Meeting of the forest fire prevention experts, Brussels, 14 May 2004

Civil Protection – forest fires

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Objectives

• To support and supplement national efforts in the fields of prevention, preparedness and intervention

• To increase the level of self-protection of the European citizens

• To establish a framework for effective cooperation between national civil protection services (mutual assistance)
Community Action Programme in the field of civil protection 2000-2004

Council Decision 1999/847/EC
Fire Risk
Index: Canadian FWI
Day: 2002-05-23 (Forecast +1)
Community Mechanism to facilitate reinforced cooperation in civil protection assistance interventions

Community Mechanism (2)

Supplements the Action Programme by:

- Establishing a Monitoring and Information Centre MIC
- 24h/24h on-duty-system
- Creating an Emergency Communication and Information System (CECIS)
- Collecting data on assessment and coordination experts, available teams and means
- Facilitating the mobilisation of teams and means
Community Mechanism (3)

In the case of an emergency, the Commission (MIC) shall:
- forward requests for assistance to other MS
- facilitate the mobilisation of teams, experts, and intervention support
- collect validated information and disseminate to MS

Co-ordination of assistance outside the circle of Member States, other EEA and candidate countries is ensured by the Member State entrusted with the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.
Civil Protection networks linked to forest fires

• Committee for the Mechanism and the Action Programme (3x/a)

• Meetings of the directors-general (2x/a)

• Meetings of the forest fire expert group (2x/a)
Considerations

• Under the current Treaty, the Community shall take measures in the field of civil protection whilst respecting the principle of subsidiarity.

• Civil protection issues, in particular those related to forest fires are dealt with by several Commission services.

• The Civil Protection Unit continues monitoring forest fires, in particular during their occurrence. It needs forest fire risk forecasting to alert the national authorities and to improve its information system.

• The Civil Protection Unit is rather involved in the preparedness and in fire fighting aspects than in prevention measures.