

# PSCE Newsletter n°5 / 2010

Public Safety Communication Europe Forum

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Forum for Public Safety Communication Europe

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## POLICY

### Setting up an EU rapid response capability

On 9 November 2010, the Committee on Development of the European Parliament adopted Ms Iva Zanicchi's *Draft Report with a proposal for a European Parliament recommendation to the Council on setting up an EU rapid response capability*.

The decision to draft this own-initiative report was originally triggered by the situation in Haiti. For this reason, its scope is limited to the external dimension of the EU disaster response capacity.

The draft report recommends the Council to call on the Commission to bring proposals before Parliament as soon as possible for establishing an EU civil protection force based on the EU Civil Protection Mechanism and enabling the Union to bring together the resources necessary for providing initial emergency humanitarian aid within 24 hours of a disaster. According to this document, a European rapid response mechanism should: (i) be civilian and/or humanitarian; (ii) capable of being mobilised at any time and as rapidly as possible; (iii) operate under the banner of the EU; (iv) observe international humanitarian law; (v) be open to cooperation with other bodies involved in humanitarian action; (vi) be prepared to cooperate with the UN system; (vii) be open to contributions from third countries; (viii) respect the voluntary nature of the Member States' participation in the intended arrangements; (ix) endeavour on an ongoing basis to keep up the standard of the human and material resources available for mobilisation at any time; (x) be based on the principle of burden sharing.

The Rapporteur also argues that it is high time to make further progress in this field, notably by putting into practice a number of concrete proposals that were included in the 2006 Barnier report (Towards a European Civil Protection Force).

Furthermore, the proposal recommends that the Council call on the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response to play a leading role in coordinating the Union's crisis response, using the responsibilities created under the Lisbon Treaty to coordinate the Union's response to future crises more effectively, while building on what has already been achieved.

The report will be subject to final vote during the December's plenary session in Strasbourg.

More information is available at:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/file.jsp?id=5860312>

### EC Communication on an integrated industrial policy for the enhanced security

On 28 October 2010, the European Commission adopted the Communication on "An integrated industrial policy for the globalisation era." This policy document sets out a strategy that aims to boost EU economy while making important reference to EU security.

According to the Communication, the EU security industry faces a highly fragmented internal market and a weak industrial base. National regulatory frameworks differ widely and the market for security products is highly diversified, ranging from cameras to complex scanner systems. To provide a security system, manufacturers, system integrators, and service providers have to work closely together with clients. It is essential to develop a fast-track system for approval of priority technologies; to make substantial further progress on harmonisation, standardisation; to consider coordinated public procurement; and to accelerate research on security technologies including dual-use. To address these issues, European Commission will coordinate some of its work with the European Defence Agency.

The Commission will present a Security Industry initiative, including a fast-track system for approval of priority technologies, setting priorities for harmonisation and standardisation and considering coordinated public procurement, and setting up a European Security and Dual-use Platform (2012 onwards).

More information is available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/industrial-competitiveness/industrial-policy/files/communication\\_on\\_industrial\\_policy\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/industrial-competitiveness/industrial-policy/files/communication_on_industrial_policy_en.pdf)

### European Commission adopts a Communication on European disaster response

On 26 October 2010, the European Commission adopted a Communication entitled "Towards a stronger European disaster response: the role of civil protection and humanitarian assistance".

This Communication aims to further reinforce the coordination of the response to disasters of the European Union, both within and outside its borders. In particular, it proposes the creation of a European Response Capacity in order to improve efficiency and coherence. The Communication also suggests developing contingency plans and calls for the creation of a voluntary pool of pre-committed Member States' emergency assets. The stated aim is to replace the current ad-hoc system with a more predictable and immediate response.

The Communication also envisages a European Emergency Response Centre (EER Centre). This would be a genuine response centre that will be created by merging the humanitarian aid (ECHO) and civil protection (MIC) crisis rooms. The Centre will be designed to pool experience and collect real-time information for both fields of intervention.

More information is available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/echo/civil\\_protection/civil/prote/pdfdocs/COM\\_2010\\_600\\_European\\_disaster\\_response\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/echo/civil_protection/civil/prote/pdfdocs/COM_2010_600_European_disaster_response_en.pdf)

## European Commission introduces two new proposals on EU's defence against cyber-attacks

On 30 September 2010, the European Commission presented two new measures to ensure that EU can defend itself from attacks against its key information (IT) systems. A proposal for a Directive on attacks against information systems is complemented by a proposal for a Regulation to strengthen and modernise the European Network and Information Security Agency (ENISA).

The two initiatives are foreseen by the Digital Agenda for Europe and the Stockholm Programme to boost trust and network security. Under the proposed Directive, the perpetrators of cyber attacks and the producers of related and malicious software could be prosecuted, and would face heavier criminal sanctions. Member States would be also obliged to quickly respond to urgent requests for help in the case of cyber-attacks, rendering European justice and police cooperation in this area more effective.

Strengthening and modernising ENISA would also help the EU, Member States and private stakeholders develop their capabilities and preparedness to prevent, detect and respond to cyber-security challenges. Both proposals were forwarded to the European Parliament and the EU's Council of Ministers for adoption.

Proposal for a Directive on attacks against information systems and repealing Council Framework Decision 2005/222/JHA is available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/commission\\_2010-2014/malmstrom/archive/directive\\_com2010\\_517.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/malmstrom/archive/directive_com2010_517.pdf)

Proposal for a Regulation concerning the European Network and Information Security Agency (ENISA) is available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/policy/nis/docs/enisa/2\\_en\\_act\\_part1\\_v14.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/policy/nis/docs/enisa/2_en_act_part1_v14.pdf)

## PSCE ACTIVITIES

### PSCE's cooperation with the NATO's Industrial Resources and Communications Services Group

Following the PSCE Conference held in Vienna (Austria) in June 2010, Manfred BLAHA, PSCE Board Member, presented the latest updates on PSCE during the NATO "Partnership for Peace" meeting organised in October 2010.

The Industrial Resources and Communications Services Group (IRCSG) was introduced to the latest activities performed by the forum. It was highlighted that the interoperability issues and consolidation of European user requirements are among the top concerns of PSCE. Furthermore, it was stated that the public safety is traditionally considered as a national priority by EU member states. Additionally, emphasis were put on:

- New standards and technologies various / competing / complex
- Need of raising user's awareness
- Need of educating users
- Large EC investment in R&D in public safety with need of coordination between ICT projects.

IRCSG expressed its interest to cooperate with PSCE on some of the common matters.

For more information, please contact [secretariat@psc-europe.eu](mailto:secretariat@psc-europe.eu).

## Next PSCE Conference

Next PSCE Forum Conference will be held on 30 Nov-1 Dec 2010 in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. It will be hosted in CISCO Systems premises at Haarlerbergpark, Haarlerbergweg 13-19 / 1101 CH Amsterdam.

The main thematic highlights of the conference include the Critical Information Protection and Public Warning Policy.

PSCE Forum Conference will host for the first time also an external dissemination event on Common Operational Picture Exploitation (COPE) Project.

The objective of this EU funded project is to create technological solutions which enable improved emergency management by better command and control performance and reliability of technical support. Booth presenting the COPE technology developments will be available during the conference.

More information about the project is available at <http://cope.vtt.fi/>.

For any further information regarding the programme, accommodation and logistical support please consult <http://www.psc-europe.eu/index.php?id=378#c885>.

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