



European Voluntary Civil Protection Forum
Coordination Council

MEMORANDUM
of the
COORDINATION COUNCIL MEETING

Budapest, 22. May 2012.

The last meeting of the Coordination Council („KT”, the Hungarian abbreviation) took place on the 22nd of May 2012. in Budapest where the following organizations participated:

- 1. Council of the Civil Protection Association of the Bratislava Region**
- 2. Civil Protection Association of Košice Region**
- 3. Croatian Crisis Management Association**
- 4. Hungarian Civil Protection Association**
- 5. Swedish Civil Protection Association**
- 6. British Red Cross**

The **Austrian Civil Protection Association** – member of the KT – did not have itself represented in the meeting with reference to the organization of the disaster protection youth contest „Safety-Tour”, however it sent their proposals related to the items on the agenda electronically.

Mr. Róbert **Rafael** Deputy Director General of **RSOE of EVCPPF**, who honoured the meeting of the KT with his participation, presented the draft website of the EVCPPF. The address of the website www.evcpf.eu has been registered and it is already available with restricted functions on the internet. Mr. Rafael is waiting for the proposals related to website to the e-mail address robert.rafael@rsoe.hu .

The following items on the agenda were discussed at the meeting:

- 3 Information of the visit to the EU ECHO DG.
- 3 Overview of the situation of the Regional Partnership Cooperations and discussion of further tasks.
- 3 Discussion of and agreement on the concepts and proposals related to the legal status of the EVCPF.
- 3 Building of contacts.
- 3 Conference of the year 2012.
- 3 Concepts related to the Working plan of the next year, tasks of the members of the KT and sending their proposals before the meeting of the KT prior to the Conference.
- 3 Miscellaneous.

1. Information of the visit to the EU ECHO DG

The following persons participated at the meeting on behalf of the KT:

- **Ret. Col. Dr. István Endrődi István**, President of the KT,
- **Ret. Col. Dr. Imre Ország**, organizer of the EVCPF,
- **Mrs. Moya Wood-Heath** member of the KT, civil protection/emergency adviser of the English Red Cross and the Red Cross Office in Brussels,
- **Mrs. Grafjodi Varga Gabriella** second secretary of the standing representation of Hungary to the EU.

Dr. István Endrődi presented the results of the constructive discussion with Mr. **Claus Sorensen** Director General of EU ECHO on the 2nd of May in Brussels. At the meeting the Forum, its aim and role, the member organizations and the regional partnership cooperations were presented.

The cooperation between the civilian organizations and the governmental organizations is an important issue. The existence of the Forum is proven also by the continuous enlargement of its membership. Mr. Sorensen was prepared related to the EVCPF, and emphasized the special importance of the Western-Balkan regional cooperation. Furthermore, it provided information on the setting up of the European

Voluntary Civil Protection Unit. It has called the attention to the Civil Protection Forum to be held between the 15th and 16th of November 2012. in Nicosia and proposed the participation of the EVCPF. Furthermore he has invited our Forum to the Civil Protection Forum in Brussels which was postponed to 24-25 April 2013, where he offered the possibility for exhibition and presentation. The KT has supported the visit to Cyprus. The EVCPF cannot get financial support from the EU in 2012, since the planning and budget phase already closed. If possible, the EU ECHO would contribute symbolically to the Conference of November in Budapest (e.g.: interpretation, costs of meals). Applications are important where the applicant will pay 25 per cent while the EU will pay 75 per cent (of which 60 per cent is pre- and 40 per cent is after-financing).

It is imaginable that it can provide a certain amount of money for the support of the Forum in the ECHO budget for 2013.

It was promised that the website of the EVCPF under preparation will be accessible from the website of the ECHO.

Mr. Sorensen designated the below mentioned persons as liaison officers between the Forum and the ECHO:

Application materials: Ms. Biljana Zuber

Civil Protection Forum in Brussels: Ms. Betri De Mayer

Conference in Cyprus: Mr. Frantzis

General maintainer of contacts: Diana Burghardt
(diana.burghardt@ext.ec.europa.eu)

2. Overview of the situation of the Regional Partnership Cooperations, discussion of further tasks

Dr. sc. Željko Dobranović held information. He will meet **Mr. Davidović Dušan (Serbian Association for Crisis and Emergency Management)** on the 24th of May in Zagreb, the aim of which is to organize a transboundary civil protection exercise on the area of Vojvodina.

In Bosnia-Herzegovina the establishment of a civilian civil protection organization is under way.

In Macedonia two organizations have been mapped with the participation of the University of Velika Gorice. The availability of the groups will be sent to the Forum electronically.

In Slovenia the Forum has one member organization. The leader of the organizations is **Prof. dr. Iztok Podbregar (Society Academy for Crisis Management, Slovenia)** who will be also present at the Zagreb meeting.

In connection with the Nordic Regional Partnership **Mr. Anders M. Johansson** said that Denmark, Sweden and Finland are members of the Partnership while Iceland and Norway are not members, however the voluntary organization is the most developed from among the Nordic countries. Two exercises will be organized this year; the transboundary employment of the volunteers will be tried in the Danish- Swedish and Finnish-Swedish relation. The cooperation is a cost-timing task; however the members are in close cooperation with one another.

Mr. Sorensen asked the members of the EVCPF to establish contacts with their domestic state organizations, and he will also approach the state organs and inform them of the existence of the Forum.

After this, Mr. Endrődi presented the information of REDE which arrived by email. For the call of the Mediterranean Partnership no reply has yet arrived on the part of Italy, Spain and France. The impediment of the contacts has primarily financial and self-confidence reasons.

3. Concepts related to the legal status of the EVCPF and the discussion of and agreement on the proposals

The registration of the EVCPF is costly, office, accountant and bank account are necessary for the operation. The members of the KT accepted unanimously that the most efficient solution is if the Forum will not be registered. However, in order to apply in the EU, it must lay down in the Statutes that the organization – giving the President of the

KT - will apply on behalf of the EVC PF. This organization will handle the application moneys on a separate account and will prepare a detailed report on the use of them.

The members consider appropriate to discuss the acceptance of the membership fee of 500 €/year contained in the Swedish proposal only at a later date in consideration of the delicate financial situation of the individual organizations. The members agreed that the introduction of the membership fee would filter out the inactive organizations and so in this way it would serve the development of the Forum.

The MPVSZ has undertaken to prepare a detailed calculation for the year 2012/2013 for the operational costs of the Forum, which it will present at the next meeting of the KT in September. After the calculation one can come back to the issue of the membership fee.

4. Building of contacts

Mr. Sorensen proposed to enter into contact with the German THW (www.thw.bund.de) and the European Volunteer Centre, (www.cev.be). The President of the THW **Mr. Albrecht Broemme** has given the information for our approach that the THW is a governmental organ and arising from this it cannot – as a civilian organ – to be a member of the EVC PF, but he asked for information of the further development of the Forum. It should be cleared that whether this organization is a voluntary one from legal point of view, since its leadership is in state employment, however the 80000 persons are volunteers, and Mr. Sorensen called separate attention for them and proposed to call them for membership. However, the experience of the THW can be important for the Forum. Mr. Sorensen should be informed in writing about the standpoint of the THW. Occasionally **Dr. Zsolt Dalnoki** assigned Chief Secretary could meet the President of THW when he will participate in a disaster protection advanced training in Bonn from June 16 to 28.

It was mentioned in connection with the development of contacts outside the European countries that National Voluntary Organizations Participating in Disasters of the USA (www.nvoad.org) and a Russian organization undertaking similar tasks has approached them.

The KT has decided that time is early for this type of entering into contact; we have to operate our internal issues first, that is, the primary aim of the Forum is to hold together the European voluntary organisations.

5. Conference of the year 2012.

The discussion for the date of the Conference to be held in Budapest in the autumn (the week of 10. October of the period between 15-19) took place. According to the concepts it would be reasonable to link the event with a domestic exercise. With this, the guests could have a view into the organisational frames and tasks of the domestic disaster protection. The parties agreed that the KT will meet in the middle of September for the preparation of the Conference. In addition to the voluntary organisations the professional disaster protection organisations would also get invitation for the Conference. The voluntary organisations must bear only the travel costs while the MPVSZ will provide for the costs of supply and accommodation. In the case of the state organisations they should bear the costs of travel, accommodation and supply. Mr. Sorensen should also be invited to the Conference, and his supporting letter would be beyond the invitations.

6. Concepts for the Working Plan of the next year, tasks of the KT members and the sending of their proposals before the KT meeting prior to the Conference

Main task of the Conference is to accept the final version of the Statutes and the Terms of Reference. According to the plans Dr. István Endródi, Mr. Claus Sorensen, and the leader of the Hungarian state disaster protection **Lieut.-Gen. Dr. Bakondi György** would open the Conference.

We request the members to send us their proposals related to the organization and the conduct of the Conference until the beginning of July.

7. Miscellaneous

Ret. Lieut.-Col. György Leskó , the elected General Secretary, withdrew from his position with reference to his illness. Based on the Statutes and the Terms of Reference the Conference will elect the Chief Secretary. Until the Conference Lieut. Dr. Zsolt Dalnoki will perform the tasks of the Chief Secretary as authorized. The KT accepted and has been supporting the election by the Conference of Mr. Dalnoki as Chief Secretary in October.

Budapest, the 25th of May 2012.

Lieut. Dr. Zsolt Dalnoki
assigned Chief Secretary

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