



United Nations
International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
Secretariat, Geneva

**Subject: Meeting of European National Platforms and HFA Focal Points
Paris, 24-25 April 2008 – Hosted by UNESCO**

26 March 2008

Dear National Platform and/or Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) Focal Point,

The Council of Europe (European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA)) and the United Nations, secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR) in collaboration with the European Network of National Platforms and HFA Focal Points¹ (currently chaired by DKKV) would like to invite you, as a representative of your National Platform and/or HFA Focal Point for Disaster Risk Reduction, to participate in a meeting of European National Platforms and HFA Focal Points in Paris on 24-25 April 2008 (see attached draft agenda).

The objectives of this meeting are the following:

- Discuss and share information on progress in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (reporting guidelines and presentation of work plan for monitoring and progress review and its publications);
- Build on the opportunities of collaboration between National Platforms in Europe (European Network of National Platforms; twinning, between national platforms; exchanges and collaboration with specialized institutes);
- Agree on common issues to take forward at the European level (review on main challenges in Europe and ways forward).

The meeting responds to the request by the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters, adopted at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, Kobe 2005, to strengthen existing and support the development of National Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction to serve as a catalyst to bring together relevant stakeholders at the national level.

The UN/ISDR secretariat as part of its mandate, the Council of Europe (EUR-OPA), as indicated in the work plan agreed at the Marrakech meeting, and the DKKV as implementer in collecting relevant information on the National Platforms in Europe and as Chair of the European Network of National Platforms and HFA Focal Points, are committed to support the development of National Platforms in Europe and their cooperation at the European level.

¹ The phrase “the European Network of National Platforms and HFA Focal Points” is used to ensure proper editing of the English language. In the agreement signed between AFPCN, DKKV and PLANAT it is referred to as “A network of European National Platforms and HFA Focal Points”.

The meeting will build on the outcome of the National Platforms and HFA Focal Points meeting held in Strasbourg on 7 May 2007 and will identify the next steps to move forward the disaster risk reduction agenda in Europe.

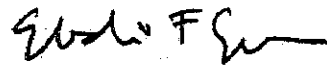
We look forward to meeting with you.

Yours sincerely,



Sálvano Briceño
Director

United Nations, secretariat of the International
Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR)



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

To: European National Platforms and/or HFA Focal Points