

# perCEPTIONS

## Newsletter

Supporting NATO Operations - Protecting Civilian Populations

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1998-2008

The Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (EADRCC)

10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Special issue

# EDITORIAL

by Ambassador Claudio Bisogniero, NATO Deputy Secretary General



On 28 June 2008, the EADRCC celebrated its 10th birthday. I often feel that the EADRCC is one of NATO's unsung heroes and so I hope that this issue of perCEPTIONS can help raise awareness of the Centre's achievements and contribute to putting them into a wider context.

Launched in response to a Russian initiative in the spirit of Partnership for Peace, the EADRCC has been involved in some 40 operations around the world and it has helped both Allied and Partner countries, as well as other countries.

Within its first year it proved its value by coordinating responses to serious flooding in Ukraine and to the Kosovo refugee crisis. Since then, it has supported nations dealing with such disasters as earthquakes, forest fires, and severe winter weather. It has also played a vital role in assisting nations who have hosted major sporting events to prepare for dealing with the possible consequences of being targeted by chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear weapons. By far its biggest operation was in Pakistan, following the devastating earthquake in 2005.

In times when value for money has become all important, the Centre offers a small but highly efficient and cost-effective structure. With a permanent staff of only three, as well as a handful of Voluntary National Contributions, the Centre has rapidly established itself as a "first port of call" for nations that have suffered a disaster and need assistance.

The Centre is operational 24/7, 365 days of the year. However, it is far more than just an operational focus for coordinating disaster response. It has also played a vital part in NATO's

### CEP QUOTE

*"The launch of the EADRCC is not just the result of a benevolent desire to enhance international disaster relief. What is at stake here above all else is the objective of fostering stability, security and peace in the Euro-Atlantic area, the overarching goal of Partnership for Peace."*

Francesco Palmeri, former Chairman of the Senior Civil Emergency Planning Committee (SCEPC).  
Autumn 1998

# ▶ EDITORIAL

outreach and partnership policies. It is a ground breaking structure in that it is jointly owned by Allies and Partners, and it is the only civilian operational Partnership structure in which Allies and Partners contribute on an equal footing.

In addition, the Centre has enabled many smaller countries to contribute capabilities that they would otherwise not be able to provide. And this has fostered a very healthy trend whereby many Partners, who had previously been recipients of NATO support, have now become valued contributors.

Of course, a large part of the Centre's operational success lies in the planning and exercising it conducts. The EADRCC's field exercise programme is among the finest in the world. Such exercises bring together teams from across the Euro-Atlantic area and provide some of the biggest international civilian protection training opportunities. In June 2008, 39 teams, made up of over a thousand people, from 20 EAPC nations, participated in a major exercise hosted by Finland.

I hope that you now understand why I described the EADRCC as an unsung hero. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved with the Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre for all their hard work over these past ten years. In this special issue of perCEptions devoted to the EADRCC, I encourage you to read further about the Centre's activities. I am particularly pleased to welcome contributions from the European Union on its disaster response mechanisms and from France, as EU Presidency on its priorities in the field of disaster management.

## The EADRCC's new logo



To mark the 10th anniversary, the EADRCC inaugurated its new logo. Designed by Pierre Lesuisse of the NATO Graphics Studio, the new EADRCC logo seeks to depict the Centre as being a central player in the coordination of disaster responses.



*Ambassador Dmitry Rogozin, Head of the Mission of the Russian Federation to NATO, NATO Deputy Secretary General Claudio Bisogniero, Martin Howard, Assistant Secretary General for Operations and Guenter Bretschneider, Head of the EADRCC.*

The logo has 4 component parts.

1. The arrows represent requests for support from stricken nations and offers of disaster assistance provided by EAPC nations.
2. The concentric circles remind us of the epicentre of a crisis or a disaster, the Centre's core business in which it plays its role as a clearing house.
3. As the EADRCC is a structure jointly owned by Partners and Allies, "Partnership for Peace" is featured embracing the whole design.
4. Finally, the NATO compass in the Centre provides a clear linkage between the EADRCC and NATO as an organisation.

The logo will be important in identifying personnel in the field participating in the EADRCC's operations and exercises.

# The EADRCC

## 10 years of effective assistance to populations in need, 10 years of partnership in action



*The year 2008 marks the 10th anniversary of the Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (EADRCC). Launched on 3rd June 1998, following a Russian initiative, this article seeks to summarise some of the Centre's achievements over the last decade.*

### BACKGROUND

On 29th May 1998, a Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council Policy was agreed on Enhanced Practical Cooperation in International Disaster Relief. The key elements of this policy were:

- Disaster management remains a national responsibility
- The United Nations has the primary role in international disaster assistance
- The EADRCC's role is to coordinate rather than direct
- No duplication of efforts



On 3rd June 1998, the EADRCC was inaugurated by NATO Secretary General Javier Solana and by the Russian Ambassador to NATO, Sergei Kislyak, at NATO HQ. The Centre is the focal point for information sharing and coordination among NATO and Partner countries on requests for disaster assistance. It coordinates the response of NATO and Partner countries to disasters or terrorist attacks with CBRN agents occurring in the EAPC area.

### EADRCC'S OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES 1998-2008

Since 1998, the Centre has been actively involved in over 40 operations around the world. It is an operational EAPC structure for efficient disaster response coordination. Assistance has been coordinated for many different types of disasters: assistance during floods and extreme

weather, assistance to nations stricken by earthquakes, help in fighting forest fires, support during the Kosovo Refugee crisis

The details of all the EADRCC's operations are beyond the scope of this article, however, it is worth highlighting a couple of landmark operations:

### SUPPORT DURING THE KOSOVO REFUGEE CRISIS

During 1998-1999, the EADRCC was called upon by the UNHCR to assist in moving urgently needed relief items to Albania in response to the influx of refugees from Kosovo. The EADRCC served the following functions:

- Humanitarian focal point for information sharing for all EAPC countries
- Coordination of requests for and offers of assistance
- Support to UNHCR
- Civil-Military Cooperation with other NATO bodies (SHAPE)
- Coordination with other international organisations (UN agencies, EU, ICRC etc)



During this operation, the EADRCC rapidly gained extensive experience in a whole array of tasks: playing a pivotal role in addressing the humanitarian concerns of the two front line Partner nations (Albania and FYROM); acting as an efficient clearing house mechanism for assistance requests and offers, coordination with international organisations, and civil-military cooperation with NATO's military authorities.

## ASSISTANCE TO NATIONS HIT BY EARTHQUAKES

On 8 October 2005, a devastating earthquake hit Pakistan where more than 73,000 people were killed and 4 million were left homeless. The Pakistani authorities approached NATO with an official request for assistance. The UN also approached NATO for assistance in this respect. The EADRCC coordinated EAPC contributions from national aid authorities. Together with the NATO military authorities, the EADRCC coordinated the transport of aid via a NATO air-bridge.



- 164 humanitarian relief flights were flown to Islamabad and Lahore.
- 18,000 tents, 505,000 blankets, 17,000 stoves, 31,500 mattresses, 49,800 sleeping bags (3500 tons of relief supplies from the UNHCR, NATO Allied and Partner countries) were flown to Pakistan through the NATO air-bridge
- 1750 tons of relief supplies were flown inside Pakistan by NATO helicopters

- 7650 sick and injured people were transported by NATO helicopters out of the earthquake zone
- 10,000 patients were treated in NATO field hospitals and by mobile medical teams
- 110 multifunctional shelters were built by NATO engineers at high altitude

This was the first example of an EADRCC operation outside the EAPC area.

## THE EADRCC'S ROLE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM AND CONSEQUENCE MANAGEMENT



After the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York on the 11th of September 2001, the EADRCC's function was extended to also cover responses in the event of terrorist attacks using CBRN agents.

In 2003, the EADRCC coordinated support to Turkey in the event of possible Iraqi retaliation and in 2004, Greece asked the EADRCC for help in the security preparations for the Olympic Games.

## THE INVENTORY OF NATIONAL CAPABILITIES

The Inventory of National Capabilities, set up in 2001 has been continuously developed and is handled by the EADRCC. It comprises detailed information on national capabilities (civil and military) which might be made available to stricken nations on request for use in the



event of a CBRN incident. It provides quick access to the following types of capabilities:

- 1000 detection, identification and decontamination teams
- Mobile laboratories and 9 field hospitals
- Protective measures for civilian population
- 400,000 items of protective equipment for First responders
- national expertise

## MAJOR EADRCC INTERNATIONAL EXERCISES

As part of its operational role, the EADRCC plans and organises major international field exercises in order to practise responses to simulated natural and man-made disaster situations and consequence management. These exercises help ensure the ability of nations to cooperate with each other by enhancing civil preparedness and interoperability of responding teams and units. Recent examples include Idassa 2007 in Croatia and Uusimaa 2008 which brought together over 1000 participants in Finland.



## CIVIL-MILITARY COOPERATION

Civil Military cooperation is essential in consequence management. NATO Military Authorities have developed a concept of operations on how they can support civilian authorities in consequence management. A Standing Operating Procedure between SHAPE and the EADRCC for interaction in consequence management is in place. Responses to complex emergencies require both civil and military efforts. The EADRCC is an effective part of much needed civil-military coordination. For example, during NATO operations in response to Hurricane Katrina and the Pakistan earthquake, military liaison and civil experts were co-located in the EADRCC to help provide coherent civil-military support to the disaster response.



## INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

The EADRCC's activities are closely coordinated with other international organizations such as the United Nations, in particular the UN-Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (UN-OCHA). One of the most important aspects of cooperation is to be informed about the activities of the various actors involved in disaster relief. Cooperation with other international organizations is therefore a very high priority for NATO. The EADRCC's annual exercises provide excellent opportunities to enhance practical cooperation with other international organisations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Office for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the World Health Organization and the EU.



## A contribution from the French Presidency of the EU



*France currently holds the Presidency of the EU and has an ambitious programme in the field of response to natural and technological disasters. This article sets out the Presidency's priorities, in particular, its aim to reinforce the EU's operational resources in a spirit of solidarity and mutual assistance.*

## Response to Natural and Technological Disasters



### THE PRIORITIES OF THE FRENCH PRESIDENCY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION (PFUE)

The EC civil defence mechanism (see the Commission's article in this issue) constitutes the framework for the European response to natural, technological, radiological and environmental disasters and potential terrorist acts both within and outside the European Union. It allows the nations to pool the resources and assets available to Member States in the event of a disaster. The heart of this mechanism is the Monitoring and Information Centre, or MIC, which receives alerts in real time and manages requests for assistance. From the financial standpoint, the EC programme ECHO makes it possible to release the necessary funds in emergencies. The military assets (e.g. strategic airlift) of the Member States can also be drawn upon in order to best respond to natural and technological disasters, thanks to the co-ordinating role played by the EU Military Staff.

### THE OBJECTIVE OF THE PFUE IS TO REINFORCE THE EU'S OPERATIONAL RESOURCES IN A SPIRIT OF SOLIDARITY AND MUTUAL ASSISTANCE.

The Presidency therefore hopes to create a system of mutual European assistance founded on the principle of the voluntary provision of national civil defence modules. The objective is to ensure, by means of a co-ordinated system, the ongoing availability of a minimum number of modules from those countries participating in the EC mechanism capable of responding to all types of disasters, both inside and outside the Union. These modules, which constitute a set of human and physical resources at the national level to deal with disasters, could be prepositioned or predeployed at the request of a State in order to support national capabilities. For this, the States are invited to group themselves together by topic or region so as to make the requisite resources available to the MIC. These modules will be tested by means of exercises and seminars, with the objective being to ensure optimum interoperability, particularly in the area of training, transport and equipment. The aim is to improve the legal bases and practical structures of the various national modules, in particular, to resolve problems related to the routing and deployment of the modules on site.

The MIC should be transformed into a Centre for the Monitoring of Civil Defence Operations responsible for examining crisis scenarios and co-ordinating relief and intervention plans and protocols. The objective is to improve the co-ordinating system between the various national centres for the standardization of operational procedures at the European level. Special attention is paid to co-ordination arrangements, the exchange of experts, the concept of a single point of contact, and the reinforcement of communication links between the MIC and the national operational centres via the European communications net CECIS.

Risk prevention means promoting new technologies for the development of early warning systems. The Presidency would like to render operational the "support service" for the management of emergency situations of the EC's Kopernikus space programme (EURORISK). This system, which provides the Union with a horizontal system, makes it possible to resolve the problem of the fragmentation of national observation systems.

Training plays an important role in crisis response preparedness. The Presidency has set itself the objective of putting in place a European training network in the area of civil defence and humanitarian assistance. The idea is to promote convergence of the training programmes of the various Member States and complementarity of instruction. This network would reinforce a European approach to the main problems facing the Member States in the area of prevention (methodology of risk analysis; impact studies, research and development), preparation (exercises; response co-ordination) and intervention (identification of deficiencies; feedback; analysis of good practices). In order to promote such a European approach, the Commission would be invited to develop a common quality charter and to put in place the administrative structures necessary for this network to operate.

The European Union does not function in a vacuum. When it intervenes in third countries, it is called upon to co-ordinate its civil defence efforts with humanitarian assistance by the United Nations. It is therefore important to harmonize procedures and training in order to ensure the best possible co-operation in the field. In addition to mutual participation in training and exercises, EU/UN co-ordination (UNOCHA) could benefit from the institution of a strategic dialogue between the Commission and OCHA, the deployment of MIC experts within UNDAC teams (and vice-versa), and by more frequent exchanges of EU and UN experts.

European solidarity also means the reinforcement of transborder regional co-operation. Third countries in Europe and the Mediterranean Basin experience similar disasters, and hence pooling efforts and resources will make it possible to augment European capabilities. As far as Mediterranean third countries are concerned, similar projects are currently being developed within the framework of the Union for the Mediterranean.



*Mic Experts in South Korea (2007), Haiti and Philippines (2008)*

A contribution from the European Union



Created in 2001, the Community Mechanism for civil protection is a multifaceted tool covering prevention, preparedness and response to disasters. This article explains the activities of the MIC and the other EU instruments relevant to disaster management.

# Community Civil Protection Mechanism: the EU response to mounting disasters

Disasters are on the increase around the world both in terms of numbers and complexity, causing human suffering across continents. A part of this is due to climate change, while man-made disasters add their share of destruction. All countries, rich or poor, big and small, are at risk of disasters, such as earthquakes, industrial accidents or terrorist acts.

In response to the threat of disasters, the European Union has gradually developed a complex set of tools covering the whole management cycle of disasters of all types. The Community tools aimed at mitigation of disasters' consequences, prevention, preparedness and response, humanitarian aid and reconstruction demonstrate a clear European added value.



Mic Team leader with Chief rescuer — Earthquake in China (2008)

## THE COMMUNITY CIVIL PROTECTION MECHANISM

Created in 2001, the Community Mechanism for civil protection is a multifaceted tool covering prevention, preparedness and response to disasters. With a completely new legal basis in 2007 it is ever more equipped to face disasters worldwide.

The Monitoring and Information Centre (MIC) is the operational heart of the Mechanism, active around o'clock. Any country stricken by a disaster, European or not, can request European civil protection assistance through the MIC, which would facilitate and support the response by pooling assistance provided by the participating states. This might include search and rescue teams in the case of earthquakes, water-bombing aircrafts to extinguish forest fires, high-capacity pumps in cases of floods. The MIC can also promptly deploy civil protection experts to assess the situation and coordinate assistance on site, and to provide technical expertise to the stricken country. Moreover, it can also assist with high-tech tools, such as satellite images, which might be crucial for effective response. The work of the MIC is made easier by the existence of crisis correspondents in all the Commission's delegations around the world.

The MIC has been activated in response to some 100 disasters since its inception, with a strong upward trend. While the number of activations was only 3 in 2002, the MIC responded to 17 disasters in 2007. This year the number is likely to be even higher. One recent example is a devastating earthquake in China in May, in the wake of which the Chinese government requested EU assistance. The MIC immediately dispatched a 4-strong expert coordination team and facilitated the provision of a large amount of assistance, including field hospitals, water purification units, electric power generators and tents from a number of EU countries.



EUROSOT Exercise (2005)

In addition to responding to disasters, the Mechanism strengthens preparedness for them through a training programme and conduct of full-scale exercises. Some 600 civil protection experts have already been trained through seven different training courses of the Mechanism. Exchanges of experts supplement this by allowing specialists to visit other countries and share their experiences with colleagues. Around eight large-scale simulation exercises are organised in this framework each year. The Mechanism is increasingly involved in prevention of disasters within the EU.

27 EU Member States, Iceland, Norway and Lichtenstein participate in the Mechanism and its membership is expanding. Croatia is about to join in, while the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\* is the next in line. Close cooperation with other Western Balkan countries is also in the pipeline. Administrative arrangements on cooperation have already been concluded with Ukraine, Russia and Australia, while the non-EU Mediterranean counties are also associated with the Mechanism through a special Prevention, Preparedness and Response to Disasters programme.

## THE EU'S COMPLEX RESPONSE TO MOUNTING THREATS WORLDWIDE

The Community Mechanism does not operate in a vacuum, but is an element of a comprehensive EU system. Disaster-mitigating measures are integrated into development programmes of the EU. Furthermore, the Community is one of the largest humanitarian aid donors in the world, with some €770 million distributed in 2007 by the Commission's Humanitarian Aid department (ECHO) alone. Other Community tools include the Instrument for Stability, which can be used to urgently respond to the needs of countries in situations of political instability, which well might be the result of a disaster. With a budget of some €2 billion for seven years, this instrument aims to safeguard or re-establish conditions under which the EU partner countries can pursue their long term development goals.



*Earthquake in China (2007): MIC Team with Polish Civil protection assistance*

\* Turkey recognises the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.

To respond to various threats, the Community has developed a number of sectoral alert systems, which run in parallel with and complement the civil protection Mechanism. One example is the system for cooperation on preparedness and response to biological and chemical agent attacks in the field of health security (RAS BICHAT). Similarly, the Community Urgent Radiological Information Exchange system (ECURIE) is used by the EU Member States to notify the Commission and other potentially affected Member States about radiological or nuclear accidents. The EU Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) is a tool for control authorities to exchange information on measures taken to ensure food safety. The EU rapid alert system for all dangerous consumer products, with the exception of food, pharmaceutical and medical devices (RAPEX) is designed to exchange information on measures to prevent the use of products that might pose a risk to consumers.

The Community civil protection Mechanism is a part of the overall EU response, but it also operates in a broader international environment. To ensure maximum efficiency, the MIC cooperates with all international actors involved, both at the headquarters level and in the field. In 2004, the Commission exchanged letters with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) on cooperation in response to disasters. When the MIC is informed that the Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (EADRCC) is responding to the same disaster, a mutual exchange of information would be ensured. Coordination with other players in the field, such as the Red Cross or humanitarian NGOs, is equally necessary to ensure effective and efficient response to disasters.

The Community Mechanism proved its added value as a multifaceted tool enhancing the EU preparedness for and response to disasters, and is developing. In coordination with other European and international actors it makes the world a safer place where human suffering is relieved faster and more effectively.



EURATOX Exercise (2002)

**The Joint Medical Committee (JMC)** has signed Letters of Intent with the Committee of the Chiefs of Military Medical Services in NATO (COMEDS) and the Research and Technology Organisation to improve efficiency and effectiveness.

The first letter of intent develops synergies between the JMC and another NATO medical body: the COMEDS. The aim is to improve civil-military coordination against the backdrop of a comprehensive approach to medical missions and enhanced access of the military to civilian support. This letter of intent facilitates contacts between the two committees' working groups and panels. In particular, it will facilitate involvement of JMC experts, where necessary, to provide advice to the COMEDS on relevant issues of civil-military cooperation.

The second letter of intent is signed between the JMC and the Paris-based Research and Technology Organisation (RTO).

The aim is to set up efficient and effective working methods between the two bodies in order to create synergies in the use of civilian and military expertise. For example, if the RTO receives a request for scientific study in the civil-military area, it can call on the use of JMC expertise, thereby contributing an international civil-military dimension to the work.



From left to right : Mr. Roy Verkerck (Staff Officer, RTO), Dr. Greg Schneider (Director, RTO), Dr. Eric Lecarpentier (JMC Chairman) and Mr. Marc Van Torre (Staff Officer, JMC), Paris 10 September 2008.



Hungarian Ambassador to NATO, Zoltan Martinusz signs the MoU with NATO Assistant Secretary General for Operations Martin Howard on 20 October 2008.

\* Turkey recognises the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.



During the EADRCC's Exercise Uusimaa 2008, the provisions of the MoU on the Facilitation of Vital Cross Border transport were tested. To date, **22 nations have subscribed to the MoU**: Albania, Armenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Lithuania, Moldova, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\*, the UK and Ukraine. This MoU improves the speed and efficiency of bringing assistance to victims of humanitarian crises and disasters, including those triggered by a Chemical, Biological, Radiological or Nuclear (CBRN) event within the EAPC area.

