness and response.
Modules (preparedness)

Key principles of modules (implementing rules):

- Pre-defined specific assistance capabilities to be dispatched at very short notice (within 12 hours of a request for assistance);
- Self-sufficiency and autonomy;
- Interoperability

Implementation work well underway including
- Development and registration of modules
- Specific training and exercises.
Disaster preparedness - Modules

Types of EU CP modules:

1) High Capacity Pumping
2) Flood Containment Module
3) Flood Rescue Module using boats
4) Water Purification
5) Medium USAR
6) Heavy USAR
7) Aerial Forest Fire-Fighting using helicopters
8) Aerial Forest Fire-Fighting using airplanes
9) Ground Forest Fire Fighting
10) Ground Forest Fire Fighting using vehicles
11) Advanced medical post
12) Advanced medical post with surgery
13) Medical aerial evacuation of disaster victims
14) Emergency temporary shelter
15) CBRN detection and sampling
16) SAR in CBRN conditions
17) Field hospital
and Technical assistance support team (TAST)
Disaster preparedness - Exercises

About 40 full scale exercises over the last 13 years

Natural disasters, technological accidents, terrorist acts.
Inside and outside EU
New actions in disaster preparedness

Establishment of **Emergency Response Coordination Centre** (ERCC) with 24/7 operational capacity

Establish a European Emergency Response Capacity consisting of a **voluntary pool**

Co-finance **buffer capacities** to address temporary shortcomings

Seed-funding for **new response capacities** in very specific situations, where a potentially **significant gap** has been identified
Emergency Response Coordination Centre

**ERCC**: a single operational hub in the Commission operating on a 24/7 basis, mandated to facilitate the coordination of Member States' civil protection assistance during major emergencies.

A co-ordination platform within the Commission and with other services.

The single entry point and operational hub for the Solidarity Clause.
The voluntary pool is a system whereby Member States can **pre-commit response capacities** for EUCPM missions.

In return for this commitment, **Member States benefit from financial support** for developing and transporting these capacities.

The **quality** of the assistance is ensured through the establishment of quality criteria and a **certification process**.
BE Mobile Laboratory in EU Voluntary Pool
Fight against EBOLA Guinea - Nzere Kore
The EU can co-finance up to **40% of the standby costs** of framework contracts, framework partnership agreements, and similar arrangements to have additional response capacities available in order to **address temporary shortcomings in extraordinary disasters.**
Capacity gaps

Member States + European Commission

a process to identify potentially significant response capacity gaps

Where necessary, the Commission may support Member States in addressing these gaps by providing seed-funding for the development of new response capacities up to a maximum of 20% of the eligible costs.
CONCLUSIONS

- EU Civil Protection Mechanism, fast developing tool which can support Member States - at their request – for the preparedness and the effective coordinated response to disasters inside or outside EU; Immediate civil protection assistance to the affected country! (experts teams and means) and prevention.

- Major steps forwards including ERCC, Maps, experts Transport and Modules, Voluntary pool; training and exercise. Assessments of risks and capabilities,

- If needs or gaps identified could contribute to supporting actions toward one health concept through existing tools notably, exchange of experts, best practices, training and exercise, based on assets (teams and means) that Member States have and are willing to share.
EU Civil Protection Forum: 6-7 May 2015 Brussels,

- Conference & an exhibition, "Partnership and Innovation".
- Partnership: EU, neighbouring countries, UN, other international partners (US, Japan, China, ASEAN), NGOs, public and private sectors involved in Disaster Risk Management
- Innovation: strong focus on new technologies and on innovative ways of engaging stakeholders and communities (incl: the academic, research and business).

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QUESTIONS?