

II

(Acts whose publication is not obligatory)

COUNCIL

COUNCIL DECISION

of 9 December 1999

establishing a Community action programme in the field of civil protection

(1999/847/EC)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 308 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission ⁽¹⁾,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament ⁽²⁾,

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee ⁽³⁾,

Having regard to the opinion of the Committee of the Regions ⁽⁴⁾,

Whereas:

- (1) The actions taken by the Community in this field since 1985 must be continued with a view to strengthening the cooperation between the Member States; the Resolutions adopted since 1987 ⁽⁵⁾ and Council Decision 98/22/EC of 19 December 1997 establishing a Community Action Programme in the field of Civil Protection ⁽⁶⁾ constitutes the basis for this cooperation;
- (2) The individual actions undertaken by the Community to implement the programme contribute to the protection of persons, environment and property in the event of natural and technological disasters, and a greater awareness of the interrelationship between human activities and nature, which in the future may make it possible to prevent many disasters, including floods;

(3) The Community programme of policy and action in relation to the environment and sustainable development ⁽⁷⁾ presented by the Commission foresees that the Community's activities will be stepped up in particular in the field of environmental emergencies; the same programme calls for these activities to take account of scientific research and technological development;

(4) The Community Action Programme will continue to help to develop cooperation in this field even more effectively; the programme should be based to a large extent on experience already gained in this field;

(5) In accordance with the principle of subsidiarity, Community cooperation supports and supplements national policies in the field of Civil Protection in order to make them more effective; pooling of experience and mutual assistance will help to reduce the loss of human life, injuries, material damage and economic and environmental damage throughout the Community, making the objectives of social cohesion and solidarity more tangible;

(6) The isolated and outermost regions of the Union have special characteristics because of their geography, terrain and social and economic conditions which have an adverse effect and make it difficult to deliver aid and means of assistance in the event of major danger;

(7) The Community Action Programme will provide transparency as well as consolidate and strengthen the different actions in continued pursuit of the objectives of the Treaty;

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 28, 3.2.1999, p. 29.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 279, 1.10.1999, p. 210.

⁽³⁾ OJ C 169, 16.6.1999, p. 14.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ C 293, 13.10.1999, p. 53.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ C 176, 4.7.1987, p. 1; OJ C 44, 23.2.1989, p. 3; OJ C 315, 14.12.1990, p. 1; OJ C 313, 10.11.1994, p. 1.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 8, 14.1.1998, p. 20.

⁽⁷⁾ OJ C 138, 17.5.1993, p. 5.

- (8) Action to prevent risks and damage as well as provide information and prepare those responsible for and involved in Civil Protection in the Member States is important and increases the degree of preparedness for accidents; it is also important to undertake Community action to improve techniques and methods of response and immediate aftercare after emergencies;
- (9) It is also important to undertake action targeted at the general public so as to help European citizens to protect themselves more effectively;
- (10) The Permanent Network of National Correspondents on Civil Protection will continue to play an active role for matters relating to civil protection;
- (11) The measures necessary for the implementation of this Decision are to be adopted in accordance with Council Decision 1999/468/EC of 28 June 1999 laying down the procedures for the exercise of implementing powers conferred on the Commission ⁽¹⁾;
- (12) The provisions of this Decision take over from 1 January 2000, from the action programme set up through Decision 98/22/EC and ending on 31 December 1999;
- (13) A financial reference amount, within the meaning of point 34 of the Interinstitutional Agreement of 6 May 1999 between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on budgetary discipline and improvement of the budgetary procedure ⁽²⁾, is included in this Decision for the entire duration of the programme, without thereby affecting the powers of the budgetary authority as they are defined by the Treaty;
- (14) The Treaty does not provide, for the adoption of this Decision, powers other than those of Article 308,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

1. A Community action programme in the field of civil protection (hereinafter called this 'programme') is hereby established for the period 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2004.
2. This programme is intended to support and supplement Member States' efforts at national, regional and local levels for the protection of persons, property and in so doing environment, in the event of natural and technological disasters, without prejudice to the internal division of competence in Member States. The aim is also to facilitate cooperation, exchange of experience and mutual assistance between Member States in this field.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 184, 17.7.1999, p. 23.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 172, 18.6.1999, p. 1.

3. This programme excludes any measures aimed at the harmonisation of the laws and regulations of the Member States or of the organising of the national preparedness of the Member States.

Article 2

1. The Commission shall implement the actions under this programme.
2. A three-year rolling plan to implement this programme, to be reviewed annually, shall be adopted, in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 4(2).
3. The financial reference amount for the implementation of this programme shall be EUR 7,5 million.

The annual appropriations shall be authorised by the budgetary authority within the limits of the financial perspective.

4. Actions under this programme and financial arrangements for Community contribution are set out in the Annex.

Article 3

1. The rolling plan to implement this programme shall contain the individual actions to be undertaken.
2. Individual actions shall be selected primarily on the basis of the following criteria:
 - (a) contribution to preventing the risks and damage to persons, property and in so doing environment, in the event of natural and technological disasters;
 - (b) contribution to increasing the degree of preparedness of those involved in civil protection in the Member States, in order to increase their ability to respond to an emergency;
 - (c) contribution to detecting and studying causes of disasters;
 - (d) contribution to improving the means and methods of forecasting, techniques and methods of response and immediate aftercare after emergencies;
 - (e) contribution to public information, education and awareness, so as to help citizens to protect themselves more effectively.
3. Each individual action shall be implemented in close cooperation with the Member States.
4. Where relevant, actions under this programme should aim to contribute
 - to the integration of civil protection objectives in other Community and Member States policies and actions, in particular including risk evaluation when assessing the impact of installations and activities,
 - as well as to the consistency of this programme with other Community actions.

5. Each action shall take account of the results of the Community and national research in the relevant fields.

Article 4

1. The Commission shall be assisted by a committee.
2. Where reference is made to this paragraph, Articles 4 and 7 of Decision 1999/468/EC shall apply.

The period laid down in Article 4(3) of Decision 1999/468/EC shall be set at three months.

3. The Committee shall adopt its own rules of procedure.

Article 5

The Commission shall evaluate the implementation of this programme at mid-term and before its end, and report by 30

September 2002 and 31 March 2004 to the European Parliament and the Council.

Article 6

This Decision shall apply with effect from 1 January 2000.

Article 7

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 9 December 1999.

For the Council

The President

O. HEINONEN

ANNEX

Action ⁽¹⁾	Financial arrangements
<p>A. Major projects of general interest</p> <p>Major projects of general interest for all Member States or a number of them and involving a process for enhancing civil protection capabilities for dealing with disasters in certain significant aspects, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — prevention, — preparedness, — response, — immediate aftercare, — detection and study of the causes of disasters (analysis of risks and vulnerability), — analysis of the socio-economic implications of disasters, — improving the means and methods of forecasting. 	<p>Maximum Community financial contribution: 75 % of the total cost of the action.</p>
<p>B. Training</p> <p>1. <i>Workshops and courses</i> ⁽²⁾</p> <p>Organisation of workshops or training courses bringing together experts, technical specialists and technicians from the Member States permitting, within each discipline, the mutual sharing of experience by means of discussions in specific terms of their methods, techniques and means with a view to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — increasing their degree of preparedness — creating the conditions for the establishment of a human network permitting more effective operational cooperation between Member States in case of emergency. <p>2. <i>Exchange of experts and technicians</i></p> <p>Organisation of the secondment of experts to the emergency services or other relevant bodies of another Member States in order to allow the experts to gain experience or appraise different techniques used or to study the approaches taken within other emergency services or other relevant bodies.</p> <p>Organisation of exchanges of Member States experts, specialists and technicians enabling them to present or to follow short training courses.</p> <p>3. <i>Exercises</i> ⁽²⁾</p> <p>The exercises are intended to compare methods, to stimulate cooperation between Member States and to back-up progress in coordination of the national civil protection services, with a view to improving inter alia the effectiveness and speed response in case of emergency.</p>	<p>Maximum Community financial contribution: 75 % of the total cost of the action, with a ceiling of EUR 75 000 per action.</p> <p>Maximum 75 % of the experts travel and subsistence expenses and 100 % of the costs of coordinating the system.</p> <p>Maximum Community financial contribution: 50 % of the costs of participating observers from other Member States and for organising the associated workshops, preparing the exercise and the final report, etc.</p>
<p>C. Other actions</p> <p>1. <i>Pilot projects</i> ⁽²⁾</p> <p>Projects designed to increase the capacity for and speed of response in the initial stages of crises in the different regions of Member States. These projects are aimed mainly at improving means, techniques and procedures also in the isolated and outermost regions or islands. Their scope and content should be such as to interest all or several Member States and it is intended to give them the maximum dissemination and demonstration throughout the Union for their implementation.</p> <p>The greatest possible encouragement should be given to multi-national projects.</p>	<p>Maximum Community financial contribution: 50 % of the total cost of each pilot project, with a ceiling of EUR 200 000 for each project.</p>

Action ⁽¹⁾	Financial arrangements
<p>2. <i>Support actions</i> ⁽²⁾</p> <p>Support actions such as preparatory work related to new areas or one-off follow-up actions for other projects, workshops or exercises.</p>	<p>Maximum Community financial contribution: 50 % of the total cost of each action, with a ceiling of EUR 30 000 per action.</p>
<p>3. <i>Conferences and events</i></p> <p>Conference and other civil protection events, involving several Member States.</p>	<p>Maximum Community financial contribution: 30 % of the total cost of the arrangement with a ceiling of EUR 50 000 per action.</p>
<p>4. <i>Information</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Actions to improve public information, education and awareness, so as to help the citizens to protect themselves more effectively wherever they may be in the Community as well as to contribute to safety of citizens within the Community — Distribution of information, publications and production of exhibition material on the Community cooperation in the field of civil protection. 	<p>Maximum Community financial contribution: 75 % of the total cost of the action.</p> <p>Community financial contribution: 100 % of the costs.</p>
<p>5. <i>Other actions</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Other actions aiming to a better appreciation of the results of the civil protection activities, such as statistics, economic analysis — Evaluation of the programme — Circulation of information on actions decided, in the language of the Member States concerned by the topic of these actions. 	<p>Community financial contribution: 100 % of the costs.</p>
<p>D. Mobilisation of expertise</p> <p>Mobilisation of expertise to intervene in the event of an emergency situation to reinforce the system set-up by the authorities of a Member State or a third country facing natural or technological disasters.</p>	<p>Community financial contribution: 100 % of the costs for the experts mission.</p>

⁽¹⁾ The only eligible actions must be in accordance with the priorities yearly defined within the management committee.

Specific actions eligible to other Community instruments will not be financed in the framework of this programme. As regards item D, this will mean that actions eligible, *inter alia*, to ECHO may not be financed in the framework of this programme.

⁽²⁾ The only eligible actions are those interesting all Member States or a significant number of them.