



European Voluntary Civil Protection Forum Coordination Council

Meeting of the Coordination Council of European Voluntary Civil Protection Forum Budapest, 13. December 2011.

MEMORANDUM

The Meeting of the European Voluntary Civil Protection Forum (EVCPPF) was held in Budapest, in which the representatives of the Austrian, Croatian, English, Hungarian, Slovakian and Swedish member organizations of the Organizational Committee participated.

Heads of the delegations of the CC member organizations:

- Austrian: Walter Schwarzl, General Secretary
- Croatian: Brig. General (Ret.) Dr. Sc. Željko Dobranović, President
- English: Moya Wood-Heath, Emergency Planning/Civil Protection Advisor
- Hungarian: Ret.Col. Dr István Endrődi, President
- Slovakian: Imrich Kovacs, member of the presidency of Bratislava Region
- Swedish: Anders M. Johansson, General Secretary

Prior to the beginning of the discussion of the items on the agenda Ret. Col. Dr. István Endrődi, President of the Forum greeted Dr. Sc. Zeljko Dobranovic, Head of the Croatian member organization on behalf of the CC on the occasion of the signing of Croatia of the contract on joining with the EU.

Furthermore, he indicated that, based on the incoming proposals the short name of the Forum has changed to:

European Voluntary Civil Protection Forum – EVCPPF – and we will use this name in the future. On the basis of the request of the CC members the new logo finalized with the adequate colour will be sent to the member organizations.

He informed the CC members that because of the long illness of Mr. György Lesko, General Secretary Dr. Zsolt Dalnoki, Lieut.-Gen. will fulfil the activities of the General Secretary as assignee.

Finally, he informed the CC members about the change of the name of the Swedish organization: instead of the former name: Swedish Civil Defence League the new name will be: Swedish Civil Protection Association.

The meeting approved the items on the agenda as follows:

1. Discussion of the draft Terms of Reference and Memorandum of Understanding and approval of the final draft ,
2. Hearing of the pieces of information, and information about the present status of the Regional Partnership Cooperation,
 - Regional Partnership Cooperation of the Western-Balkan states,
 - Regional Partnership Cooperation of the Mediterranean countries,
 - Regional Partnership Cooperation of the Nordic countries,
3. Agreement on the reasonable date of the next-year Conference, Discussion on the location of the Conference (review of the proposals the CC members) program of the Conference, proposals for the next-year Workplan, concepts related to the increase of the number of the member organizations, undertakings of the CC members in the field of identification and inclusion,
4. Information of the entering into contact with the EU ECHO Directorate General (DG), discussion of the issues of the planned cooperation – moral and financial support - with the EU,
5. Other topics

1.) Discussion of the draft Terms of Reference and Memorandum of Understanding and approval of the final draft

Following the Conference in April the draft submitted there was discussed by the member organizations, and, based on the incoming opinions the draft Terms of Reference and Memorandum of Understanding have been modified. The CC members got the modified draft prior to the meeting. This was discussed at the meeting and the CC members approved it unanimously (attached).

Ret. col. Dr. István Endrődi, President of the Forum expressed his recognition and thanks to Mrs. Moya Wood-Heath for the extremely important and significant work with which she contributed to the re-elaboration of the draft and revised the draft.

The CC meeting decided to send to all member organizations and its final approval can take place at the next-year Conference.

President of the Forum reported that parallel to the re-elaboration of the draft Terms of Reference and Memorandum of Understanding the Final Declaration of the Conference in April will also be modified. The modification will not affect the essence; it is primarily related to the correction of the English language text. The members of the CC reviewed the modifications and approved the changes unanimously.

2.) Hearing of the pieces of information, and information about the present status of the Regional Partnership Cooperation

a.) Regional Partnership Cooperation of the Western-Balkan states

Dr. Sc. Zeljko Dobranovic informed the participants of the meeting about the present situation. He informed the participants of the meeting about the present situation. He reported that, from among these countries, through the Serbian Emergency and Crisis Management Association and its organizational activity the civilian organization named Society Academy for Crisis Management wishes to be the member organization of the Forum, too.

Based on the draft Terms of Reference and Memorandum of Understanding – taking into consideration a report said personally to a CC member – the CC accepted the request for joining of the Slovenian organization and authorized the President to inform the Slovenian organization, as well as each member organization of the acceptance among the EVCPF member organization.

The CC accepted the information of Dr. Zeljko Dobranovic and, that the establishment and inclusion of the civilian civil protection organization of the Western-Balkan states in the planned Regional Partnership Cooperation is, at present, in the starting phase, primarily because of political and financial reasons. The CC regarded the work of Mr. Dobranovic as significant and hold the meeting planned for the 22nd of December with the Serbian Association as important.

b.) Regional Partnership Cooperation of the Mediterranean countries

The Portuguese REDE organization envisaged, following the statutory Conference, to establish cooperation of the organization of the Mediterranean countries: Portugal, Spain, France, Italy, Malta and Greece, in the framework of the Regional Partnership Cooperation of the Mediterranean countries.

For this purpose, it elaborated regulated related to the establishment of the Regional Partnership Council of the Mediterranean Countries, which it sent in August to all affected countries and also to the President of the ECF. In his reply

the President evaluated the initiative positively, and congratulated to the Portuguese organization for the idea.

Joaquim Canhoto, President of the REDE sent information, prior to the CC meeting about the present status of the establishment of the planned Regional Cooperation.

He indicated that through their activity a meeting will be held with the Spanish and French organizations in the first quarter of 2012, where the issues of cooperation will be discussed. The establishment of the Council of the Regional Partnership Cooperation will take place in the years 2012-2014.

The CC highly appreciated the activity of the Portuguese organization, and the President will inform the President of the REDE after the CC meeting, and will ask for the continuation of the work.

c.) Regional Partnership Cooperation of the Nordic countries

Anders M. Johansson informed the CC members, that the Regional Partnership Cooperation of the Nordic countries is in the start phase yet. The organizations of Sweden, Denmark and Finland decided in Agsut to establish such a cooperation.

The Secretary General of the Swedish Civil Protection Association indicated simultaneously that it would be reasonable to establish a Forum for discussions, which, by the help of the internet, would make it possible to distribute experiences.

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The CC highly appreciated the Regional Partnership Cooperations and emphasized that efforts related to the establish of these must be continued. Mr. Dobranovic emphasized that primarily the activity of the EVCPF should be distributed on a wide scale, and on the basis of this Regional Partnership Cooperations will be established which base practical cooperation. In the framework of the topic the President of the HCPA gave information about the activity of the Hungarian organization, primarily in connection with the red mud disaster.

3.) The next-year Conference

The President proposed to hold the next-year Conference in September-October. Simultaneously he requested the CC members to undertake the organization of the Conference. Mr. Anders M. Johansson indicated that the Swedish organization will examine its possibility. The President asked each

member organizations to do similarly, and **send information to the President by 31. January.**

Expected program of the next-year Conference:

- Approval of the Terms of Reference and Memorandum of Understanding,
- Review of the Regional Partnership Cooperations, hearing of pieces of information,
- Hearing of information of the visit made to the EU ECHO Directorate General; possible supports of the EU,
- Workplan of the next period, ideas to increase the number of member organizations,
- Other issues.

The program of the next-year Conference will be finalized at the CC meeting to be held in the I. half-year.

4.) Information of the entering into contact with the EU ECHO Directorate General (DG), planned cooperation with the EU,

The President informed the CC members that we plan to enter into contact with the EU ECHO in order to finalize the EU support. That is why we will send a letter to the competent leaders of the EU: The Director General of ECHO and the leader responsible for cooperation. Mrs. Moya Wood-Heath promised assistance to the writing of the letter and the preparation of the visit.

For the interest of preparation we utilized the liaison officer working in Brussels of the Hungarian National Directorate General for Disaster Management, Ministry of Interior, with whom Mrs. Moya Wood-Heath already got acquainted during the CC meeting.

5.) Other topics, legal status of the EVCPF

The CC members came to the standpoint unanimously that the legal status of the EVCPF must be arranged. In connection with this, Mrs. Moya Wood-Heath gave preliminary information. The CC requested its members to send proposals **by the end of January 2012.** related to this.

Dr. Ország Imre