



EURO-MEDITERRANEAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY



RESOLUTION

of the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly Working Group on:

Civil protection and prevention of natural and ecological disasters

adopted on 26 March 2006 in Brussels by the Working Group on Civil protection and prevention of natural and ecological disasters in the Euro-Mediterranean region on the basis of a draft tabled

by Mr Antonios Trakatellis, Chairman

The Working Group on Civil protection and prevention of natural and ecological disasters in the Euro-Mediterranean region

- having regard to the EMPA final declaration adopted on the 15 of March 2005 in Cairo (Par. 7,p) and to the declaration of the EMPA Presidency addressed to the 10th Anniversary Euro-Mediterranean Summit, adopted on the 21 November 2005 in Rabat (Par. 6);
- having regard to the mandate given to the Working Group by the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly Bureau on the 24 May 2005;
- having regard to the "Five Year work programme" adopted in the occasion of the 10th Anniversary Euro-Mediterranean Summit on the 28 November 2005 in Barcelona;
- having regard to its meetings of 18 October 2005, 1 December 2005 and 2 February 2006 and namely to the exchanges of views with experts from the European Commission (DG Environment and Joint Research Centre), the European Environmental Agency, the United Nations (UN International Strategy for Disaster Reductions) and the Euro-Mediterranean civil protection national authorities;
- having regard to the relevant Council Decisions and Commission Proposals and Communications to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions in the field of civil protection and disaster and crisis response¹;
- having regard to the results achieved by the Euro-Med Civil Protection Pilot Project (1998-2004) as well as the Bridge Programme (2005-07)²;

A. whereas civil protection actions can mitigate or reduce the adverse effects of natural and man-made disasters on people, public health and safety, the environment, property and cultural heritage;

B. whereas two different dimensions are involved in the occurrence of a natural disaster: a *natural hazard* (earthquake, tsunami, hurricane, fire, flood, etc.) and the *relative vulnerability* of the society affected (natural or infrastructural exposure, degree of preparedness and response capacity).

C. whereas, therefore, while addressing natural disaster response policies, two main lines must be taken into account: first, in the short and medium term, early warning and immediate response capacity; second, in the long term, reduction of social vulnerability by preventive

¹ Council Decision of 9 December 1999 establishing a Community action programme in the field of civil protection (1999/847/EC), amended by the Council Decision of 20 December 2004 as regards the extension of the Community action programme in the field of civil protection (2005/12/EC); Council Decision of 23 October 2001 establishing a Community mechanism to facilitate reinforced cooperation in civil protection assistance interventions (2001/792/EC, Euratom); Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, Improving the Community Civil Protection Mechanism COM(2005) 137 final; Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, Reinforcing EU Disaster and Crisis Response in third countries COM(2005) 153 final; Commission Proposal for a Council Decision Establishing a Community civil protection mechanism (recast) COM(2006) 29 final.

² The Euro-Med Bridge Programme 2005-07 "Development of a Euro-Mediterranean system for the Reduction, Prevention and Management of Natural and Manmade Disasters"

action and integration of concerns related to natural disasters into wider frame of sustainable development policies.

D. whereas an effective early warning and response system is based on four main components, logically ordered and mutually interlinked:

1. Hazard identification and risk assessment;
2. Constant monitoring and detection of hazard occurrences;
3. Warning and communication mechanism;
4. Preparedness, response capacity and assistance.

E. whereas, along with natural disasters, several man-related ecological threats affect the Euro-Mediterranean region, namely in the following fields:

1. water management and desertification (drought, climate change, water shortages and decline of water quality);
2. coastal environment protection (industrial pollution, loss of biodiversity, urbanisation pressure);
3. marine environment protection (land-based pollution and oil spills; ecosystem alteration due to fishing overexploitation and aquaculture development; biological invasions).
4. other ecological disasters (i.e. floods, forest fires, oil spills).

On early warning and response capacity

1. Considers that all *hazard identification* should be improved by covering knowledge gaps through research and exchange of information, by promoting research on natural disasters and man-made disasters and by moving from basic research to applied tools.

2. Stresses that *monitoring and detection effectiveness* should be enhanced by creating new networks of sensors and by increasing the density of the existing ones, as well as by improving technical capacity, monitoring time coverage and network interlinks. Calls for the creation of a central and coordinated system aimed at gathering and analysing data.

3. Supports the improvement of local *early warning and communication systems*. Calls namely for the enhancement of local administrative capacity as far as warning dissemination is concerned, a task for which single national states must assume responsibility, once the threat is identified at the central level; underlines namely the importance of specific communication chains according to the type of disaster and the distribution of the population, as well as the elimination of gaps in the local information networks.

4. Proposes a *partnership on civil protection by using the capacity of the Euro-Mediterranean Partners on mutual assistance and that of the Community civil protection mechanism*³ in order to ensure better preventive action, information and education of the general public as well as more effective preparedness and response to natural and man-made disasters. Such a Partnership should take in due account the existing experiences in the field of civil protection

³ Community mechanism to facilitate reinforced cooperation in civil protection assistance interventions, Council Decision 2001/792/EC, Euratom, OJ L 297, 15.11.2001, p.7.

and marine pollution⁴ and aim to overcome the fragmentation of mechanisms and activities by means of coordinated regional and international plans, a common definition of emergency procedures and decision-making systems, and the promotion of both training cooperation and actual field initiatives.

On social vulnerability

5. Underlines the importance of *assessing and consequently reducing social vulnerability* by preventive action as a complementary dimension of early warning, with the final aim of increasing general knowledge and awareness among the public and local authorities of the risks related to natural hazards and environmental degradation.

6. Calls for the integration of *disaster reduction tools within long term sustainable development policies* (UN Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015) and stresses the need to strengthen both the administrative capacity, especially at the local level, and the involvement of institutional actors in sustainable long-term policies (i.e. adoption of sustainable infrastructure and settlement plans).

7. Recommends following a *people-centred approach*, in order to avoid isolated and solely technical-based systems, to improve education and information dissemination and to increase public awareness on risks and sustainable behaviours (i.e. national education plans, media plans, information products addressed to the general public).

On man-related ecological disasters

8. Stresses the need for better regional coordination on *water management, coastal environment protection and marine environment protection*, such as routine monitoring of organic pollutants and *hazard-materials*, promoting the necessary legislation at a regional level, and monitoring the legislative implementation.

9. Calls for closer cooperation, exchange of best practices and mutual assistance for response activities in case of ecological disasters either natural or man-made;

10. Considers that the *ultimate goals in terms of environmental protection* should be the integration of environmental concerns as a horizontal dimension of the Euro-Mediterranean policies and the promotion of awareness on the economic potential of environmental protection, both in the long term (reduction of economic costs related to pollution and environmental degradation) and in the medium term (creation of employment, creation of alternative markets).

11. Calls for *the allocation of appropriate financial means* in the long-term and downstream within the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership with the aim of consolidating existing programmes and actions and further strengthening cooperation in the civil protection field. This should eventually lead to the setting up of long term actions for a Euro-

⁴ Euromed Bridge Programme; Decision N. 2850/2000 European Parliament and Council of 20 December 2000 setting up a Community framework for cooperation in the field of accidental or deliberate marine pollution, OJ L 332, 28.12.2000, p1.; Council Decision 1999/847/EC of 9 December 1999 establishing a Community action programme in the field of civil protection (OJ L 327, 21.12.1999, p. 53), amended by Council Decision 2005/12/EC of 20 December 2004 (OJ L 6, 8.1.2005, p7.); etc.

Mediterranean system on reduction, prevention and management of natural and man-made disasters in the region; takes the view that such a system may be based on the provisions as set out in the Annex to this resolution;

12. Asks the EMPA Bureau to put forward this resolution for approval, together with the technical annex, to the EMPA's plenary session and subsequently to transmit it to the Council, the Commission and the Euromed Ministerial Conference, in order to be considered while promoting the policies and implementing the measures described above, by means of, if necessary, the creation of specific committees of experts within these same institutions.

See: ANNEX

Resolution of the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly Working Group on Civil protection and prevention of natural and ecological disasters in the Euro-Mediterranean region

ANNEX:

Proposal for a Partnership [Convention] on civil protection mechanism and assistance*

The Mediterranean Partner Countries, the Members States of the EC and the European Communities, have decided to approve accession to Convention on civil protection mechanism and assistance in the Euro-Mediterranean region and the Atlantic:

THE STATES PARTIES TO THIS CONVENTION,

AWARE that civil protection activities are being carried out in a number of States Parties,

NOTING that a mechanism to facilitate reinforced cooperation in civil protection assistance interventions could supplement the current civil protection activities by making support available in the event of major emergencies which may require urgent response action;

DESIRING to strengthen further international cooperation in the civil protection and the establishment of early warning systems in the Mediterranean and the Atlantic

CONVINCED of the need for providing relevant information in the event of major emergency as early as possible in order to facilitate the mobilisation of intervention teams, experts and other resources, as required, and to protect people, public health and safety, the environment, property and culture heritage;

NOTING the usefulness of bilateral and multilateral arrangements on information exchange and assistance in this area and the capacity of European Community's in the field of civil protection;

HAVE AGREED as follows:

Article 1

General provisions

1. The States Parties shall cooperate between themselves in the field of civil protection and with the Community mechanism⁵ (hereinafter referred to as the mechanism) in accordance with the provisions of Council Decision 2001/792/EC, Euratom to facilitate prompt assistance in the event of a major emergency and protect life, public health and safety, the environment, property and cultural heritage.

2. To facilitate such cooperation States Parties may agree on bilateral or multilateral arrangements or, where appropriate, a combination of these, in

⁵ Community mechanism to facilitate reinforced cooperation in civil protection assistance interventions, Council Decision 2001/792/EC, Euratom, OJ L 297, 15.11.2001, p.7.

order to ensure preparedness for and rapid response and assistance to all forms of major emergency.

3. The States Parties request the mechanism, acting within the framework of its Status and in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 6, of Council decision 2001/792/EC, Euratom to use its best endeavors in accordance with the provisions of this Convention to promote, facilitate and support the cooperation between States Parties provided for in this Convention.

Scope of application

4. This Convention shall apply in the event of major emergency in order to support and complement the efforts of the States parties through a reinforced civil protection capacity for the protection of people, public health and safety, the environment, property and culture heritage.

5. It lays down rules for the provision of financial and technical assistance in the event of major emergencies and enhances States Parties' actions designed on risk prevention capacity and state of preparedness for major emergencies.

Definitions

For the purpose of this Convention

6. "major emergency" shall mean any event or situation which has or may have adverse impact on people, public health and safety, the environment, property or cultural heritage resulting from natural or man-made disasters;

7. "prevention" shall mean any action to ensure the actual avoidance of the adverse impact of hazards and any means to minimise related natural or man-made disasters.

8. "preparedness" shall mean any action taken in advance to ensure effective rapid response to the impact of natural and technological hazards and environmental degradation, including the issuance of timely and effective early warnings.

9. "early warning" shall mean the provision of timely and effective information that allows action to be taken to avoid or reduce risks and ensure preparedness for effective response.

10 "rapid response" shall mean any action taken during or after a major emergency to address its immediate consequences.

Article 2

Provision of assistance

1. If a State Party needs assistance in the event of major emergency it may call for such assistance from any other State Party, directly or through the mechanism, or, where appropriate, from other international organizations.

2. A State Party requesting assistance shall specify the scope and type of assistance required and, where practicable, provide the assisting party with such information as may be necessary for that party to determine the extent to which it is able to meet the request. In the event that it is not practicable for the requesting State Party to specify the scope and type of assistance required, the

requesting State Party and the assisting party shall, in consultation, decide upon the scope and type of assistance required.

3. Each State Party to which a request for such assistance is directed shall promptly decide and notify the requesting State Party, directly or through the mechanism, whether it is in a position to render the assistance requested and the scope and terms of the assistance that might be rendered.

4. States Parties shall, within the limits of their capabilities, identify and notify the mechanism of experts, equipment and materials which could be made available for the provision of assistance to other States Parties in the event of a major emergency as well as the terms, especially financial, under which such assistance could be provided.

5. Any State Party may request assistance relating to medical treatment or temporary relocation into the territory of another State Party of people involved in the event of a major emergency.

6. The mechanism shall respond, in accordance with its Status and as provided for in this Convention, to a requesting State Party's or a Member State's request for assistance in the event of a major emergency by:

- (a) making available appropriate resources allocated for this purpose;
- (b) transmitting promptly the request to other States and international organizations which, according to the mechanism's information, may possess the necessary resources; and
- (c) if so requested by the requesting State, coordinating the assistance at the international level which may thus become available.

Article 3

Direction and control of assistance

Unless otherwise agreed:

- (a) the overall direction, control, coordination and supervision of the assistance shall be the responsibility within its territory of the requesting State. The assisting party should, where the assistance involves personnel, designate in consultation with the requesting State, the person who should be in charge of and retain immediate operational supervision over the personnel and the equipment provided by it. The designated person should exercise such supervision in cooperation with the appropriate authorities of the requesting State;
- (b) the requesting State shall provide, to the extent of its capabilities, local facilities and services for the proper and effective administration of the assistance. It shall also ensure the protection of personnel, equipment and materials brought into its territory by or on behalf of the assisting party for such purpose;
- (c) ownership of equipment and materials provided by either party during the periods of assistance shall be unaffected, and their return shall be ensured;
- (d) a State Party providing assistance in response to a request under Article 2(5) shall coordinate that assistance within its territory.

Article 4

Competent authorities and points of contact

1. Each State Party shall make known to the mechanism and to other States Parties, directly or through the mechanism, its competent authorities and point of contact authorized to make and receive requests for and to accept offers of assistance. Such points of contact and a focal point within the mechanism shall be available continuously.
2. Each State Party shall promptly inform the mechanism of any changes that may occur in the information referred to in paragraph 1.
3. The mechanism shall regularly and expeditiously provide to States Parties, Member States and relevant international organizations the information referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2.

Article 5

Functions of the mechanism

The States Parties request the mechanism, in accordance with Article 1(3) and without prejudice to other provisions of this Convention, to:

(a) collect and disseminate to States Parties and Member States information concerning:

- (i) events of major emergencies;
- (ii) experts, equipment and materials which could be made available in the event of major emergencies;
- (iii) methodologies, techniques and available results of research relating to response to major emergencies;

(b) assist a State Party or a Member State when requested in any of the following or other appropriate matters:

- (i) preparing both emergency plans in the case of major emergencies and the appropriate legislation;
- (ii) developing appropriate training programmes for personnel to deal with major emergencies;
- (iii) transmitting requests for assistance and relevant information in the event of major emergency;
- (iv) developing appropriate monitoring programmes, procedures and standards for risk prevention capacity and state of preparedness for major emergencies;
- (v) conducting investigations into the feasibility of establishing appropriate early warning and monitoring systems;

(c) make available to a State Party or a Member State requesting assistance in the event of a major emergency appropriate resources allocated for the purpose of conducting an initial assessment of the major emergency;

(d) offer its good offices to the States Parties and Member States in the event of a major emergency;

(e) establish and maintain liaison with relevant international organizations for the purposes of obtaining and exchanging relevant information and data, and make a list of such organizations available to States Parties, Member States and the aforementioned organizations.

Article 6

Confidentiality and public statements

1. The requesting State and the assisting party shall protect the confidentiality of any confidential information that becomes available to either of them in connection with the assistance in the event of a major emergency. Such information shall be used exclusively for the purpose of the assistance agreed upon.

2. The assisting party shall make every effort to coordinate with the requesting State before releasing information to the public on the assistance provided in connection with a major emergency.

Article 7

Reimbursement of costs

1. An assisting party may offer assistance without costs to the requesting State. When considering whether to offer assistance on such a basis, the assisting party shall take into account:

- (a) the nature of the major emergency;
- (b) the place of the major emergency;
- (c) the needs of developing countries;
- (d) the particular needs of country (ies); and
- (e) any other relevant factors.

2. When assistance is provided wholly or partly on a reimbursement basis, the requesting State shall reimburse the assisting party for the costs incurred for the services rendered by persons or organizations acting on its behalf, and for all expenses in connection with the assistance to the extent that such expenses are not directly defrayed by the requesting State. Unless otherwise agreed, reimbursement shall be provided promptly after the assisting party has presented its request for reimbursement to the requesting State, and in respect of costs other than local costs, shall be freely transferable.

3. Notwithstanding paragraph 2, the assisting party may at any time waive, or agree to the postponement of, the reimbursement in whole or in part. In considering such waiver or postponement, assisting parties shall give due consideration to the needs of developing countries.

Article 8

Privileges, immunities and facilities

1. The requesting State shall afford to personnel of the assisting party, personnel of the mechanism and personnel acting on its behalf the necessary privileges, immunities and facilities for the performance of their assistance functions.

2. The requesting State shall afford the following privileges and immunities to personnel of the assisting party, personnel of the mechanism, or personnel acting on its behalf who have been duly notified to and accepted by the requesting State:

(a) immunity from arrest, detention and legal process, including criminal, civil and administrative jurisdiction, of the requesting State, in respect of acts or omissions in the performance of their duties; and

(b) exemption from taxation, duties or other charges, except those which are normally incorporated in the price of goods or paid for services rendered, in respect of the performance of their assistance functions.

3. The requesting State shall:

(a) afford the assisting party exemption from taxation, duties or other charges on the equipment and property brought into the territory of the requesting State by the assisting party for the purpose of the assistance; and

(b) provide immunity from seizure, attachment or requisition of such equipment and property.

4. The requesting State shall ensure the return of such equipment and property. If requested by the assisting party, the requesting State shall arrange, to the extent it is able to do so, for the necessary decontamination of recoverable equipment involved in the assistance before its return.

5. The requesting State shall facilitate the entry into, stay in and departure from its national territory of personnel notified pursuant to paragraph 2 and of equipment and property involved in the assistance.

6. Nothing in this article shall require the requesting State to provide its nationals or permanent residents with the privileges and immunities provided for in the foregoing paragraphs.

7. Without prejudice to the privileges and immunities, all beneficiaries enjoying such privileges and immunities under this article have a duty to respect the laws and regulations of the requesting State. They shall also have the duty not to interfere in the domestic affairs of the requesting State.

8. Nothing in this article shall prejudice rights and obligations with respect to privileges and immunities afforded pursuant to other international agreements or the rules of customary international law.

9. When signing, ratifying, accepting, approving or acceding to this Convention, a State may declare that it does not consider itself bound in whole or in part by paragraphs 2 and 3.

10. A State Party which has made a declaration in accordance with paragraph 9 may at any time withdraw it by notification to the depositary.

Article 9

Transit of personnel, equipment and property

Each State Party shall, at the request of the requesting State or the assisting party, seek to facilitate the transit through its territory of duly notified

personnel, equipment and property involved in the assistance to and from the requesting State.

Article 10

Claims and compensation

1. The States Parties shall closely cooperate in order to facilitate the settlement of legal proceedings and claims under this article.

2. Unless otherwise agreed, a requesting State shall in respect of death or of injury to persons, damage to or loss of property, or damage to the environment caused within its territory or other area under its jurisdiction or control in the course of providing the assistance requested:

(a) not bring any legal proceedings against the assisting party or persons or other legal entities acting on its behalf;

(b) assume responsibility for dealing with legal proceedings and claims brought by third parties against the assisting party or against persons or other legal entities acting on its behalf;

(c) hold the assisting party or persons or other legal entities acting on its behalf harmless in respect of legal proceedings and claims referred to in sub-paragraph (b); and

(d) compensate the assisting party or persons or other legal entities acting on its behalf for:

(i) death of or injury to personnel of the assisting party or persons acting on its behalf;

(ii) loss of or damage to non-consumable equipment or materials related to the assistance;

except in cases of willful misconduct by the individuals who caused the death, injury, loss or damage.

3. This article shall not prevent compensation or indemnity available under any applicable international agreement or national law of any State.

4. Nothing in this article shall require the requesting State to apply paragraph 2 in whole or in part to its nationals or permanent residents.

5. When signing, ratifying, accepting, approving or acceding to this Convention, a State may declare:

(a) that it does not consider itself bound in whole or in part by paragraph 2;

(b) that it will not apply paragraph 2 in whole or in part in cases of gross negligence by the individuals who caused the death, injury, loss or damage.

6. A State Party which has made a declaration in accordance with paragraph 5 may at any time withdraw it by notification to the depositary.

Article 11

Termination of assistance

The requesting State or the assisting party may at any time, after appropriate consultations and by notification in writing, request the termination of assistance received or provided under this Convention. Once such a request has been made, the parties involved shall consult with each other to make arrangements for the proper conclusion of the assistance.

Article 12

Relationship to other international agreements

This Convention shall not affect the reciprocal rights and obligations of States Parties under existing international agreements which relate to the matters covered by this Convention, or under future international agreements concluded in accordance with the object and purpose of this Convention.

Article 13

Settlement of disputes

1. In the event of a dispute between States Parties, or between a State Party and the mechanism, concerning the interpretation or application of this Convention, the parties to the dispute shall consult with a view to the settlement of the dispute by negotiation or by any other peaceful means of settling disputes acceptable to them.

2. If a dispute of this character between States Parties cannot be settled within one year from the request for consultation pursuant to paragraph 1, it shall, at the request of any party to such dispute, be submitted to arbitration or referred to the International Court of Justice for decision. Where a dispute is submitted to arbitration, if, within six months from the date of the request, the parties to the dispute are unable to agree on the organization of the arbitration, a party may request the President of The International Court of Justice or the Secretary-General of the United Nations to appoint one or more arbitrators. In cases of conflicting requests by the parties to the dispute, the request to the Secretary-General of the United Nations shall have priority.

3. When signing, ratifying, accepting, approving or acceding to this Convention, a State may declare that it does not consider itself bound by either or both of the dispute settlement procedures provided for in paragraph 2. The other States Parties shall not be bound by a dispute settlement procedure provided for in paragraph 2 with respect to a State Party for which such a declaration is in force.

4. A State Party which has made a declaration in accordance with paragraph 3 may at any time withdraw it by notification to the depositary.

Article 14

Entry into force

1. This Convention shall be open for signature by all States participating in the Barcelona process and shall be ratified by the States Parties in accordance with their respective constitutional requirements, The instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval shall be deposited with the Commission of the European Communities.

2. A State may express its consent to be bound by this Convention either by signature, or by deposit of an instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval following signature made subject to ratification, acceptance or approval, or by deposit of an instrument of accession. The instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession shall be deposited with the depositary.

3. This Convention shall enter into force 30 days after consent to be bound has been expressed by three States.

4. For each State expressing consent to be bound by this Convention after its entry into force, this Convention shall enter into force for that State 30 days after the date of expression of consent.

5.(a) This Convention shall be open for accession, as provided for in this article, by international organizations and regional integration organizations constituted by sovereign States, which have competence in respect of the negotiation, conclusion and application of international agreements in matters covered by this Convention.

(b) In matters within their competence such organizations shall, on their own behalf, exercise the rights and fulfill the obligations which this Convention attributes to States Parties.

(c) When depositing its instrument of accession, such an organization shall communicate to the depositary a declaration indicating the extent of its competence in respect of matters covered by this Convention.

(d) Such an organization shall not hold any vote additional to those of its Member States.

Article 15

Provisional application

A State may, upon signature or at any later date before this Convention enters into force for it, declare that it will apply this Convention provisionally.

Article 16

Amendments

1. A State Party may propose amendments to this Convention. The proposed amendment shall be submitted to the depositary who shall circulate it immediately to all other States Parties.

2. If a majority of the States Parties request the depositary to convene a conference to consider the proposed amendments, the depositary shall invite all States Parties to attend such a conference to begin not sooner than 30 days after the invitations are issued. Any amendment adopted at the conference by a two thirds majority of all States Parties shall be laid down in a protocol which is open to signature in Brussels and Barcelona by all States Parties.

3. The protocol shall enter into force 30 days after consent to be bound has been expressed by three States. For each State expressing consent to be bound by the protocol after its entry into force, the protocol shall enter into force for that State 30 days after the date of expression of consent.

Article 17

Denunciation

1. A State Party may denounce this Convention by written notification to the depositary.
2. Denunciation shall take effect one year following the date on which the notification is received by the depositary.

Article 18

Depositary

1. The Director General of European Commission in charge of the mechanism hereinafter referred to as Director General shall be the depositary of this Convention.
2. The Director General shall promptly notify States Parties and all other States of:
 - (a) each signature of this Convention or any protocol of amendment;
 - (b) each deposit of an instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession concerning this Convention or any protocol of amendment;
 - (c) any declaration or withdrawal thereof in accordance with Articles 8, 10 and 13;
 - (d) any declaration of provisional application of this Convention in accordance with Article 15;
 - (e) the entry into force of this Convention and of any amendment thereto; and
 - (f) any denunciation made under Article 17.

Article 19

Authentic texts and certified copies

The original of this Convention, of which the Arabic, English, French texts are equally authentic, shall be deposited with the Director General who shall send certified copies to States Parties and all other States.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorized, have signed this Convention, open for signature as provided for in Article 14(1).

ADOPTED by the Ministerial Conference of the Barcelona process in special session at XXXX on the XXXX.

Declaration referred to in Article 14(5)(c) of the Convention

The Community possesses competences, shared with its Member States, in the field of civil protection and major emergency, to the extent provided by Article 308 of the Treaty establishing the European Community and Article 203 of the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community.

** Notice to reader: This Convention does not apply to the scope of the Convention on Assistance in case of Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency

(for translators see also Council Decision N 2005/845/Euratom of 25 November 2005 concerning accession of the European Atomic Energy Community to the Convention on Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency, OJ L 314, 30.11.2005 p. 27 and 28-34.)