


Procedure file

Basic information		
CNS - Consultation procedure Decision	1998/0354(CNS)	Procedure completed
Civil protection: Community action programme 2000-2004		
See also Decision 98/22/EC 1995/0098(CNS) Amended by 2004/0162(CNS)		
Subject 4.30 Civil protection		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	ENVI Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection		21/01/1999
		GUE/NGL GONZÁLEZ ÁLVAREZ Laura	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	BUDG Budgets		19/01/1999
		PSE SANDBERG-FRIES Yvonne	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Transport, Telecommunications and Energy	2234	09/12/1999

Key events			
16/12/1998	Legislative proposal published	COM(1998)0768	Summary
24/02/1999	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
17/03/1999	Vote in committee		
17/03/1999	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A4-0124/1999	
04/05/1999	Debate in Parliament		
05/05/1999	Decision by Parliament	T4-0405/1999	Summary
29/07/1999	Modified legislative proposal published	COM(1999)0400	Summary
09/12/1999	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
09/12/1999	End of procedure in Parliament		
21/12/1999	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1998/0354(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Decision
	See also Decision 98/22/EC 1995/0098(CNS) Amended by 2004/0162(CNS)
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 308
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ENVI/4/10778

Documentation gateway					
Legislative proposal		COM(1998)0768 OJ C 028 03.02.1999, p. 0029	16/12/1998	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A4-0124/1999 OJ C 219 30.07.1999, p. 0005	17/03/1999	EP	
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report		CES0449/1999 OJ C 169 16.06.1999, p. 0014	28/04/1999	ESC	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T4-0405/1999 OJ C 279 01.10.1999, p. 0164-0215	05/05/1999	EP	Summary
Committee of the Regions: opinion		CDR0104/1999 OJ C 293 13.10.1999, p. 0053	02/06/1999	CofR	
Modified legislative proposal		COM(1999)0400 OJ C 212 25.07.2000, p. 0028 E	29/07/1999	EC	Summary
Follow-up document		00000/2001 OJ C 082 13.03.2001, p. 0001	26/02/2001	CSL	Summary
Follow-up document		SEC(2003)1109	09/10/2003	EC	Summary

Additional information	
European Commission	EUR-Lex

Final act
Decision 1999/847 OJ L 327 21.12.1999, p. 0053 Summary

Civil protection: Community action programme 2000-2004

OBJECTIVE: to establish a community action programme in the field of civil protection for the period 2000-2004. CONTENT: this proposal seeks to replace the current programme in the field of civil protection ending on 31 December 1999 and covers the period from 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2004. The proposed programme seeks, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity, to supplement the efforts made by the Member States at national, regional or local level to promote civil protection and to facilitate cooperation and mutual assistance between the Member States in this field. More specifically, the programme seeks to: - support Member States in the prevention of risk and attack on persons, the environment and property in the event of natural or technological disaster; - support efforts made to increase the level of preparation of those responsible for civil protection in the Member States in order to improve their ability to intervene in the event of an emergency; - perfect intervention techniques and methods; - promote information, education and sensitisation of the public in order to improve

their self-protection. The Community action proposed in the programme is not intended to replace the efforts made by Member States in the field of civil protection but to back them up in order to make them more effective. It is directed at those responsible for civil protection in the Member States but stresses the need to inform citizens. The Commission would be responsible for implementing the programme, with the help of a consultative committee of representatives from the Member States. The implementation of the programme would take the form of a three-year action plan, to be reviewed each year. However, if the need arises, the Commission would be able to organise other actions in addition to those for which provision is made in the three-year programme. An Annex details the scope of the action to be undertaken under the programme and the Community contribution to it. This varies between 50% and 75% of the cost of the programme, depending on the type of action (projects of general interest of European importance, 75% of the costs; seminars, training courses and exchanges of experts, 75% of the experts' travel costs up to 100% of the costs of coordinating the system; miscellaneous exercises, 50% of the costs; pilot projects which aim to strengthen the ability to intervene in the early stages of a crisis, 50% of the costs, capped at EUR 200 000 per project). Provision is made for the programme to be evaluated at mid-term and at the end of the proposed programme. It should be noted that the financial statement of the proposal makes provision for an annual budget of EUR 2 million for the implementation of the programme.?

Civil protection: Community action programme 2000-2004

In adopting the report drafted by Ms. Laura GONZALEZ ALVAREZ (GUE/NGL, Spain) on the Community action programme for civil protection, the European Parliament approved the Commission's proposal and placed special emphasis on environmental emergencies. In the Parliament's view, this programme has to complement and enhance the efforts undertaken by the Member States at national, regional, supranational and local levels in favour of the prevention and protection of persons, the environment and property in the event of danger or actual natural and technological disasters. The aim is also to facilitate co-operation, exchange of experience and mutual assistance between Member States in this field. The Parliament also wants this programme to be extended to the Phare, Tacis and Meda countries given that catastrophes and emergency situations in these countries may also affect Member States and vice versa. These countries would have to assume the financial cost arising from their involvement, but, in certain cases, the Community could supplement the national contribution of the country in question from the Phare, Tacis or Meda budgets. The Parliament also considers that ultraperipheral regions which are directly concerned by this programme, should specifically be taken into account given their distant location and the difficulties in delivering aid. In this case, the Parliament proposes 100% funding for pilot projects in these regions instead of co-funding at 50%. As far as the other actions are concerned, the Parliament calls for co-funding of the detection and studying of the immediate and underlying causes of disasters and the publication of the conclusions reached. It also wants the programme to co-fund pilot projects on the means and methods of forecasting, techniques and procedures of response and rehabilitation after emergencies. The Parliament also calls for the involvement of other relevant bodies, such as NGOs with specialist expertise in emergency operation. ?

Civil protection: Community action programme 2000-2004

The Commission's amended proposal incorporates a majority of the amendments adopted by the European Parliament in consultation. Of the main amendments, the following were retained: - greater focus on environmental emergencies in the implementation of the programme, - increased efforts by Member States on prevention of emergencies, and the information of and protection of persons in the event of the risk of a catastrophe, - greater involvement of citizens in the implementation of actions, - improving the scope of the planned actions with other amendments to the Annex of the proposal, - involvement of NGOs in the system of exchange of experts (on condition that they are an integral part of civil protection systems in the Member States). On the other hand, the Commission did not accept certain amendments relating to: - extending the programme to Phare, Tacis and Meda countries, - funding of up to 100% of eligible costs for ultra-peripheral regions, - comitology.?

Civil protection: Community action programme 2000-2004

PURPOSE : to establish a new Community action programme in the field of civil protection for the period 2000-2004. **COMMUNITY MEASURE :** Council Decision 1999/847/EC establishing a Community action programme in the field of civil protection. **CONTENT :** this Decision establishes a Community action programme in favour of civil protection for the period running from 01.01.2000 to 31.12.2004. with a financial reference amount for the implementation of the programme of EUR 7,5 million. This programme seeks to ensure the follow-up of the 2-year which was established in December 1997. Its purpose was to support and supplement Member States' efforts at national, regional and local level for the protection of persons, property and, in so doing, the environment, in the event of natural and technological disasters. The aim of this programme is to facilitate cooperation, exchange of experience and mutual assistance between Member States in this field, without prejudice to the internal division of competence in Member States. The Commission shall implement the actions under this programme ; it shall be assisted in its task by a management committee made up of representatives from Member States. A three-year rolling plan to implement this programme will be adopted for the implementation of this programme ; it will specify the individual actions to be undertaken and it will be re-examined annually. Individual actions shall be selected primarily on the basis of the following criteria : - contribution to preventing risks and damage to persons, property and in so doing, the environment, in the event of natural and technological disasters; - 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 ; - contribution to detecting and studying causes of disasters ; - contribution to improving the means and methods of forecasting, techniques and methods of response and immediate aftercare after emergencies ; - contribution to public information, education and awareness, so as to help citizens protect themselves more effectively. Each individual action shall be implemented in close cooperation with the Member States (an annex describes precisely what kind of action and the type of funding available to this effect). 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, including, in particular, the evaluation of risks when assessing the impact of installations and activities. They should also seek to be consistent with other Community actions. The Commission shall evaluate the implementation of this programme at mid-term and before its end, and submit reports by 30.09.2002 and 31.03.2004 to the European Parliament and the Council. **ENTRY INTO FORCE :** 01.01.2000.?

Civil protection: Community action programme 2000-2004

This Resolution of the Council and of the representatives of the governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, concerns the strengthening of the capabilities of the European Union (EU) in the field of civil protection. The resolution is based on the belief that it is appropriate to complement the previous resolutions by this resolution, taking into account recent developments, including those in the field of non-military crisis management in the field of the common foreign and security policy (CFSP). With regard to information, education and communication, the resolution states that the vade-mecum of the civil protection of the EU (which includes, inter alia, a description of national organisation of civil protection, relevant legal texts and methodology of emergency planning) needs to be updated and complemented in several respects. This refers to, among others, the added value of the Community framework for contacts between national correspondents; that cooperation between schools and national training centres that are active in the field of civil protection should progress at a faster pace and the importance of developing initiatives such as civil-protection information campaigns and information, education and awareness-raising initiatives aimed at the public and in particular at young people to increase the level of self-protection of citizens. With regard to operational activities and instruments, the resolution emphasises, inter alia, the progress made regarding assistance arrangements between the Member States and civil protection organisations; the value of the 24-hour operational service on a stand-by basis provided by the Commission and of arrangements with the Commission relating to the secondment of experts and the important role that general directors of civil protection or their counterparts can play in setting key priorities and common objectives and in ensuring a high degree of coordination, in particular at their regular meetings. With regard to international cooperation, the resolution notes, inter alia, that EFTA countries are participating in various activities under the Community action programme; it welcomes the fact that the UN/ECE Convention on transboundary effects of industrial accidents entered into force on 19.04.2000 and finally, it invites the Commission and Member States to explore ways and means to establish a similar action through a Eurobaltic programme for civil protection cooperation in the Baltic and Barents region. Lastly, with regard to civil protection resources in the framework of crisis management, the resolution welcomes, inter alia, the priority given to civil protection in the study on concrete targets on civilian aspects of crisis management which was submitted to the Feira European Council on 19 and 20 June 2000. It also recommends that civil protection resources or assets of Member States may be used in the framework of crisis management in support of the CFSP, following their examination by the competent bodies. ?

Civil protection: Community action programme 2000-2004

This Commission Staff Working Paper aims at identifying possible weaknesses of the Action Programme set up by Council Decision 1999/847/EC, in order to find suitable solutions to improve its effectiveness. An external evaluator was appointed to assess the Programme, and the Commission services have analysed the conclusions of the external evaluator and have identified the most important issues. These relate to the long-term impact of the Action programme, to other civil Protection instruments and policies, to networking, to management procedures and result orientation of the Programme. On the question of improving management procedures, the paper states that some of the participating countries consider the financial and technical procedures for presenting proposals too heavy and burdensome. However, the opening of the Action Programme to NGOs and regional and local civil protection actors, will guarantee its continuation. All of these actors will benefit from such an opening since they will be in the position to directly address their needs to the Commission. In addition, the Commission has identified three key areas of action in the Programme. They are: - public awareness raising. A growing number of people are moving to other countries and safety provisions may differ from those of their home country. Signs and alarms are often not harmonised and evacuation rules may be unknown. The first major Project, "Information to the Public" was very well accepted by Member States. A Second Major Project of the same name started in December 2002. - prevention. The paper discusses the usefulness of the Major project on prevention of natural and technological disasters led by Finland and a project lead by Greece on forest fire prevention. - preparedness and response. The paper discusses the major Project on disaster medicine, and a project on the use of new technologies led by France. The latter has given a major input by creating a common platform for users in the field of Civil Protection. Moreover, many national experts have been given the opportunity for an exchange of experience. As this action has clear linkages with the response to disasters, it is now financed under the Community Mechanism. In general, in the fields of preparedness and response, the participating countries request a better flow of information between Civil Protection actors. Finally, the paper states that in order to obtain more tangible results and to achieve a better coherence amongst the actions, strategic priorities should be fewer in number but with a higher budget. Fewer actions mean improved networking and increased transparency. This would allow the participants in each project to go into more detail and to better know what is done by other participating countries, thus further improving the exchange of experience and the co-operation between countries, as foreseen by the Council Decision establishing the Action Programme. A limitation to just a few thematic actions, such as will be the case for prevention and public awareness raising, is also nearer to the actual needs of the citizen. Moreover, this approach will help integrate the civil protection dimension into other Community policies. Some of the financial resources initially foreseen for actions developed under the Action Programme are now covered by the Community Mechanism. Therefore, concentrating the budget on a limited number of actions falling under the scope of the Action Programme will be the future line to take. ?