



47 member States

Albania
Andorra
Armenia
Austria
Azerbaijan
Belgium
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Bulgaria
Croatia
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
Estonia
Finland
France
Georgia
Germany
Greece
Hungary
Iceland
Ireland
Italy
Latvia
Liechtenstein
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Malta
Moldova
Monaco
Montenegro
Netherlands
Norway
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Russia
San Marino
Serbia
Slovakia
Slovenia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"
Turkey
Ukraine
United Kingdom

16.09.2010

Natural and technological risk prevention and management on the agenda of a Council of Europe ministerial conference in St Petersburg

Date: 28 September 2010

Place: St Petersburg (Russia)

Organised by the Council of Europe and the Russian Federation Ministry for Civil Defence, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters ([EMERCOM](#)).

Description: At a time when it has just experienced an unprecedented heatwave and wildfires, followed by unusually heavy rainfall, Russia is due to host the next ministerial session of the Council of Europe's EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement.

Designed to strengthen international co-operation with a view to preventing natural disasters and responding to them more effectively, the conference will bring together ministers from around 20 European and Mediterranean countries to agree priorities in this area and adopt an action plan for 2011-2015.

The participants will discuss the impact of climate change on the frequency and intensity of natural disasters and will set out the steps to be taken to increase states' disaster resilience and preparedness. Discussion will also focus on taking account of the human factor. Two resolutions and a recommendation will be adopted at the close of the meeting.

The conference will be opened by Sergei Shoigu, Russian Federation Minister for Civil Defence, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters. Russia will present a review of the action taken to combat the fires which hit the country this summer.

Practical information:

- The conference will be held at Konstantin's Palace on **Tuesday 28 September, from 9 am to 6 pm**;
- A **press briefing** will be held at **1 pm**;
- **Journalists are invited to obtain accreditation by 23 September latest** from the Russian Federation Ministry for Civil Defence, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters: Elena Chernova, tel. +7 495-212-08-50 or Yulia Zhitina, tel. +7 495 626 37 27.

Note for editors:

- The EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement (1987) is a forum for co-operation in the field of major hazards involving European and southern Mediterranean countries. Its expertise covers major natural and technological disasters, including knowledge, prevention, risk management, post-crisis analysis and rehabilitation.
- It currently has 26 [members](#), including three countries from the southern Mediterranean which are not Council of Europe members.
- National platforms for risk reduction have been set up in 16 countries by the Council of Europe and the United Nations in order to boost co-operation at national, European and Mediterranean level.

[More information](#)

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