

**Subject: Meeting of European National Platforms and HFA focal points  
7 May 2007, Strasbourg**

4 April 2007

Dear National Platform and/or Focal Point,

The secretariat of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) and the Council of Europe (European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA)) would like to invite you, as a representative of your National Platform and/or Focal Point for Disaster Risk Reduction, to participate in a meeting of European National Platforms and Focal Points on 7 May 2007 in Strasbourg (see attached draft agenda).

The objectives of this meeting are to:

- present the outcomes of the collaborative initiative between the UN/ISDR secretariat and the German Committee for Disaster Reduction (DKKV), draft proposal, in which both organizations have collected information, undertaken a survey and developed a strategic view on how the European Platforms can collaborate and strengthen their role and capacities;
- discuss and share information on progress in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action;
- prepare for the first session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, 5-7 June, Geneva (see attached Global Platform structure of sessions).

The Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disaster, adopted at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR) in Kobe, Japan, in January 2005, highlights the key role played by National Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction, which serve as catalysts to bring together relevant stakeholders at the national level. It requests the UN/ISDR secretariat to support national platforms, including through the clear articulation of their value-added roles, as well as regional coordination, to support different advocacy and policy needs and priorities set out in the Hyogo Framework.

The UN/ISDR secretariat and the DKKV have collaborated on an initiative, to support European National Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction. The purpose of this joint initiative is to strengthen the existing National Platforms and promote their further development in Europe, as well as the establishment of a European National Platforms network.

This initiative was presented at the EUR-OPA meeting in Marrakech in October 2006. The permanent correspondents welcomed the project as a useful support to the upcoming work programme of the EUR-OPA agreement.

The French National Platform for Disaster Reduction invited existing European National Platforms to a meeting in December 2006 in Paris. The meeting resulted in a note indicating elements of the structure and objectives of the European network of National Platform.

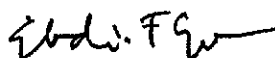
Group discussions and working group sessions will be organised to consider ways to move forward and identify possible contributions and inputs to the process.

We look forward to meeting with you.

Yours sincerely,

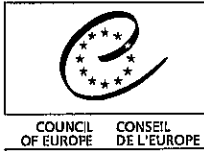


Sálvano Briceño  
Director  
ISDR



Eladio Fernández-Galiano  
Executive Secretary  
European and Mediterranean Major Hazards  
Agreement (EUR-OPA)

To: European National Platforms and/or HFA Focal Points



**Meeting of European National Platforms and Focal Points for Disaster Risk Reduction  
7 May 2007, Strasbourg  
Hosted by the Council of Europe (EUR-OPA Major Hazard Agreement)**

**Draft Agenda**

09:00 Welcoming addresses by

- UN/ISDR secretariat (Sálvano Briceño, Director)
- Council of Europe (Eladio Fernández-Galiano Executive Secretary. EUR-OPA)

09:30 Results of the initiative to strengthen existing and support the development of National Platform in Europe

- Presentation of the project outcomes (UN/ISDR & DKKV)
- Development of the European network of National Platforms (to be presented by a National Platform)
- Group discussion – Presentation outcome at plenary.

11:15 – 11:30 Coffee break

11:30 The Implementation of the HFA/Role of National Platforms and HFA focal point achievements in implementing the HFA

- Presentation by UN/ISDR secretariat (Ms. Paola Albrito)
- Case studies presented by National Platforms on their role in the implementation of the HFA and progress made (3 presentations of 10 minutes max)
- Group discussion

12:45 – 14:00 Lunch Break

14:00 The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (Geneva, 5-7 June 2007)

- Introduction by UN/ISDR secretariat (Ms. Paola Albrito)
- Group Discussion on contributions by National Platforms to the Global Platform session (14h30)

15:45-16:00 Coffee break

- Presentation of the discussions (Implementation of HFA and preparation Global Platform Session (16h00))
- Wrap-up and next steps

17:30 Closure of the meeting