

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

**PRESS RELEASE**

10157/90 (Presse 196 - G)

**1448th meeting of the Council  
and of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States  
meeting within the Council  
(Ministers for the Interior/Civil Protection)**

**Brussels, 23 November 1990**

**President: Mr Vitton LATTANZIO**

**Minister for Civil Protection  
of the Italian Republic**

23.XI.90

ill/PT/bf

The Governments of the Member States and the Commission of the European Communities were represented as follows:

Belgium

Mr Louis TOBBACK                      Minister for the Interior, for the Modernization of the Public Utilities and for National Scientific and Cultural Institutions

Denmark

Mr Ole ASMUSSEN                      State Secretary for the Interior

Germany

Mr Jochen GRÜNHAGE                  Deputy Permanent Representative

Greece

Mr Haris CARABARBOUNIS              Deputy Permanent Representative

Spain

Mrs Pilar BRABO                      Director-General for Civil Protection

France

Mr Jean CADET                        Deputy Permanent Representative

Ireland

Mr Ger CONNOLLY                      Minister for State at the Department of the Environment

Italy

Mr Vito LATTANZIO                    Minister for Civil Protection

Luxembourg

Mr Thierry STOLL                      Deputy Permanent Representative

23.XI.90

ill/PT/bf

Netherlands

Mr A. OOSTRA Deputy Permanent Representative

Portugal

Mr José BRANQUINHO LOBO Deputy State Secretary,  
Internal Administration

United Kingdom

The Earl FERRERS Minister of State, Home Office

°

°

°

Commission

Mr RIPA di MEANA Member

**COMMUNITY CO-OPERATION ON CIVIL PROTECTION**

**RESOLUTION**

of the Council and the Representatives of the Governments  
of the Member States meeting within the Council  
of 23 November 1990 on Community co-operation  
on civil protection

---

THE COUNCIL AND THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE MEMBER STATES,  
MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL,

Having taken note of the Commission communication of 12 December 1989 concerning  
Community co-operation on civil protection and of the summary of protection  
measures taken by the Commission to combat risks of fire and disaster and to  
ensure civil protection,

Recalling their Resolution of 25 June 1987 on the introduction of Community  
co-operation on civil protection <sup>(1)</sup> and that of 13 February 1989 on the new  
developments in Community co-operation in this area <sup>(2)</sup>,

Welcoming the progress resulting from implementation of those Resolutions and the  
initial measures taken in that framework,

Convinced that the Community and the Member States should continue to develop  
Community co-operation on civil protection in order to be able to deal more  
effectively with disasters and to develop in Europe's 340 million citizens a  
greater sense of solidarity,

---

(1) OJ No C 176, 4.7.1987, p. 1.

(2) OJ No C 44, 23.2.1989, p. 3.

Aware that Community co-operation in the area of civil protection makes a real contribution to the establishment of a people's Europe by fostering in Europeans the sense of belonging to the same community,

Whereas the Commission has carried out work with the objective of improving the transmission of the information needed for disaster prevention and management, in particular through the use of advanced information and telecommunications systems, including aerospace resources;

whereas the Commission has completed a study to assess the means and requirements for a pilot computerized information system for civil protection, and whereas a system to make more effective use of existing specific information and to improve technical co-operation between rescue teams helping in emergencies outside their own countries or regions would be desirable;

Emphasizing that the new measures envisaged do not interfere with Member States' preparation or management of emergency plans for dealing with disasters;

Whereas it is desirable to be fully involved in the United Nations International Decade against natural Disasters by conducting information, education and awareness campaigns on civil protection;

Whereas some Member States' laws allow young people engaged in civilian or voluntary service to take part in activities relating to civil protection and whereas it could be of benefit to increase the scope for mobilizing young people in disaster prevention, rescue and repair work;

Whereas there is a need to develop Community actions to protect forests from destruction by fire involving global environmental consequences;

NOTE with satisfaction the progress towards completion of a multilingual glossary of civil protection terminology, which they urge the Commission to publish by June 1991;

NOTE with satisfaction the development of the Commission departments' work on the use of advanced telecommunications systems;

SUPPORT the Commission in its intention of assessing and determining, in collaboration with the network of national liaison officers, the various options for advanced telecommunications systems to meet civil protection requirements, including the feasibility of using satellite systems, and, in this connection, agree to study, within the appropriate Community fora, whether new frequency bands need to be allocated for civil protection purposes;

AGREE to the implementation of a pilot project for a computerized information system for civil protection and to the introduction, in collaboration with the network of national liaison officers, of a complementary data bank of specialized human and material resources available in the Member States;

AGREE to carry out a co-ordinated campaign in the Member States to inform, educate and raise the awareness of Community citizens and to declare the period from June 1993 to June 1994 a European Year of Civil Protection. To that end, the Council undertakes to take a decision on the content of that campaign on the basis of the Commission communication on this question. Moreover, the Council invites the Commission to present a proposal for actions to be carried out during the abovementioned European Year for consideration by the Council.

23.XI.90

ill/PT/bf

CALL on the Commission to continue investigating the scope, in the context of Community co-operation, for enhancing the training of young people doing civilian or voluntary service who are engaged in civil protection-related activities, and to submit relevant proposals during 1991;

CONSIDER that action at Community level is needed in the form of appropriate new initiatives and measures to develop Community co-operation on civil protection, to step up exchanges between Member States and to encourage the training of personnel concerned with natural and man-made disasters, including combating forest fires;

CALL upon the Commission to undertake consultations and studies with a view to developing actions for the improvement of intra-Community co-operation in order to establish framework conditions for preventing and combating forest fires with the better utilization of available resources, for improved means of preventing and detecting forest fires, and better exchange of information and training in that field. The Council requests the Commission to take part in the organization of an experts' seminar on the various aspects of the overall problem of forest fires to be held in 1991;

REAFFIRM the importance of civil protection and encourage initiatives taken by the Commission as a complement to existing national measures;

SUPPORT the implementation of the measures set out above, which should be accompanied by appropriate financial resources.

MUTUAL AID IN THE EVENT OF DISASTERS

RESOLUTION

OF THE COUNCIL AND OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF  
THE MEMBER STATES, MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL OF 23 NOVEMBER 1990

ON IMPROVING MUTUAL AID BETWEEN  
MEMBER STATES IN THE EVENT OF  
A NATURAL OR MAN-MADE DISASTER

---

THE COUNCIL AND THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE MEMBER STATES,  
MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL,

Recalling their Resolution of 25 June 1987 relating to the introduction of  
Community co-operation on civil protection and the Resolution of 13 February 1989  
relating to new developments in Community co-operation in this area;

Aware of the threat of natural or man-made disaster confronting the Member States  
and of the need for aid to be provided to the Member State affected when such  
disasters occur;

Desirous of taking into account the legal liability aspects of such aid;

Recognizing that improved mutual aid between Member States in the event of a  
disaster would strengthen Community co-operation in the field of civil  
protection;



Conscious of the usefulness of existing and future bilateral and multilateral agreements on co-operation in the field of civil protection and specifically in improving mutual aid in the event of a natural or man-made disaster;

Support the general objectives of the draft agreement on co-operation in the field of civil protection to improve mutual aid in the event of a natural or technological disaster, submitted by the Presidency on 11 September 1990;

Agree to examine at the earliest opportunity, together with the Commission, how the aforementioned objectives should be implemented.

PROTECTION OF MEDITERRANEAN FORESTS

The Council held a discussion on the basis of a memorandum from the Portuguese delegation on measures to combat forest fires and Community co-operation on fire prevention and firefighting.

Furthermore, in its Resolution adopted today, the Council has called upon the Commission to carry out work on the matter.

The delegations welcomed the Portuguese delegation's proposal to organize a seminar on the protection of forests against fires, during the first half of 1991, in co-operation with the Commission.

STANDARD EUROPE-WIDE EMERGENCY NUMBER

The Council reached agreement on the enacting terms of a Decision providing for the introduction of 112 as the standard Europe-wide emergency number <sup>(1)</sup> in public telephone networks no later than 31 December 1996.

The Council agreed to re-consult the European Parliament on changing the legal basis for the Decision.

---

(1) In particular police, fire brigade and ambulance emergencies.

Bruxelles, le 22 novembre 1990

433

NOTE BIO(90) 364 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX  
CC. AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE-PAROLE

-----  
PREPARATION DU CONSEIL SUR LA PROTECTION CIVILE DU 23 NOVEMBRE 1990

La création d'un numéro d'appel d'urgence unique pour toute l'Europe sera examinée par les Ministres de l'Intérieur/Protection civile lors de leur réunion du 23 novembre 1990 à Bruxelles. La Commission a présenté au Conseil en octobre 1989 une proposition de décision qui visait la création d'un tel numéro, le 112, qui pourrait, en cas de nécessité coexister avec les numéros d'appel d'urgence existants (voir P-56 d'octobre 1989). Cette initiative constituait un pas supplémentaire sur la voie de l'Europe des citoyens et tenait compte du fait que la plupart des Etats membres sont en mesure de mettre en oeuvre ce numéro pour 1992 et qu'une application générale de ce numéro est possible au plus tard pour 1995.

La proposition de la Commission soulève des difficultés sur le plan juridique, la quasi totalité des délégations demandant le remplacement de la base juridique proposée par la Commission, à savoir l'Art. 100A (majorité qualifiée), par l'art. 235 (unanimité). La Commission a justifié la proposition de l'Art. 100A comme base juridique avec la considération que l'introduction d'un numéro d'appel d'urgence unique contribuerait à l'établissement et au fonctionnement du Marché Unique.

La Présidence italienne envisage également un débat sur l'utilité d'introduire dans le Traité, à l'occasion des Conférences Intergouvernementales, des dispositions en matière de protection civile.

Autres sujets de l'ordre du jour :

- Le Conseil devrait approuver un projet de résolution relative à la coopération communautaire en matière de protection civile. La Commission a présenté au Conseil en janvier 1990, une communication à ce sujet (voir IP(90) 13, du 10 janvier 1990). Le projet de résolution prévoit le lancement d'une campagne coordonnée d'information et de sensibilisation des citoyens, ainsi que la proclamation d'une "Année de la protection civile" pour la période allant de juin 1993 à mai 1994.
- Un autre projet de résolution devrait être approuvé relative à l'amélioration de l'assistance mutuelle entre Etats membres en cas de catastrophe naturelle ou d'origine humaine. Une coopération accrue entre les Etats membres à ce sujet semble être nécessaire aux fins de la prévention et de la prévision des risques majeurs, ainsi que de l'amélioration de l'assistance réciproque en cas de catastrophe naturelle ou technologique.

Amitiés,

C. Stathopoulos



Bruxelles, le 23 novembre 1990

NOTE BIO(90)364 (suite 1 et fin) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX  
CC. AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE-PAROLE

-----  
CONSEIL PROTECTION CIVILE DU 23 NOVEMBRE 1990  
-----

-----  
ACCORD SUR UN NUMERO D'APPEL D'URGENCE UNIQUE  
-----

Le téléphone est l'outil indispensable lorsque, confronté à tout type de situation d'urgence, l'on doit appeler les services d'urgence responsables de la sécurité du public. Or, rien n'est plus difficile, dans ces circonstances que de trouver rapidement un numéro de téléphone d'appel d'urgence et de tenter d'expliquer sa situation à quelqu'un qui ne vous comprend pas forcément.

La proposition de la Commission de créer un numéro d'appel d'urgence unique européen, le 112, se basait sur ces réflexions. Elle se basait aussi sur le fait que cette situation se multipliera sous l'effet de l'accroissement du nombre de déplacements des citoyens européens.

Le Conseil a suivi la Commission. Il est arrivé aujourd'hui à un accord politique, qui sera finalisé après que le Parlement européen ait donné son avis. Le chiffre 112 sera donc ce numéro d'appel d'urgence, vu que le développement des technologies des télécommunications désormais le permet. Ce numéro existera en parallèle avec les numéros nationaux déjà existants. Son introduction sera progressive, car certains Etats membres connaissent encore certains problèmes techniques et économiques. Pour cette raison, la Commission a proposé le 31 décembre 1992 comme date d'entrée en vigueur du 112, avec une dérogation permettant l'introduction au plus tard le 31 décembre 1996.

Le Conseil a approuvé aussi les projets de deux résolutions, la première sur la coopération communautaire en matière de protection civile, la deuxième sur l'assistance mutuelle entre Etats membres en cas de catastrophe naturelle ou d'origine humaine.

La première appuie l'intention de la Commission de déterminer les différentes possibilités de systèmes de télécommunications avancées pour répondre aux besoins de la protection civile (y compris les satellites). Elle convient de la mise en oeuvre d'un projet pilote de système Informatique et demande à la Commission de poursuivre la réflexion sur la possibilité de valoriser, dans le cadre de la coopération communautaire, la formation des Jeunes en service civil ou volontaire, prenant part aux activités liées à la protection civile. Lors de la conférence de presse finale, M. Ripa di Meana a souligné qu'il s'agit ici d'un exemple concret de l'Europe des citoyens. La résolution proclame enfin la période allant de juin 1993 à mai 1994 "année de la protection civile".

La deuxième résolution établit un cadre juridique de coopération Intergouvernementale uniforme destiné à renforcer l'efficacité de la coopération et l'assistance en cas de catastrophe.

Amitiés,

  
C. Stathopoulos