

Building resilience to disasters workshop

13 October 2015, 9:00 – 10:45

Room 53, 99-101 Rue Belliard, Brussels

On the occasion of the International Day for Disaster Reduction and following the adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 last March, this workshop will bring together local, regional and European practitioners, policy-makers and experts in order to analyse what the new framework means for Europe. Together, we will look at the Sendai Framework and the EU mechanisms already in place.

Disasters are socially and economically devastating. They can be local, regional, national or international in scale and impact. Between 2002 and 2012, disasters were responsible for more than 80,000 deaths and cost around €95bn in the EU alone. The frequency of severe flooding across Europe is set to double by 2050, while it is the often unreported more recurrent, smaller local disasters that have the biggest impact on people and communities. At the EU level, the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, the EU Solidarity Fund and the EU Cohesion Policy are existing tools that help Member States better prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters. At the international level, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction aims to serve as a blue print to help build resilience globally. This new international framework was adopted recently on 18 March 2015 at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction coordinated by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR).

How can we make our local communities less vulnerable to the devastating effects of disasters? What are the implications of the new Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction? Are the EUs existing mechanisms sufficient or is further action needed?

Please confirm your presence to: Vaida.Stockunaite@cor.europa.eu

Chairman: **Councilor Harvey Siggs** (Leader of Mendip District Council, UK/ CoRs "post-2015 Hyogo Framework for Action: Managing Risks to Achieve Resilience" rapporteur)

Panellists:

- **Ms Paola Albrito** (Head of the UNISDR Regional Office for Europe)
- **Mr Ian Clark** (Head of Unit, Policy and Implementation Frameworks, DG ECHO, European Commission)
- **Dr Swenja Surminski** (Senior Research Fellow, London School of Economics and Political Science)
- **Dr Pavel Branda** (Deputy-Mayor of Rádlo municipality, Czech Republic/ CoRs "EU Solidarity Fund" rapporteur)
- **Mr Adam Banaszak** (Vice-President of Kujawsko-Pomorskie Regional Assembly, Poland/ CoRs "EU Civil Protection Mechanism" rapporteur)