



■ TALLER SOBRE LOS PROBLEMAS ESPECÍFICOS
RELACIONADOS CON LA PROTECCIÓN CIVIL EN LAS
REGIONES ULTRAPERIFÉRICAS Y AISLADAS DE
LA UNIÓN EUROPEA

12 al 16 de marzo de 2001
Canarias - Madrid

WORKSHOP ON THE SPECIFIC PROBLEMS RELATED TO THE CIVIL PROTECTION IN THE OUTMOST AND ISOLATED REGIONS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION.

- Conclusions -

A. ITEMS.

1. Outmost and isolated regions of the European Union present specific problems about civil protection, as it is recognized in statement 6 of the actual Plan of action , approved by the Decision of the Council 1999/847/CE . December 1999, whereas:

“(6) Outmost and isolated regions of the European Union have special characteristic due to their geography, the area and their socio-economic conditions, which cause a negative effect and make more difficult the aid works and the assistance methods in case of critical situations of danger”.

The article 3, paragraph 4 of this Decision says that:

“Whenever it is pertinent, the actions which are planned to realize under the present programme should be directed to favour the integration of the civil protection objectives in other policies and actions of the Community and the Member States, particularly related to evaluation of risks in the estimates of the impact of the installations and activities, and to contribute to the concordance of the present programme with other community actions.”

The particular problems that are due to civil protection in outmost and isolated regions of the European Union, have been analysed in an integrated and multidisciplinary form, searching, in every moment, the exchange of experiences and knowledge , and promoting a common understanding of these problems.

Furthermore, due to the insular characteristics of these regions and the presentation of other cases that have been done, it must be understood that the most of analysis and conclusions could and should be applied to other insular regions of the European Union.

2. The new directives of the programmes financed by the Structural Funds in the frame of the community initiative INTERREG III, mention, in particular,



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the civil protection and prevention of catastrophes. This type of actions are particularly interesting for its consideration, in the solution of these specific problems that, in these matters, affect to the outmost and isolated regions of the European Union.

3. Presently, it is being discussed in the European Union Council a "Proposal of the Decision of the Council, establishing a Community Mechanism for the coordination of civil protection actions in case of emergency", as well as a "Proposal of Recommendations aimed to establish specific objectives of civil protection in case of crisis". Both items are of highest interest from the point of view of improving the capacity of a community answer to cope with emergency situations that may arise in outmost and isolated regions.

B. CONCLUSIONS.

Discussions have been directed to six well defined areas and related to the outmost regions, but they also could be applied to other remote regions or regions of difficult access of the European Union, the following conclusions have been reached:

1.- Risk Analysis and risk zoning.

There was unanimity in the need of common work between outmost and isolated regions, directed to the identification of common risks, exchange of information and methods for a better focus of the evaluation of risk. All that with a view to the setting up and implementation of integrated strategies and actions, to provide every territory with the mechanism of early warning, as well as the adequate land use taking into the different risks.

2.- Generic aspects about Planning emergencies.

The Planning of emergencies must recognise and take into account those aspects derived of the existing risks, the demographic, socio-economic and geographic characteristics of the territory, as well as its special socio-economic vulnerability in case of a catastrophe, that the outmost and isolated regions present.

There is a general agreement in realizing that, the implementation of plans, in these regions, is much more expensive, as far as human sources and materials,



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than those plans in the continental territory of the European Union. In parallel it is specially underlined the additional cost of the training and updating of the staff involved in these actions.

3.- Communication.

The fundamental importance of the communications in the management of emergencies, within the outmost and isolated regions (sometimes problematic because of their geographic and topographical aspects), as well with the continent and other neighbour regions, is recognized.

Voice, data and images communications, versatile, agile and credible, are needed so that they allow the optimum coordination of interventions in every case.

It is recommended to facilitate the use of technologies of communication, by satellite, for emergency services, both from the operational, as well as from the economic point of view

4.-Emergencies management.

To get a given level of response, in these regions, involve a more intensive use of human and material sources, than in a similar situation in continental regions. The geographic characteristics (isolation, topography and the scarcity of their territories) imply big problems in the pre-positioning of equipments and their deployment, taking into account the scarcity of resources in the nearest countries.

The Importance of having specialized intervention groups in the continental territories of the State Members with outmost and isolated regions, as well as an effective mechanism of coordination in the level of the European Union, that allow the solidarity contribution of the rest of countries of the European Union has been underlined.

5.-Relationships with citizens, considering the importance of the turistic activities.

Considering the special incidence of the tourism sector in the economy of these territories, it is necessary to make information campaigns on measures of self-



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protection for visitors. These campaigns should be coordinated at the Community level.

6.-Integration in other politics of the European Union.

The Community Institutions should take care that European citizens living in outmost and isolated regions or European visitors enjoy a security level similar to the one existing in the continental areas of the Union. For that, and considering the socio-economic imbalance between these territories and the rest of the Union and the increment of the cost of security methods, they should give an appropriate economic support.

However the Plan of Community Action about civil protection, if it favours to implement some common activities as the exchange of experts, model projects, self training workshops and other similar activities, it is not able to handle the costs of infrastructure and funding and has very limited funds. That is why the actions that derive from these conclusions must be considered in other programmes, such as INTERREG III, Framework Research Programme, etc., some of which do not have specific lines on civil protection, or those available are of great importance.

The next Community Action Plan about civil protection will have to increase its global budget, as well as to have a specific chapter dedicated to outmost and isolated regions.

The Programmes for Support of the Development of the European Union directed to the outmost and isolated regions should, taking into account the conclusions of this workshop and future activities, dedicate special funds for the improvement of infrastructures and equipments related to the security of persons and goods in these regions.