



Contribution of the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement of the Council of Europe

F. Tondre

EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement of the Council of Europe

Set-up in 1987 by the Committee of the Council of Europe, the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement is aiming at strengthening co-operation between member States in the field of risk management : knowledge, prevention, preparedness, alert, crisis management, post-crisis analysis, rehabilitation. It is composed of 25 member states. The ministerial sessions assisted by the Committee of Permanent Correspondents adopt the main political thrusts and priorities to be addressed by the Agreement through the activities of the network of 26 specialised European centers and specific programmes run by the Executive Secretariat.

Significant activities include : A European warning system triggered in case of earthquakes The EXTREMUM System estimating victims and damage after an earthquake The STRIM programme (use of space technologies to the benefit of risk management The comparative analysis of risk management legislation A research programme on ethics and disaster medicine Priority is also given to education, training and information at school, university and professional level.

A proposal was made during a workshop on Coastal and tsunami early warning systems held in Lagos Portugal in 2001 to set up an early warning system concerning occurrence of tsunamis in the Mediterranean Basin. After the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Kobé 18-22 January 2005 a proposal will be made on the matter.