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CBRN CoE Newsletter

Volume 7 - November 2013

Over the recent period the CoE has once again made great achievements. In June of this year the CoE Regional Secretariat for the CoE Middle East region was officially opened in Amman, Jordan at the Middle East Scientific Institute for Security. Although the official opening was in June, the secretariat has been fully operational since September of last year.

In July it was the turn of the Georgian Government to host yet another opening and the focus of the CBRN fraternity and the CoE in particular, was upon Tbilisi. This brings the number of Secretariats open to four. We should however not forget the other regions and their respective CoE Regional Coordinators. They are living in the host countries and are actively working with members of national teams, continuing the work for which the Initiative was built. Seeking to boost cooperation at national, regional and international levels and to help develop a common and coherent CBRN risk mitigation policy at national and regional level.

We are pleased to announce that the needs assessment tool has not only been tested in country, but an electronic version of the tool will soon be available to all. This tool will help countries identify both areas of CBRN expertise and potential areas for development that might benefit from tailored projects within the scope of the CoE.

We have expanded the network and are happy to welcome three new countries to the African Atlantic Façade region: Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia and Togo. Once again, we look forward to working with our extended family. On a different note, we are sad to see Croatia leave the CoE following their accession to the European Union. We will continue to work with them and complete the projects that were contracted prior to July and look forward to continue working with them as a EU Member State.

Many projects are underway and information is filtering back to us from the regions about their progress. The CoE Initiative embraces a very broad area of subject matter and the projects selected for

funding reflect this. Inside this issue there are detailed descriptions of a number of projects as diverse as the development of regional nuclear safety and security systems, to the training of persons to help to identify and respond to CBRN events. In future newsletters we will report more fully on the successes and challenges that the project implementers are facing.

Since this will be the last newsletter of 2013, we would like to take the opportunity of wishing you a very happy festive season.

CBRN CoE Team

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Smartphone users can install an application with a QR-code scanner to read the code

Implementation under way

Currently 31 projects are being implemented with two more approved for funding. The initial activities of projects that started at the beginning of 2013, were oriented towards the assessment of the current situation in the regions including coordination with other ongoing activities and project kick off meetings with the partner countries

Two new projects approved

The European Commission has launched a negotiated procedure with European Union Member States, through which it will select consortia that will implement two regional projects on CBRN incident response (project 34) and CB waste management (project 35).



Strengthening capacities in CBRN event response and related medical emergency response under strengthened CBRN event preparedness (project 34)



CoE Region: Middle East
Participating countries: Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon
Implementer: Selection procedure ongoing
Project Start Date: December 2013 (tentative)

This project will be implemented over 36 months with the overall objective to develop a comprehensive inter-country

(Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon), inter-agency locally trusted structure for the coordination, establishment and implementation of CBRN incident response throughout the region. It will address identified and prioritised CBRN emergency response needs, by providing comprehensive technology solutions and training. In addition, the project will also cover aspects related to awareness, risk assessment, import/export control the management of hazardous chemical agents, their precursors and chemical weapons and enhancing on-site chemical agent detection, sampling, handling and analysis capabilities.



Management of hazardous chemical and biological waste in the African Atlantic Façade region (project 35)

CoE region: African Atlantic Façade, North Africa

Participating countries:

Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Liberia, Mauritania, Morocco, Senegal, Togo, Tunisia

Implementer: Selection procedure ongoing

Project start date: January 2014 (tentative)

The main objective of this project, foreseen to last up to 42 months, is to enhance (or initiate) best practices in hazardous chemicals and biological waste management. Aspects related to sampling, detec-

tion, measurement, protection, decontamination, mitigation, transport, containment, site remediation and disposal will be considered in each country in a tailored approach, while keeping a regionally consistent approach as much as possible. This will include the elaboration of comprehensive standard procedures and technology solutions for C and B. The work will cover regulatory and technical inventories, capacity building training, workshops and a dedicated practical large scale C and B sampling and measurement programme for laboratories and their technicians. It will include a C and B proficiency testing scheme to measure the performance achieved. Coordination with existing or ongoing national, regional or international activities is a key factor of success to avoid duplication and enhance local ownership and sustainability.

Two more projects launched

In addition to 29 ongoing projects, two new projects have started, project 15 began in August, and project 33 in September 2013.

For the ongoing projects launched at the beginning of 2013, all implementers have submitted an inception report and several have already delivered their first progress report. The initial activities of the projects were oriented towards assessing the current situation in the countries and regions. This included the coordination

COE PROJECTS



Strengthening laboratory bio-safety and bio-security through development of a laboratory iso-bank system (project 15)

CoE region: South East Asia

Participating countries: Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand

Implementer: National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM), the Netherlands

Project start date: 1 August 2013



Strengthening the national CBRN legal framework and provision of specialised and technical training to enhance CBRN preparedness and response capabilities (project 33)



CoE region: African Atlantic Façade, Eastern and Central Africa

Participating countries:

Gabon, Mauritania, Morocco, Senegal
Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda

Implementer: France Expertise Internationale (FEI), France

Project start date: 15 September 2013

Highlights of some projects are presented below.

PROJECT 5

On knowledge development and transfer of best practice on CBRN import/export monitoring is implemented by the consortium led by the German Office of Economics and Export Control (BAFA) in 15 countries (Morocco, Mauritania, Senegal, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Algeria, Tunisia, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan) across 4 regions. The project activities will consist of individual country and region consultations, in order to address specific needs and requirements. This will be followed by workshops organised in each region and a single harmonised training seminar for all regions.

These workshops will bring together experts from the participating countries in the region, providing an opportunity to create a dedicated network of experts and enhancing regional cooperation in the field. The central seminar will provide participants with practical knowledge and skills on key aspects of implementing and enforcing strategic trade controls of CBRN material. This practical training will encourage the participants to transfer their acquired skills to other experts in their country through subsequent training courses.

The project will provide guidance material for the countries to enable them to perform a self-assessment with the objective to establish an action plan for future import/export activities.

For each region, BAFA has designated a dedicated regional mentor who will be in charge of establishing a close cooperation with partner countries involved in the project and responsible for providing support, advice and consultation.

A series of initial visits and meetings in all four regions covered by the project



CHEMICAL



RADIOLOGICAL



BIOLOGICAL



NUCLEAR

has been organised. This is to introduce the project and discuss the current situation concerning import/export monitoring systems in place in the participating countries. The project team met with experts and officials from Morocco (country visit on 21 May 2013), Senegal (country visit on 23 May 2013), Gabon (country visit on 18-20 June 2013), Iraq (CoE meeting with Iraqi experts hosted by the CoE Middle East Regional Secretariat on 15-16 April 2013), Tunisia (bilateral meeting on 1 July 2013), Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco (Round Table Meeting of the CoE National Focal Points on 2-3 July 2013 in Tunis), Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon (Round Table Meeting of the CoE National Focal Points on 25-26 June 2013 in Amman), Uzbekistan (country visit on 2-4 July 2013), Kyrgyzstan (country visit on 17 July 2013) and Kazakhstan (country visit on 29 August 2013). An initial visit to Algeria was scheduled for 26 September 2013.

Related links

Project 5 information on BAFA website
<http://www.eu-outreach.info>

BAFA Newsletters
<http://www.bafa.de>

April 2013 (p. 5)
May 2013 (p. 7)
June-July 2013 (p. 7)
August 2013 (p. 4)



with other activities, implemented both within the CoE and other programmes, outreach activities and project kick off meetings with the partner countries.

PROJECT 23

Implemented by the consortium led by the Spanish Fundación Internacional y para Iberoamérica de Administración y Políticas Públicas (FIIAP). They will deliver three training courses to approximately ten officers per country from Albania, Cambodia, Iraq, Moldova, Senegal and Tunisia, focusing on international procedures and standards to build capacity to identify and respond to threats from CBRN substances.

The project strives for skills transfer and applies the "train the trainer" principle. The officers receiving the training being selected from agencies and organisations that are involved in response to a CBRN incident and will be encouraged to subsequently share their knowledge with colleagues in their country and within the region.

The first few months of the project

implementation were dedicated to kick off bilateral meetings with the participating countries, in order to introduce the project, build trust and confidence and to determine the exact training requirements of each country; project implementers met with experts from Iraq (CoE meeting with Iraqi experts hosted by the CoE Middle East Regional Secretariat on 15-16 April 2013), Albania (country visit in May 2013), Moldova (country visit in May 2013), Cambodia (country visit in May 2013), Senegal (country visit on 27-28 May 2013) and Tunisia (country visit on 19-20 June 2013). Whenever possible representatives from relevant Delegations of the European Union participated to the meetings with the project implementers and participating countries.

Now that the initial visits and meetings with the participating countries have been completed, the project has entered the phase for the preparation and trans-

Related links

Project 23 news on the FIIAP website
<http://www.fiiapp.org>



lation of training curricula according to agreed training needs and priorities. This will be followed by training courses scheduled for next year.

PROJECT 28

Focuses on the South East Asia region involving Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. This project aims at supporting the development of an integrated regional nuclear safety and security system. This will be achieved by assessing the status of laws and regulations in this field, improv-



Project 23. Workshop with National CBRN Expert Team, 27-28 May 2013, Dakar, Senegal



Project 23. Workshop with National CBRN Expert Team, 19-20 June 2013, Tunis, Tunisia

ing the security and safety of radioactive sources by encouraging the establishment of storage facilities and the completion of inventories. The project will disseminate best practices for the development of a national response plan for potential radio-nuclear events. The project is implemented in coordination with other activities in the region with careful attention being paid to avoid duplication with existing effort.

The project is co-implemented by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO) has accepted an invitation to cooperate on this project due to its long experience in South East Asia in the field of security of radioactive sources, (in 2004, ANSTO created the Regional Security of Radioactive Sources Project in South East Asia). The project kick off meeting with the partner countries was held on the 17-19 July 2013 in Jakarta and brought together participants from Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, JRC, IAEA, ANSTO and the ASE-

AN Secretariat. This meeting was officially opened by representatives from the Delegation of the European Union to Jakarta.

The kick-off meeting was organised to present the scope of the project, confirm the partner countries interest to participate in the project, and to present the upcoming activities. There was also an opportunity

Related links

Project 28. ANSTO's Regional Security of Radioactive Sources Project
<http://www.ansto.gov.au>



to assess the particular situation of each country during dedicated bilateral discussions. The kick off meeting was successful and most countries expressed their interest in the project's scope and foreseen activities.

Activities for the upcoming months will consist of the assessment of the situation in the participating countries with respect to the laws and regulations on radiological and nuclear security, and the corresponding national strategy in place to combat illicit trafficking of radiological and nuclear material. This desk review will be further analysed at a regional workshop with the partner countries, during which findings will be completed and validated. The workshop will also lay down the basis for the subsequent steps to be taken in the project.



Project 23. Cambodia National CBRN Expert Team outside the Future Cambodian Institute for CBRN Research, May 2013

Needs Assessment Questionnaire enters the testing phase

The Needs Assessment Questionnaire is designed to assist National CBRN Teams to identify specific capacity areas of CBRN risk mitigation within their country. It is a tool to identify both the existing expertise, and capacity, as well as potential areas for development and cooperation

Capacity building and cooperation will be supported through the Needs Assessment Questionnaire (NAQ) tool, as it helps form the basis of the National CBRN Action Plan and formulates the starting point for CBRN CoE project proposals. The tool is intended for partner countries to establish a high-level view of their country's requirements in CBRN risk mitigation and to support an on-going needs assessment process as a country's needs evolve over time. Additionally, the NAQ could help track and measure progress in the implementation of CBRN CoE activities in the regions.

The NAQ is a voluntary tool for use by partner countries and is designed for self-

assessment with the support from the European Commission available on request. It can further be utilised to recognise where individual countries have the potential to offer assistance and share best practice with others in the region.

Following the announcement that the NAQ conceptual phase was finalised, the European Commission commenced the testing phase of the needs assessment process. Armenia, a CoE partner country, accepted an invitation to conduct the first test of the NAQ. To facilitate this the questionnaire, originally developed in English, was translated into Russian. In future, the NAQ will be also supported in French and Arabic.

From 27-29 August 2013 experts from the Armenian National CBRN Team, the European Commission and ENCO met in Armenia to proceed with the aim of completing the NAQ. The test was to verify whether the NAQ was clear, comprehensive and included all the necessary questions relative to the scope of the CBRN CoE Initiative. The NAQ is designed to be easily understood and user friendly, taking into account that it encompasses multidisciplinary and complex C, B and RN domains.

As such, it will bring various national experts together, who, by means of the questionnaire, should arrive at the collective analysis of the country's current capacity to deal with natural, intentional and accidental CBRN risks. The meeting started with an introductory session to explain the process of the needs assessment, including the aims and objectives of the NAQ and the additional benefits for countries in performing a CBRN threat assessment. As well as the NAQ itself, its Terms of Reference were also presented so the participants were clear on the scope, purpose and use of the NAQ.

The questionnaire's design allowed for a two-step process in terms of its completion and analysis of the answers.

Examples of questions in the NAQ:

Does your country have national legislation to enforce and support Chemical risk mitigation in the transportation of dangerous goods?

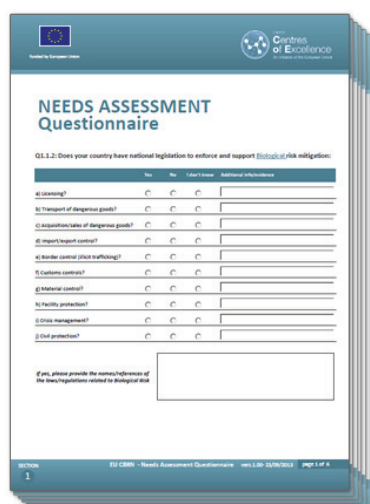
Is there a national CBRN Risk Mitigation Strategy?

Do you have a registry/inventory of dangerous CBRN substances?

Do you have a National CBRN Emergency Response Plan?

As a first step, the Armenian National Team completed the questionnaire without outside support. Subsequently, at the meeting, the National Team worked alongside experts from the European Commission and ENCO, to evaluate the answers together, ensuring that there was a common understanding of both questions and answers. This was an opportunity to request and provide additional clarification and explanation where needed. The National Team was encouraged to point out any issues they encountered, while filling in the questionnaire, and to suggest improvements. Overall, the National Team found the questionnaire simple and easy to use but highlighted how different responses to certain questions could be given by different state institutions. It is therefore essential for experts from all relevant state institutions are involved in the completion of the NAQ, under the direction of the National Focal Point. The meeting allowed for further improvement of the questionnaire as well as the needs assessment process itself.

Whilst analysis of the first Armenian test was being carried out, the testing phase continues with Moldova and Lebanon taking part.



African Atlantic Façade

The African Atlantic Façade Regional Secretariat has enlarged with the membership of three new partner countries: Côte d'Ivoire, Togo and Liberia

The new partner countries have previously participated in round table meetings of the National Focal Points as observers. Currently, the African Atlantic Façade Regional Secretariat, located in Rabat, Morocco has the membership of seven countries, (Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Liberia, Morocco, Mauritania, Senegal and Togo).

Bilateral meetings with national stakeholders to present the Initiative and facilitate the official membership in the CoE initiative took place in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire on 9-11 July 2013 and in Monrovia, Liberia on 8-10 April earlier this year.

New projects

Project 33 "Strengthening the national CBRN legal framework and provision of specialised and technical training to enhance CBRN preparedness and response



Bilateral meeting in Côte d'Ivoire, 9-11 July 2013, Abidjan

capabilities" started in September 2013.

It is implemented in two regions: African Atlantic Façade and Eastern and Central Africa by a consortium led by a French entity France Expertise Internationale.

A selection process of a consortium that will implement project 35 "Manage-

ment of hazardous chemical and biological waste in the African Atlantic Façade region" is still ongoing. The project will be implemented in Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Liberia, Mauritania, Morocco, Senegal, Togo and Tunisia with a tentative start date set for January 2014.



CÔTE D'IVOIRE

The CBRN CoE Initiative has been informed of the appointment by the Deputy Head of the Cabinet of the Minister of Environment, Urban Safety and Sustainable Development, (Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Salubrité Urbaine et du Développement Durable, MINESUDD) of Dr Abdel Kader Touré from the aforementioned Ministry as the National Focal Point for Côte d'Ivoire.



LIBERIA

The Office of the Minister of the Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Liberia expressed the intention of Liberia to join the initiative in the letter addressed to the European External Action Service in August this year. The Office of the Minister informed that Mr Martin Scott-Tabi from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs would serve as the National Focal Point.



TOGO

Mr Elliott Ohin, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Togo in his letter addressed to Mr Maciej Popowski, the Deputy Secretary General for the European External Action Service expressed the willingness of the country to join the initiative. Mr N'Ladon Nadjou from the Environment Directorate was nominated the National Focal Point.

Middle East

On the 24th June 2013 at the Middle East Scientific Institute for Security at the Royal Scientific Society in Amman, Jordan, the CoE Regional Secretariat for Middle East was officially opened

Opening of the Regional Secretariat

The official opening ceremony of the CoE Regional Secretariat for Middle East took place on 24 June 2013 in Amman. The secretariat is located in the Kingdom of Jordan within the Middle East Scientific Institute for Security (in short MESIS) and is headed by Al-Sharif Nasser Bin Nasser, the Managing Director of the institute. Currently three countries in Middle East, Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon, are members of the CoE Initiative and cooperate within the Middle East Regional Secretariat.

The official ceremony convened about



Participants at the official inauguration ceremony, 24 June 2013, Amman

eighty distinguished guests from Jordan, Iraq and Lebanon, the European Union, the United Nations and the United States of America. The secretariat was launched by His Excellency Mohammed Ali Al Thaher, Secretary General of the Jordanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Al-Sharif Nasser

Bin Nasser, Head of the Regional Secretariat, Ms Constanza Farina, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Jordan, Dr Agostino Miozzo, Managing Director for Crisis Response within the European External Action Service and Dr Jonathan Lucas, Director of the United Nations Regional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI).



Discussions at the Second Round Table Meeting of the National Focal Points 24-25 June 2013, Amman

Related links

Official press release
<http://www.cbrn-coe.eu>
 MESIS Institute
<http://www.mesis.jo>
 Remarks of the UN Resident Coordinator in Jordan
<http://www.un.org.jo>
 ANSAMED
<http://www.ansamed.info/>
 Jordan Times
<http://jordantimes.com/>
 Al Ghad
<http://www.alghad.com/>
 Al Rai
<http://www.alrai.com/>
 Petra Jordan News Agency
<http://www.petra.gov.jo/>
 Ad Dustour
<http://www.addustour.com/>
 Zawya
<http://www.zawya.com/>

REGIONAL SECRETARIATS

The secretariat has been operational from September 2012 when it was informally inaugurated during the first round table meeting of the National Focal Points for the initiative appointed respectively by Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon. Since then, the secretariat has been actively engaged in fulfilling its mandate of fostering cooperation and coordination in the region. It has hosted several CBRN CoE events (in November 2012, a workshop on CBRN needs assessment for the national stakeholders in Jordan; in April 2013, a meeting with the Iraqi stakeholders and project implementers and in June 2013, a regional meeting co-organised with Interpol).

Round Table Meeting

In conjunction with the opening ceremony, the Regional Secretariat organised the second round table meeting of the National Focal Points. The meeting was an opportunity for the National Focal Points to exchange updates on the activities and information on immediate and mid-term needs in the region and to express their views on the implementation of the initiative. The meeting served for reviewing the progress of the ongoing CoE projects in the region, with several implementers (project 5, 18, 25, 26 and 32) participating in a dedi-



Second Round Table Meeting of the National Focal Points, 24-25 June 2013, Amman

cated session of the round table meeting. During another session, National Focal Points discussed future projects including the extension of the activities of project 34 on strengthening capacities in CBRN response and in chemical and medical emergency in Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon. Discussions, updates and observations from the National Focal Points were helpful to adapt and optimise the implementation of the CoE activities in the region.

New project

A selection process of a consortium that will implement project 34 "Strengthening capacities in CBRN event response and related medical emergency response under strengthened CBRN event preparedness" is ongoing. The project will be implemented in Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon with a tentative start date set for December 2013.



Welcome and secretariat inauguration speeches (from left) His Excellency Mohammed Ali Al Thaher, Secretary General of the Jordanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Al-Sharif Nasser Bin Nasser, Head of the Regional Secretariat; Dr Agostino Miozzo, EEAS Managing Director for Crisis Response; Ms Constanza Farina, UN Resident Coordinator in Jordan; Dr Jonathan Lucas, UNICRI Director; Adil Radoini, CoE Regional Coordinator

South East Europe, Southern Caucasus, Moldova and Ukraine

On the 9th July 2013 within the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia in Tbilisi, the CoE Regional Secretariat for South East Europe, Southern Caucasus, Moldova and Ukraine was officially opened

Opening of the Regional Secretariat

The CoE Regional Secretariat for the South East Europe, Southern Caucasus, Moldova and Ukraine region was opened on 9 July 2013 in Tbilisi, Georgia within the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia. Distinguished guests, high officials and experts from Georgia, Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and Ukraine, the European Union (EU), the United Nations convened for the opening ceremony.

The Secretariat was inaugurated by His Excellency Irakli Garibashvili, the Minister of Internal Affairs of Georgia, His Excellency Ambassador Philip Dimitrov, the Delegation of the EU to Georgia and Dr Jonathan Lucas, Director of the United Nations Regional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI). His Excellency Irakli Garibashvili reiterated the full commitment of the Government of Georgia to actively participate in the initiative. The Minister was pleased that the Ministry of Internal Affairs, as the Georgian lead agency in the CBRN field, has been awarded the honour to host the secretariat. He pointed out that "today we witness a conclusion of a long process undertaken by various stakeholders in order to establish this office. But at



His Excellency Irakli Garibashvili, Minister of Internal Affairs of Georgia inaugurating the CBRN CoE Regional Secretariat in Tbilisi, 9 July 2013

the same, I would like to stress that today, is only the beginning of even longer lasting cooperation among Georgian institutions and their international partners, as well as experts and professionals in the region."

The EU Ambassador Dimitrov stressed the great importance of the opening of the secretariat, in view of the possibility to mitigate some very real and unfortunately increasing threats of the present day – the threats of the chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear character. The Ambassador highlighted that the EU and the European External Action Service are putting particular emphasis to the efforts to promote and help building such a capacity. The Ambassador underlined that the issue of the CBRN threat is a global issue, and by contributing to its reduction in each country, the EU contributes to the safety of the world. However operationally it is a regional issue, and as such, the secretariat

will be serving the needs of the region. The Ambassador congratulated the Government of Georgia for hosting the secretariat, taking into account the complexity of the work which combines capacities of very different character such as the political, technological, communicational and also involving the deepest and most specific elements of contemporary science.

Related links

Official press release
<http://www.cbrn-coe.eu>

News, video and the image gallery from the opening ceremony published by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia <http://police.ge>



Dr Jonathan Lucas stated that the initiative and the establishment of the regional secretariat is "a telling example of how countries can build bridges for the benefit of mankind." Dr Lucas thanked the countries in the region; Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and Ukraine; that together with Georgia, have joined the EU and UNICRI in the implementation of this important initiative. He particularly expressed his deep appreciation for the National Focal Points and the members of the National CBRN Teams who "have greatly contributed to the success of the initiative in the region."

Following the opening speeches, participants were invited to watch a demonstration of first response to a simulated CBRN event conducted by the responders from the Emergency Management Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia. The exercise included the establishment of safety perimeters, CBRN reconnaissance, victim removal from the contaminated zone and decontamination.

Round Table Meeting

In conjunction with the opening ceremony, the round table meeting of the CoE National Focal Points in the region was convened. The National Focal Points, accompanied by experts from the region and from the European Union, discussed the current state of play of the initiative, the implementation of CoE projects and other issues of regional concern.

Following the round table meeting, a one day regional experts meeting was organised during which the participants focused on CBRN incident response at the national and regional level.

თბილისში ქიმიური, ბიოლოგიური, რადიოლოგიური და ბირთვული რისკის შემცირების საკითხებზე თანამშრომლობის რეგიონალური სამდივნო გაიხსნა

თბილისი/ზრიუსელი, 9 ივლისი 2013

დღეს, თბილისში გაიხსნა ქიმიური, ბიოლოგიური, რადიოლოგიური და ბირთვული - (CBRN) რისკის მცირების საკითხებზე თანამშრომლობის სამეცნიერო-ინოვაციური ცენტრების რეგიონალური სამდივნო. ხელს შეუწყობს ქიმიური, ბიოლოგიური, რადიოლოგიური, ბირთვული რისკის შემცირების სფეროში თანამშრომლობას სამხრეთ-აღმოსავლეთ ევროპის, სამხრეთ კავკასიის სახელმწიფო მოღვაწეებსა და უკრაინას შორის. ახალი რეგიონული სამდივნო საქართველოს შინაგან საქმეთა სამინისტროს აკადემიის შენობაში მდებარეობს. ინაუგურაციის შემდეგ გაიმართება სამდივნის მრავალი მაგიდა, რომელშიც მონაწილეობას მიიღებენ ექსპერტები ალბანეთიდან, სომხეთიდან, ბოსნიადან და ჰერცეგოვინიდან, ყოფილი იუგოსლავიის რესპუბლიკა მაკედონიიდან, საქართველოდან, ჩერნოგორიიდან, მოლდოვიდან, სერბეთიდან და უკრაინიდან. ამ პარტნიორი ქვეყნების ეროვნული კოორდინატორები განიხილავენ ინიციატივის მიმდინარე მდგომარეობას. დისკუსიების დროს განსაკუთრებული ყურადღება დაეთმო საუკეთესო პრაქტიკის გაცვლას და ნდობის აღდგენის ღონისძიებებს CBRN სივრცეში.

სამხრეთ-აღმოსავლეთ ევროპაში, სამხრეთ კავკასიაში, მოლდოვასა და უკრაინაში ევროკავშირის CBRN სამეცნიერო-ინოვაციური ცენტრების ინიციატივის ფარგლებში მიმდინარე საქმიანობის შედეგად 2013 წელს ევროკომისიამ დაიწყო თოთხმეტი პროექტი რომელთა მიზანი ამ სახელმწიფოების საჭიროებების დაკმაყოფილება იყო. მათ შორისაა, მაგალითად, პროექტები ისეთ სფეროებში, როგორიცაა ბიოუსაფრთხოება და ბიოუსიშიშროება, ცნობიერების ამაღლება ქიმიური, ბიოლოგიური, რადიოლოგიური და ბირთვული რისკის შემცირების კონცეფციის თაობაზე, ქიმიური უსაფრთხოება.



Demonstration of first response capabilities to a simulated CBRN event performed by the Emergency Management Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia

South East Asia

The South East Asia Regional Secretariat with premises in Manila was opened in March 2013. Since the official opening, the Secretariat has been actively promoting and coordinating the implementation of the CoE activities in the region

Myanmar established the National CBRN Team

As a follow up to the seminar dedicated to presenting the CoE Initiative to experts from Myanmar, held in March earlier this year in Nay Pyi Taw, the National Focal Point for Myanmar, Mr Aung Kyaw Myat from the Ministry of Science and Technology, announced the establishment of the National CBRN Team. The first successful meeting of the newly formed team bringing together experts from various ministries and national institutions was organised on



Bilateral Meeting at the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines, 17 July 2013

the 3 July 2013. Later in September, the CBRN CoE was informed of the appointment of Dr Zaw Win, Director General of Department of Technical and Vocational Education, at the Ministry of Science and Technology as the National Focal Point for

Myanmar, in succession to Mr Aung Kyaw Myat who has been appointed the Deputy Minister at the aforementioned Ministry.

Coordination meeting at the South East Asia Regional Secretariat

The Head of the South East Asia Regional Secretariat, Mr Oscar F. Valenzuela; the South East Asia Regional Coordinator, Ms Maria Rettori and the regional manager of the Instrument for Stability at the Delegation of the EU to the Philippines, Mr Robert Frank, met on 18 July 2013 within the premises of the South East Asia Regional Secretariat in Malacañang Palace in Manila, for a coordination meeting about upcoming international, regional and national activities, including the upcoming visit in September to the Regional Secretariat of Embassy representatives in Manila.



First meeting of the National CBRN Team of Myanmar, 3 July 2013

Bilateral Meetings and Workshops

Several bilateral meetings took place with representatives from the partner countries in South East Asia, to discuss the latest developments, including the implementation of the projects in the region, upcoming activities and other topics of interest in each of the partner countries.

PHILIPPINES. On 17 July 2013 the Head of the South East Asia Regional Secretariat, Mr Oscar F. Valenzuela and the Regional Coordinator, Ms Maria Rettori met with representatives from the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines and Colonel José Embang Jr., the National Focal Point for the CoE Initiative in the Philippines. Participants discussed bilateral cooperation between the Philippines and the CoE Initiative and future activities of the Regional Secretariat. In September, the South East Asia Regional Coordinator and regional manager of the Instrument for Stability at the Delegation of the EU to the Philippines, met with representatives from Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand.

MALAYSIA. Meeting with the National Focal Point of Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur on 3 September 2013.

INDONESIA. Meeting in Jakarta with representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 5 September 2013 and a meeting with the National Agency for Nuclear Energy (BATAN) the next day.

THAILAND. Meeting in Bangkok with the Secretary General and officials of the Office of Atoms for Peace on 9 September 2013. Meeting with the National Focal Point of Thailand and national experts and stakeholders at the Ministry of Public Health of Thailand on 13 September 2013.

National Action Plan Workshop in Cambodia

A two-day workshop on 30 September - 1 October 2013 was part of the CoE Initiative and was organised by the EU, and UNICRI, in cooperation with the National Authority for the Prohibition of Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Weapons of Cambodia.

The workshop proceedings were closed on 1 October 2013 by the Minister of Defence of Cambodia, His Excellency Tea Banh, and the European Union Ambassador to Cambodia, His Excellency Jean-François Cautain. The workshop included 60 participants from the Cambodian National CBRN Team, the National Authority for the Prohibition of Chemical, Nuclear, Biological and Radiological Weapons of Cambodia, national CBRN stakeholders and international experts to discuss specific risks and their relevance to the country.

cal, Nuclear, Biological and Radiological Weapons of Cambodia, national CBRN stakeholders and international experts to discuss specific risks and their relevance to the country.

High-level officials from the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation, the Ministry of Environment, and the Ministry of Health participated in the event.

The workshop was part of a series of interrelated workshops to be held in Cambodia, with the aim of supporting the drafting of a National CBRN Action Plan by the country. This Action Plan will be designed to ensure that separate efforts are incorporated into one coherent approach, strengthening national CBRN capacities for prevention, detection, preparedness and response to CBRN threats.



The European Union Ambassador to Cambodia, His Excellency Jean-François Cautain and the Minister of Defence of Cambodia, His Excellency Tea Banh closing the National Action Plan workshop in Cambodia



Participants at the Workshop on Enhancing Regional Capacity Building to Strengthen Nuclear Forensics, 10-12 September 2013, Thailand

International cooperation

On 6 September 2013, the Embassy of Vietnam in Indonesia, hosted a meeting with representatives from the Delegation of the European Union to the Philippines and to Indonesia), the UNICRI Regional Coordinator for CBRN CoE South East Asia and Permanent Representatives to the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) including Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore and Vietnam.

Embassy representatives in Manila converged on Malacañang on 25 and 26 September 2013 to visit the CoE Regional Secretariat for South-East Asia. The delegation comprised of diplomats from Member States of the European Union and the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) as well as of Australia, Japan, Switzerland and the USA. A live demonstration of emergency response to a simulated chemical incident was held after the informative session.

The Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) Workshop on the National Implementation of the BWC in South and South East Asia in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 3-4 September 2013 was hosted by the Government of Malaysia and was organised by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), through the European Union Council Decision in Support of the BWC.

The second Workshop on Enhancing Regional Capacity Building to Strengthen Nuclear Forensics was held in Bangkok on 10-12 September 2013 under the auspices of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF). It was co-organised by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre Institute for Transuranium Elements, the U.S. Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Administration and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Office of Atoms for Peace of Thailand. Its purpose was to advance Asian-Pacific capacity to deter illicit trafficking of nuclear and other radioactive material. The workshop followed the first workshop on nonproliferation nuclear forensics held in December 2011 in Thailand.

New project

Project 15 "Strengthening laboratory bio-safety and bio-security through development of a laboratory iso-bank system" started in August 2013. The consortium led by the Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) will implement the project in Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand.

Related links

Visit of the embassy representatives to the Regional Secretariat <http://www.eeas.europa.eu>

Projects in Support of the BWC <http://www.unog.ch>

ARF Nuclear Forensics Workshop <http://nnsa.energy.gov/>



Cooperation in other Regions

In the last three months, important meetings were held in other regions of the CoE. This included the second round table meeting of the National Focal Points in North Africa and bilateral meetings to introduce the CoE initiative to new and potential partner countries

AFRIQUE DU NORD

Deuxième table ronde des points focaux nationaux de la région de l'Afrique du Nord

Dans le cadre de l'Initiative des Centres d'Excellence de l'Union Européenne dont le but est d'atténuer les risques Chimiques, Biologiques, Radiologiques et Nucléaires (CBRN) et avec le soutien de la Direction Générale de la Douane Tunisienne, la deuxième table ronde des points focaux



Participants à la table ronde des points focaux nationaux d'Afrique du Nord, 2-3 juillet 2013, Tunisie

nationaux de la région Afrique du Nord s'est tenue les 2 et 3 juillet 2013 à Tunis. La deuxième table ronde a accueilli des représentants de la Tunisie, de l'Algérie, du Burkina Faso, du Libye, du Mali, du Maroc et du Niger, ainsi que de l'Union Européenne, de l'Organisation des Nations Unies et d'institutions nationales et internationales spécialisées. Cette réunion technique

visait à renforcer la coopération entre les pays de la région Afrique du Nord, l'Union Européenne, l'Organisation des Nations Unies ainsi que d'autres organisations internationales compétentes, et à discuter la situation actuelle dans la région et la mise en œuvre de l'initiative.

EASTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA

Bilateral Meetings

ZAMBIA. In the past months Zambia has nominated the National Focal Point for the Initiative. A number of bilateral meetings were organised on 14-16 August 2013 with representatives from the Zambian Government. Ms Alma Pintol, the CoE Regional Coordinator for the Eastern and Central Africa region met with the nominated National Focal Point, Mr Happy S.M. Muntanga from the Ministry of Home Affairs, and with the Director of the Home Affairs Research, Planning and Information Department. The discussion focused amongst others, on practical aspects of the cooperation. Ms Pintol also met with representatives from the Ministry of For-



Mme Kheira Bradai, Ministère de l'Intérieur, Chef du Bureau Régional de l'Afrique du Nord

OTHER REGIONS

Foreign Affairs and the Permanent Secretary of the Home Affairs, who expressed their support to the CoE Initiative and pledged Zambia's commitment and interest in being its successful member.

Several representatives from the Zambian institutions including Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs, Radiation Protection Authority and Environmental Management Agency, attended the meeting hosted by the Ministry of Home Affairs during which they were introduced to the initiative and the concept of the National CBRN Team. The meeting was an opportunity to learn more about Zambia's stakeholders and their collaboration with international organisations.

During the visit to Zambia, Ms Pintol met with the UN Office and the Delegation of the European Union to Zambia.

TANZANIA. Bilateral meetings were held in Tanzania on 19-20 August 2013 with representatives of the Tanzanian Government to discuss membership of Tanzania in the CBRN Centres of Excellence Initiative and future collaboration.

Ms Alma Pintol, the CoE Regional Co-



Meeting with the Saudi National Authority for Chemical and Biological Weapons. Riyadh, 14 July 2013

ordinator for the Eastern and Central Africa region met with the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Communication, Science and Technology, Dr Florens Turuka, and with the Principal Education Officer, Ms Blandina Mkayula. A second meeting was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with Ambassador Celestine Mushy, Director of the Multilateral Cooperation Department.

During the visit to Tanzania, meetings were arranged with the office of the UN Resident Coordinator in Tanzania and with the Delegation of the European Union to Tanzania.

GCC COUNTRIES

Bilateral Meetings

SAUDI ARABIA. On 14-15 July 2013 in Riyadh, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia hosted a visiting European Union delegation, there to promote the CoE Initiative in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. The delegation met with representatives of the Saudi National Authority for Chemical and Biological Weapons, headed by Mr Fahad Alrwaily and included experts from the Ministries of Interior, Defence, Health, and Industry and the Saudi Food and Drug Authority.

GCC SECRETARIAT. On 15 July the delegation met with Dr Abdel Aziz Abu Hamad Aluwaisheg, Assistant Secretary General for International Cooperation of the Cooperation Council of the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC), assisted by the director from the Secretariat's environmental department. Following an explanation of the EU initiative the Assistant Secretary General gave an update on the state of play of the recent GCC decisions to establish a joint centre for civil defence/disaster response matters in Kuwait, and an environmental monitoring centre in the UAE to monitor water and air quality.



Meeting with the Cooperation Council of the Arab States of the Gulf. Riyadh, 15 July 2013

OTHER REGIONS

FOCUS

CENTRAL ASIA

Bilateral Meetings

In May 2013 bilateral meetings were held with officials of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan to discuss membership of both countries in the CoE Initiative. Participants were introduced to the concept of ownership of the initiative by the country and the objectives to improve CBRN capabilities and develop a National Action Plan to mitigate CBRN risks. Furthermore, the role and responsibilities of the main actors i.e. Regional Secretariat, Head of the Secretariat, Regional Coordinator, National Focal Point and National CBRN Team were explained. The meetings included a presentation about the ongoing CoE projects that focused on projects being implemented in Central Asia.

KAZAKHSTAN. A bilateral meeting was held in Astana on 21 May 2013 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The meeting chaired by the Ambassador-at-large of Kazakhstan, His Excellency Mr Barbylay Sadykov from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was attended by the Heads of Departments of the several ministries and agencies. At the opening of the meeting, His Excellency Mr Sadykov underlined the initiative's importance to the Kazakh authorities particularly as Kazakhstan is giving a high priority to non-proliferation issues and relations with International Organisations at this time.

KYRGYZSTAN. A bilateral meeting was held in Bishkek on 22 May 2013 at the premises of the Delegation of the EU to Kyrgyzstan and was attended by representatives from several ministries and agencies, (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Economy, National Coordinating Unit to the EU assistance, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice).

POLICY UPDATES

EU WMD Strategy

The latest Six-monthly Progress Report on the implementation of the EU Strategy against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction covers the activities carried out in the first half of 2013. The document reports on the CBRN risk mitigation activities including the CoE Initiative.

<http://www.eeas.europa.eu>

Security Dialogue

EU-USA CBRN RISK MITIGATION DIALOGUE

On June 12, the European Union and the United States of America launched the Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Risk Mitigation Dialogue in Brussels, Belgium. The Dialogue, which is co-chaired by the European Union and the United States, represents a renewed effort to coordinate EU and US CBRN assistance activities to mitigate CBRN risks of all kinds and international proliferation threats.

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu>

EU-CENTRAL ASIA SECURITY DIALOGUE

The inaugural round of the High Level Security Dialogue was held on 13 June 2013 in Brussels, between the EU and the countries of Central Asia (Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan). The dialogue provides a new vehicle for addressing political and security issues of shared concern including CBRN risks.

<http://www.eeas.europa.eu>

STATEMENTS

Senior Officials Meeting

Joint Press Statement on the 8th EU-Philippines Senior Officials Meeting reads in point 11: "The EU and the Philippines welcomed the inauguration of the Southeast Asia Permanent Secretariat of the Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Centre of Excellence in March 2013 in Manila as an important and practical expression of their mutual interest in a peaceful and stable Asia Pacific region."

<http://www.eeas.europa.eu>



Croatia joins the European Union

The CBRN CoE welcomes the accession of Croatia to the European Union. Before its accession to the EU, Croatia has actively participated in the initiative as a partner country within the South East Europe, Southern Caucasus, Moldova and Ukraine region. As an EU Member State, Croatia is no longer eligible to propose, or benefit from new CoE projects. However, existing projects involving Croatia as a partner country before its accession to the EU will be completed. Croatia is now entitled to participate in the relevant award procedures for the implementation of new projects under the CBRN CoE Initiative that will be launched in the future by the European Commission.

Croatia is already participating in regular meetings with the EU Member States points of contact on current CoE affairs.

Upcoming events

6-7 February 2014. 2nd Workshop on National Action Plan to mitigate CBRN risks in the Philippines

10-11 February 2014. 2nd Workshop on National Action Plan to mitigate CBRN risks in Cambodia

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About CoE

The EU Centres of Excellence on Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Risk Mitigation (CBRN CoE Initiative), launched in 2010, is an initiative of the European Union (EU) with a budget of EUR 109 million for 2009-2013.

The initiative addresses the mitigation of and preparedness against risks related to CBRN material and agents. The origin of these risks can be criminal, accidental or natural. The Initiative seeks to boost cooperation at national, regional and international levels, and to develop a common and coherent CBRN risk mitigation policy at national and regional level. Risk mitigation comprises prevention, preparedness and post-crisis management. The initiative is implemented and funded by the European Commission in cooperation with the United Nations Inter-regional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI). The European External Action Service (EEAS) is also deeply involved in the follow up of the initiative. The Initiative is developed with the technical support of relevant International/Regional Organisations, the EU Member States and other stakeholders, through coherent and effective cooperation at national, regional and international level.

For more information visit CBRN CoE website at: www.cbrn-coe.eu or send us an e-mail at: cbrn-coe@jrc.ec.europa.eu

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