

# About the Council of Europe



- Oldest European institution, created in 1949
- 47 member states + observers (Holy See, Canada, Japan, Mexico, U.S.A)
- Headquarters : Strasbourg (northeast of France)

## Main aims

- defend human rights, parliamentary democracy and the rule of law,
- develop agreements to standardise social and legal practices,
- promote awareness of European identity,
- assist countries to consolidate political, legal, constitutional reform
- provide know-how in HR, local democracy, education, culture, ...

## Some practical achievements

- 198 legally binding European treaties or conventions
- Recommendations to governments setting out policy guidelines

## How it works

- Committee of Ministers (47 Foreign ministers or their deputies)
- Parliamentary Assembly (636 members from national parliaments).
- Congress of Local and Regional Authorities (2 chambers).
- 1800-strong secretariat [Secretary General : Thorbjørn Jagland (Norway)]

## Warsaw Summit (2005) action plan underlines for the coming years:

- promoting values of human rights, the rule of law and democracy;
- **strengthening security of European citizens;**
- fostering co-operation with other international organisations.

# Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs



## Main aims

- to assist and advise on matters pertaining to law and policy in the fields of human rights and the rule of law to the Secretary General, the Committee of Ministers and all its subordinate Committees and, as appropriate, to other Services of the Organisation;
- to elaborate and evaluate legal standards (Recommendations, guidelines, handbooks etc. and draft Conventions) ; **STANDARD SETTING**
- to provide secretariat support and advice for the Organisation's treaty and related mechanisms in the fields of human rights and the rule of law ; **MONITORING**
- to implement programmes and activities aimed at fostering the establishment in member or applicant states of an institutional and legal framework in compliance with the principles of a democratic state, and at ensuring the observance of human rights and the rule of law; **COOPERATION**

# Directorate General of Social Cohesion



## Main aims

- To assist and advise on matters pertaining to social cohesion (social, disability, health, migration, Roma policies and bioethical standard-setting) to the Secretary General, the Committee of Ministers, and, as appropriate, the other statutory organs of the Organisation;
- To elaborate and promote European standards, policies, practices and tools in the social, disability, health, bioethical, migration and Roma fields,
- To support nondiscrimination and equal opportunities as well as ethnic and cultural diversity, with a view to reducing inequality and building confidence in a common and secure future for all;

# Directorate of Education, Culture and Heritage, Youth and Sport



## Main aims

- To help to incorporate the principles of human rights, democracy, tolerance and mutual respect, the rule of law and peaceful resolution of conflicts into the daily practice of teaching and learning; **EDUCATION**
- To promote the enabling power of culture and heritage as a force for democracy in European societies, where the diversity of cultures, the arts, and cultural and natural heritage are essential to the development of a genuine openness of mind and basic rights; **CULTURE AND HERITAGE**
- To elaborate guidelines, programmes and legal instruments for the development of coherent and effective youth policies at local, national and European levels aiming at the promotion of youth citizenship, youth mobility and the value of human rights, democracy and cultural pluralism; **YOUTH AND SPORT**



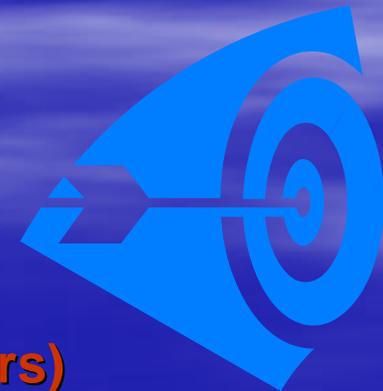
# Partial Agreements



**Devoted to more specific topics than core activities.  
In general, some (but not all) member states participate.**

**13 Partial Agreements exist within the Council of Europe :**

- **GRECO (Group of States against Corruption)**
- **Venice Commission (Democracy through Law)**
- **North-South Centre (Global Interdependence and Solidarity)**
- **Social & Public Health (Disabilities, Consumer's Protection)**
- **European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines**
- **Pompidou Group (Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on Drugs)**
- **Council of Europe Development Bank**
- **European Centre for Modern Languages**
- **European Audiovisual Observatory**
- **Eurimages (Co-production and distribution films)**
- **Sport**
- **Youth Card (Youth Mobility)**
- **EUR-OPA (Major Natural and Technological Disasters)**



Europe faces both natural and technological hazards ...



Promoting risk protection for European citizens for over 20 years !

# Objectives of the EUR-OPA Agreement

**Expressed in the Resolution, signed by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, creating the Open Partial Agreement in March 1987 :**

- ▶ Reinforce and **promote co-operation** between member States in a multi-disciplinary context.
- ▶ **Ensure better prevention, protection and organisation of relief** in the event of major natural or technological disasters by calling upon resources and knowledge to ensure efficient and interdependent management of major disasters.





# Member States of EUR-OPA



Presidency :  
Russian Federation  
Vice presidencies :  
Croatia  
France

26 member states :

*Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Georgia, Greece, Luxembourg, Malta, Republic of Moldova, Monaco, FYROM, Portugal, Romania, Russia, San Marino, Serbia, Spain, Turkey, Ukraine*  
+ *Algeria, Morocco, Lebanon (non-members of the Council of Europe).*



# Other participants to EUR-OPA activities

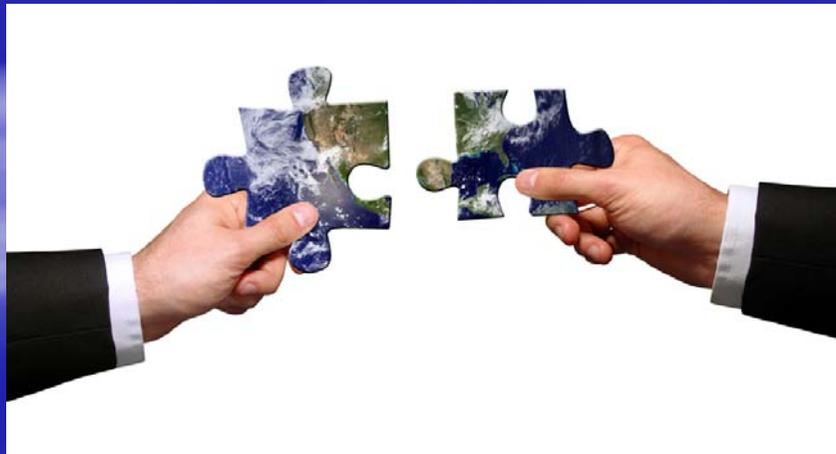


## ▶ Observer countries:

- ▶ Switzerland
- ▶ Japan
- ▶ Austria
- ▶ Germany
- ▶ Italy

## ▶ International Organisations

- ▶ UN-ISDR
- ▶ UNESCO
- ▶ European Commission
- ▶ IFRC
- ▶ OCHA
- ▶ WHO
- ▶ UNITAR



## ▶ Other CoE entities:

- ▶ Parliamentary Assembly
- ▶ Congress of Local and Regional Authorities
- ▶ Development Bank



# WHAT DO WE DO ?



**PROMOTE COOPERATION WITHIN MEMBER STATES ON PREVENTION, PROTECTION AND RELIEF IN THE FIELD OF MAJOR HAZARDS**

*WHY ?*

Because Hazards ignore borders, both political and scientific !

**TRY TO IDENTIFY VULNERABILITIES IN ORDER TO LIMIT BOTH MATERIAL AND HUMAN DAMAGES**

*WHY ?*

Because resources are needed both for prevention and intervention !



**PROVIDE A JOINT WORKING PLATFORM FOR ADMINISTRATIONS AND SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY TO COORDINATE KNOWLEDGE AND ACTION**

*WHY ?*

Because a good knowledge is essential for accurate decisions !

## 1. THROUGH A POLITICAL NETWORK



Political Guidelines and Priorities defined by the **competent Ministers of member States** and implemented by their **Permanent Correspondents** through the programme of activities



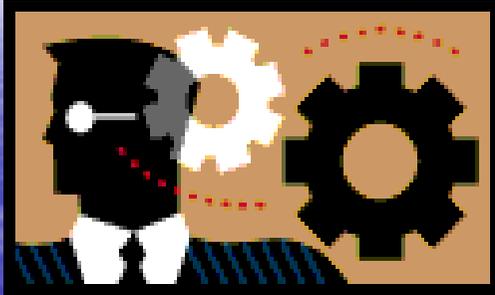
## 2. THROUGH A SCIENTIFIC NETWORK

26 **Associated Centres** (research/training/expertise) create a **permanent structure** for multinational and pluridisciplinary **scientific and technical co-operation**

## 3. WITHIN A WORLDWIDE STRATEGY



The Agreement is an active partner of the UN International Disaster Reduction Strategy



► Establishment of a platform for concertation and co-operation where countries are on an equal footing

► **Ministers of the Agreement :**

define Political Guidelines and Priorities given to initiatives and programmes regarding knowledge and risk prevention



► **Committee of Permanent Correspondents' :**

give instructions to the Executive Secretariat of the Agreement for implementation

# A SCIENTIFIC NETWORK



26 Associated Centres (research/training/expertise) : a **permanent platform for scientific and technical co-operation** allowing for a multinational and pluridisciplinary approach to risk issues.



## List of Centres (1/3)



Euro-Mediterranean Centre for Research on Arid zones	CSRTRA	Algeria 
European Inter-Regional Educational Centre	ECTR	Armenia 
European Centre on Training and information of Local and Regional Authorities and Population in the Field of Natural and Technological Disasters	ECMHT	Azerbaijan 
Higher Institute of Emergency Planning	ISPU	Belgium 
European Centre for Risk Prevention	CSLT	Bulgaria 
European Centre for Disaster Awareness with the use of Internet	BeSafeNet	Cyprus 
European Centre for Geomorphological Hazards	CERG	France 
Euro-Mediterranean Seismological Centre	CSEM	France 
European Centre for the Vulnerability of Industrial and Lifelines Systems	ECILS	FYROM 
European Centre on Geodynamical Hazards of High Dams	GHHD	Georgia 



## List of Centres (2/3)



Global Fire Monitoring Centre	GFMC	Germany	
European Centre on Prevention and Forecasting of Earthquakes	ECPFE	Greece	
European Centre on Forest Fires	ECFF	Greece	
European University Centre for Cultural Heritage	CUEBC	Italy	
European Centre for Geodynamics and Seismology	ECGS	Luxemburg	
Euro-Mediterranean Centre on Insular Coastal Dynamics	ICoD	Malta	
European Centre for Mitigation of Natural Risks	ECMNR	Moldova	
Euro-Mediterranean Centre for Evaluation and Prevention of Seismic Risk	CEPRIS	Morocco	
European Centre on Urban Risks	CERU	Portugal	
European Centre for Buildings Rehabilitation	ECBR	Romania	



## List of Centres (3/3)



European Centre of New Technologies for Management of Natural and Technological Major Hazards	ECNTRM	<i>Russia</i> 
European Centre for Disaster Medicine	CEMEC	<i>San Marino</i> 
European Centre on Social Research in Emergency Situations	CEISE	<i>Spain</i> 
European Natural Disasters Training Centre	AFEM	<i>Turkey</i> 
European Centre of Technological Safety	TESEC	<i>Ukraine</i> 



# WITH WHAT RESULTS ?



## ***RAISING RISK AWARENESS AT SCHOOL***

- Educating schoolchildren about risk prevention
- Promoting the safety of school buildings

## ***TRAINING STUDENTS AND PROFESSIONALS***

- Support to European Masters on risk related topics
- Specialized courses on risk issues for professionals



## ***IDENTIFYING GOOD PRACTICES***

- Analysis of national legislations in the field of Risk Management
- Analysis of interministerial disaster management

## ***DISSEMINATING TECHNICAL DATA***

- European Warning System between authorities
  - Model for earthquake damage assessment





# ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND RISKS



## The founding principles : European Human Rights Convention (1950)

Article 1 . Obligation to respect human rights

Contracting Parties secure within their jurisdiction the following rights and freedoms :

**Article 2 . Right to life**

Article 3 . Prohibition of torture

Article 4 . Prohibition of slavery and forced labour

**Article 5 . Right to liberty and security**

Article 6 . Right to a fair trial

Article 7 . No punishment without law

**Article 8 . Right to respect for private and family life**

**Article 9 . Freedom of thought, conscience and religion**

Article 10 . Freedom of expression

Article 11 . Freedom of assembly and association

Article 12 . Right to marry

**Article 13 . Right to an effective remedy**

**Article 14 . Prohibition of discrimination**

**Article 15 . Derogation in time of emergency**

Article 16 . Restrictions on political activity of aliens

**Article 17 . Prohibition of abuse of rights**

**Article 18 . Limitation on use of restrictions on rights**



# ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND RISKS



## **Article 2 . Right to life**

1 Everyone's right to life shall be protected by law. No one shall be deprived of his life intentionally save in the execution of a sentence of a court following his conviction of a crime for which this penalty is provided by law.

## **Article 5 . Right to liberty and security**

1 Everyone has the right to liberty and security of person. No one shall be deprived of his liberty save in the following cases and in accordance with a procedure prescribed by law

## **Article 8 . Right to respect for private and family life**

1 Everyone has the right to respect for his private and family life, his home and his correspondence.

2 There shall be no interference by a public authority with the exercise of this right except such as is in accordance with the law and is necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security, public safety or the economic well-being of the country, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.

## **Article 9 . Freedom of thought, conscience and religion**

2 Freedom to manifest one's religion or beliefs shall be subject only to such limitations as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of public safety, for the protection of public order, health or morals, or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.

## **Article 13 . Right to an effective remedy**

Everyone whose rights and freedoms as set forth in this Convention are violated shall have an effective remedy before a national authority notwithstanding that the violation has been committed by persons acting in an official capacity.



# ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND RISKS



## **Article 14 . Prohibition of discrimination**

The enjoyment of the rights and freedoms set forth in this Convention shall be secured without discrimination on any ground such as sex, race, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, association with a national minority, property, birth or other status.

## **Article 15 . Derogation in time of emergency**

1 In time of war or other public emergency threatening the life of the nation any High Contracting Party may take measures derogating from its obligations under this Convention to the extent strictly required by the exigencies of the situation, provided that such measures are not inconsistent with its other obligations under international law.

3 Any High Contracting Party availing itself of this right of derogation shall keep the Secretary General of the Council of Europe fully informed of the measures which it has taken and the reasons therefor. It shall also inform the Secretary General of the Council of Europe when such measures have ceased to operate and the provisions of the Convention are again being fully executed.

## **Article 17 . Prohibition of abuse of rights**

Nothing in this Convention may be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any right to engage in any activity or perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth herein or at their limitation to a greater extent than is provided for in the Convention.

## **Article 18 . Limitation on use of restrictions on rights**

The restrictions permitted under this Convention to the said rights and freedoms shall not be applied for any purpose other than those for which they have been prescribed.



# ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND RISKS



## Protocol 1

### Article 1 – Protection of property

Every natural or legal person is entitled to the peaceful enjoyment of his possessions. No one shall be deprived of his possessions except in the public interest and subject to the conditions provided for by law and by the general principles of international law.

The preceding provisions shall not, however, in any way impair the right of a State to enforce such laws as it deems necessary to control the use of property in accordance with the general interest or to secure the payment of taxes or other contributions or penalties.

### Article 2 – Right to education

No person shall be denied the right to education. In the exercise of any functions which it assumes in relation to education and to teaching, the State shall respect the right of parents to ensure such education and teaching in conformity with their own religious and philosophical convictions.

## Protocol 12

### Article 1 – General prohibition of discrimination

The enjoyment of any right set forth by law shall be secured without discrimination on any ground such as sex, race, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, association with a national minority, property, birth or other status.

No one shall be discriminated against by any public authority on any ground such as those mentioned in paragraph 1.



# ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND RISKS



## Additional founding principles : Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1949)

### Article 21.

- (2) Everyone has the right of equal access to public service in his country.
- (3) The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.

### Article 25.

- (1) Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.
- (2) Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection.

### Article 29.

- (1) Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible.
- (2) In the exercise of his rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society.
- (3) These rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.