

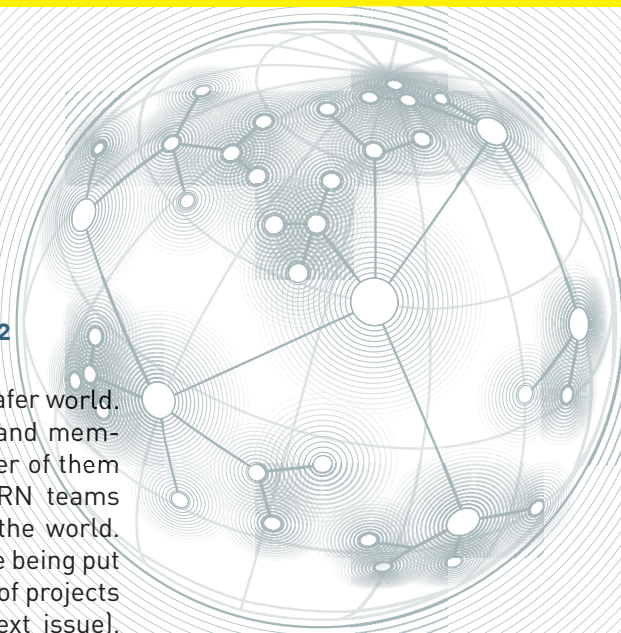


CBRN

**Centres  
of Excellence***An initiative of the European Union*

# CBRN CoE Newsletter

Volume 4 - October 2012



In today's fast paced inter connected, computer based world, we sometimes forget the importance of face-to-face communication and co-operating with others. The CoE is truly an Initiative built on co-operation and communication.

As part of the team working directly on the coordination of the CoE, I am privileged to have the opportunity not just to e-mail or telephone a colleague from another part of the world, but to have the possibility to meet them face-to-face; to talk with them, share with them their concerns about a given project and discuss with them ideas and ways of making our world a safer place, as we together tackle the seemingly insurmountable problem of CBRN risk mitigation. Like many problems of this magnitude, they cannot be tackled alone and over the last 2 years there has been a steady growth in the number of CBRN experts, policy makers, law enforcers and more from many different fields joining the ever growing family of CoE membership, all with

the same aim - to make a safer world. We now have over a thousand members on our books, a quarter of them being part of national CBRN teams in various regions around the world.

Whilst the signatures are being put to the contracts of a variety of projects (more about that in the next issue), there has been a steady flow of important meetings and events, not the least of which was the presentation of the CoE at the United Nations in New York. Here, for the first time, we had the opportunity to address ambassadors from all states of the world and to put forward our message. With the quiet efficiency that we have come to expect from the CoE team, the Regional Secretariat in the Middle East has obtained full operational status. It was with much pride and pleasure that at the beginning of September, representatives from four countries from the Middle East region met in Amman in the Kingdom of Jordan to endorse and welcome Al-Sharif Nasser Bin Nasser as Head of the Secretariat, as he opened the offices of MESIS to

become the hosting location for the Middle East Regional Secretariat.

Further afield, missions have taken place to Uganda and Kenya, as we start to develop the newly created Eastern and Central African region.

In the continuing spirit of communication, we have translated the first 3 editions of this newsletter into the Russian language and will continue to do so and look forward to making other languages available in the future. So read the articles, then check out the full news behind the stories on our website.

**Michael Thornton**  
*JRC CBRN CoE Project Coordinator*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

The EU CBRN Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence	2
New CBRN CoE projects approved for funding	6
CBRN CoE Conference at the United Nations in New York	7
Meetings with Partner Countries	8
Regional Secretariat in Middle East	11
Multilateral meetings	12
Focus	13
Upcoming events	14

## Breaking News

**New CBRN CoE projects  
approved for funding**  
*Read more on page 6*

**Middle East Regional  
Secretariat operational**  
*Read more on page 11*

**CoE Newsletter is now  
available in Russian**  
**Информационный бюллетень  
“Центры Передового Опыта” (ЦПО)  
теперь доступен на русском языке**

## REFLECTION

# The EU CBRN Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence

*The EU CBRN Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence Initiative brings a new approach and can be seen as a new organisational principle in CBRN risk mitigation efforts. This article elaborates on this new concept offering the background of the Initiative and a reflection about its implementation*

by Bruno Dupré and Philippe Servais \*

## Moving from WMD Strategy to CBRN Policy

Many scholars think that the European Security Strategy should be seriously reconsidered. The same question comes to mind with the WMD Strategy: Is the 2003 WMD Strategy still adapted to the current risks and threats that may come from chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials and their know-how transfer? The answer is straightforward: Yes, the Strategy is still adapted. Indeed, WMD is more than ever a political priority on many fronts, from Iran to Pakistan, from DPRK to Syria. Diplomacy and counter-proliferation efforts are essential to avoid domino effects in many sensitive regions.

This then brings another question to mind: have we neglected important parts of the Strategy like CBRN cooperation or regional outreach for instance? The answer is straightforward as well: Yes, we have. The WMD acronym has often been a political substitute for the absence of true CBRN policy. For one thing, pandemics (SARS), nuclear catastrophes (Fukushima) or chemical accidents

(BHOPAL) can be as devastating as WMD (and much more probable). Recent events show that we are not well prepared for preventing, detecting or responding to these events. This is the case in poor regions where fragile states dominate but it is also true inside the EU where CBRN national Action Plans progress with difficulties. Concrete recommendations to increase EU CBRN vigilance (technology, financial, academics vigilance) find political resistance. They are also supported by strong industrial lobby.

The concept of the Centre of Excellence proposed by the EEAS Security Policy Division intends to be a first concrete step towards a CBRN policy. It cannot be a substitute for policy but it contains all the ingredients for full-scale testing of new CBRN paradigms. In short, the concept proposes a new methodology for CBRN assistance and cooperation to third countries. It has already received a warm welcome from the international community but it is now facing concrete challenges of implementation. If successful, it may help fragile states to face new CBRN risks and threats. It may also help EU Member States, a key component of the initiative, to speed up their own internal process towards the establishment of national CBRN policy. The Centre of Excellence is perfectly mirroring the EEAS internal/external security challenge.

The Centres of Excellence are an attempt to break the vicious circle of "assistance as usual". They may participate to a full revision of the CBRN threat reduction programmes, outside as well as inside the EU. In actual fact, if successful, it may be the first time that the EU develops a comprehensive approach to threat and risks reduction beyond Russia. This could be the "EU's version of the Nunn Lugar

paradigm. This could be extended to other threats and risks like terrorism, organised crime or illicit trafficking. CBRN is at a crossroad of many security and development challenges.

Those Centres are not simply a network of local and international CBRN experts. They are supposed to bring a methodology that will support trust and ownership at regional level. EU Member States, the United Nations and civil society will play an essential role in ensured these dynamics. The real challenges, however, may come from within the EU itself.

## Much more than a CBRN network

The true success of the Centre of Excellence will not rest on CBRN expertise and its extensive network of law enforcers, diplomats and military officers. There are already many Support/ Training/ Academic CBRN Centres in the world, and none of them are really emerging from anonymity. The capacity building initiatives are too often piling up, one on top of the other and duplicating efforts. Sometimes they are even competing against each other. We have to do better. We will not succeed if our EU Centres of Excellence are just an addition of expert networks with more or less well defined technical projects and sophisticated databases. To be honest, the "proposals" are nothing special. They should be described as "pilot actions" and they will need to be refined as we go further. We will not make a real difference in threat/risk reduction on the mere substance of our projects. Something has to come first: **Trust and Confidence Building Measures.**



*The CBRN CoE initiative is present in more than 40 countries across eight regions. Red dots represent locations of eight Regional Secretariats that will support the implementation of the Initiative at the regional level*

## Gaining Trust at local level

We will make a difference to trust and governance. Here, almost everything is new. Asking people from different communities, different cultures and different regions to work together is a new approach proposed in the security domain. Supporting people to define their CBRN needs not only on a bilateral basis but also at regional level is risky. Recognising that a safer world and safer regions make the EU safer rather than weaker is often difficult to accept. We hope to be able to create the conditions for such a change in sensitive regions. Recent

events in the Middle East have shown that local ownership matters. It is not a recipe for success, but without local ownership one is sure to fail. The creation of eight Secretariats in eight regions is the first step towards this ownership. It is a first step to build regional Confidence Building Measures. The Centres of Excellence are a long term iterative process enabling us to build a culture of safety and security.

## Member States at the forefront of political success

How to bring trust and governance on safety and security issues?

How to develop a culture of safety and security that is locally acceptable and sustainable? The key is to bring EU Member States (MS) to the forefront of the initiative. The EU Commission did this with the Expert Support Facility where MS helped the EU define the regions, countries and Secretariats. As from now, EU delegations and MS embassies should take a stronger part in the implementation of the initiative, recognising their own interest to develop EU norms and standards through the Centres of Excellence. The EU has to exert its strategic influence with its strategic partners abroad. This could include, but is not limited to nations or international organisations. Coordination,



cooperation and partnership will be developed (including through the possibility for those partners to be directly contracted) but that will rarely mean “mere piggy backing” on other G8 donors. This is a tough call for the EU which has become accustomed to direct funding of international organisations (IAEA, WHO, OPCW, INTERPOL) with poor visibility. In order for us to be credible in these situations, we need direct support from Member States. To obtain this, we will have to explain once again that the Centres of Excellence will not duplicate or compete with their bilateral programmes but may even serve to promote them. Some countries have already requested the use of such a channel.

## Working with the UN as a true partner

The partnership with the UN is essential. The EU is a regional organisation that has little legitimacy to fight terrorism, proliferation, organised crime or illicit trafficking worldwide without the support of the UN. The 1540 UNSC resolution brings the necessary support. If combined with the 1373 UNSC resolution, there should be no safe haven for non-state actors willing to develop, produce and use WMD. The legitimacy brought by the UN goes beyond the 1540 resolution though. It shows that Western interests can converge with universal interests, including those of non-aligned members (NAMs). It recalls that the EU is at the juncture of security and development. Improving preparedness and post-crisis management, supporting the fight against pandemics, waste management, industrial catastrophes, supporting

new chemical and radiological treatments are also part of the mandate of the Centres of Excellence and may modify the perception by non-aligned members about EU interests. The 14-15 May 2012 and 23 June 2012 EU/UN Conferences, which took place in Brussels and at the UN HQ in New York respectively, confirmed that the UN has played a fundamental role in bringing credibility to the EU initiative.

## Working within the Secretariat: the role of civil society and governance

Establishing trust and confidence in the regions, in particular in the Secretariats, will require more than CBRN expertise. It will require education on governance. This means

training on organisation, team building and communication skills, management and analytical skills.

Training CBRN teams, national focal points, the UNICRI coordinator, chair and deputy chair of the Secretariat will be required to work together. This will not happen if there is no sense of common ownership of the initiative. Team building, leadership, group thinking, brainstorming, negotiation and mediation skills will be developed. The cultural dimension of local methods of management will be taken into account.

Coordination and communication training will also be provided. Much of the Centres of Excellence's success will rely on the coordination among the three layers of the initiative: the national team, regional Secretariat and international donors. Processes and procedures of coordination will need to be standardised.



*Discussion at the Mentoring Service on CBRN Governance in Podgorica, Montenegro in September 2011 bringing together experts from the South East Europe, Southern Caucasus, Moldova and Ukraine region. Workshops on CBRN governance have been organised in 2011-2012 in different partner countries including Jordan, Lebanon, Moldova, Morocco, the Philippines*

Internal and external communication skills will also be essential for developing a true network. Talking to experts, diplomats and local parliaments, reaching civil society in all their component communities (women, minorities, activists on CBRN issues), and addressing the media will ensure the real local ownership of the Centres of Excellence.

Secretariats of the Centres of Excellence will be small structures composed of ten people. They will be subject to pressure by national CBRN teams wanting to put forward national agendas. Impartiality skills and corruption awareness training (financial and technology vigilance) will be offered to progressively uncouple the regional team experts from their national origin.

It will also be important to rely on non-official analysis (not from countries or partners or international organisations) in order for the Secretariat to develop their own assessment of the risks and threats at regional level. Developing a network of international and regional think tanks and NGOs will help build the credibility of the Secretariat.

A "governance team" should be available as soon as possible so that it can be dispatched locally for the training of regional Secretariats and national CBRN teams.

## The real challenges may come from inside

Even if EU Member States, the United Nations and civil society converge with the aim of building measures at local level, the main issue will remain an internal one: the EU will not be able to support a CBRN policy outside if the EU does not have one inside.



*The conference "What concrete role for the EU stakeholders and the EU partners" held in Brussels on 14-15 May 2012 brought together 150 participants including representatives from the EU Member States, the U.S., Japan, regional and international organisations and non-state actors working in fields related to CBRN risk mitigation*

We have several EEAS and Commission departments involved in CBRN issues. Each of them addresses the issue under a different angle: security, development, energy, health, environment, civil protection, crisis prevention and crisis response. Each of them has its own process and procedures. Each of them has its own early warning system. Each of them provides its own assistance programme with little or no knowledge of what others do. Common guidance on the prevention, detection and response should be elaborated. Therefore a CBRN Policy Communication should be elaborated to prepare further coordination and communication internally and externally. This should be the work of the EEAS so that it brings more coherence and complementarity among external actions, particularly with regard to security issues. The Instrument for Stability, as a result of its transversal

approach, its regional outreach, its hybrid nature between development and security, may be the right instrument to bridge the gap. The Security Policy Division, relying on its pilot initiative of Centres of Excellence, should be preparing and coordinating a Communication on CBRN Policy.

More information on the regional background and regional secretariats can be found on the website <http://www.cbrn-coe.eu/Home.aspx>

### (\*) About the authors

Mr Bruno Dupré is Policy Coordinator for CBRN at the European External Action Service (EEAS). Mr Philippe Servais is Head of Sector within the Instrument for Stability, Nuclear Safety Unit at the European Commission in the Directorate General for Development and Cooperation - EuropeAid (DEVCO).



EU CBRN RISK MITIGATION CoE PROJECTS

# New CBRN CoE projects approved for funding

*A further 12 projects have been approved for funding, following the third round of project selection and prioritisation. These projects will be entirely financed from the EU budget (EU Instrument for Stability). In total, nearly 25 million EUR have been committed by the European Union for the implementation of 33 projects within the framework of the CBRN CoE Initiative*

The EU CBRN Centres of Excellence Initiative addresses regional CBRN risk mitigation needs, in the context of stable conditions for co-operation. The Initiative will focus on capacity building measures that have the potential to enhance and reinforce the capabilities of countries to prevent crises and address long-term security threats.

The needs identified by Partner Countries (currently more than 40 countries across the globe are actively involved in the Initiative) are, amongst other methods, addressed through specifically tailored projects.

The 12 new projects, with national and regional level scope (plus one project with an international scope relevant to all Partner Countries) cover aspects of CBRN risk mitigation such as border control, border monitoring, bio-safety, bio-security, illicit trafficking, first response, protection of the public and infrastructure, legal frameworks and dual-use concerns.

The tender procedure to select contractors that will implement the projects is currently on-going. The projects' activities will commence in early 2013 after contracting is finalised by the end of the year.

The following projects, approved by the European Commission in May 2012, are now being put out to tender. Following this, the contracts to implement these projects will be signed by the end of the year. It is envisaged that the projects' activities will start in early 2013.

**Project 20:** Identification and strengthening forensic capacities in the area of prevention of organised crime and illicit trafficking of chemical agents, including training and equipment for front line agencies (geographical scope: Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Georgia, Moldova, the Philippines, Tunisia)

**Project 21:** Building regional border control capacity to identify and detect CRN materials (geographical scope: African Atlantic Façade, South East Asia)

**Project 22:** Provision of specialised technical training to enhance the first responders' capabilities in case of CBRN incidents (geographical scope: African Atlantic Façade, South East Asia)

**Project 23:** Building capacity to identify and respond to threats from Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear substances (geographical scope: Albania, Cambodia, Iraq, Moldova, Senegal, Tunisia)

**Project 24:** Development of a methodology for RN materials detection, management and protection of the public (geographical scope: Mauritania, Morocco, Senegal)

**Project 25:** Knowledge development and transfer of best practice on bio-safety/bio-security/bio-risk management (geographical scope: Middle East)

**Project 26:** Prerequisite to strengthening CBRN national legal frameworks (geographical scope: Lebanon, Tunisia)

**Project 27:** Bio-risk management (geographical scope: Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand)

**Project 28:** Supporting development of an integrated national security system for nuclear and radioactive materials (geographical scope: South East Asia)

**Project 29:** Regional Human Resource Development for Nuclear Safety, Security, and Safeguards Management through a University Master's Programme carried out in Thailand (geographical scope: South East Asia)

**Project 30:** Network of Excellence for Nuclear Forensics in South East Asia Region (geographical scope: South East Asia)

**Project 31:** Network of universities and institutes for raising awareness on dual-use concerns of chemical materials (geographical scope: international)

## CBRN COE EVENTS

# CBRN CoE Conference at the United Nations in New York

*In June 2012, the international community gathered at the United Nations Headquarters in New York to be informed about the CBRN Centres of Excellence and to explore ways to cooperate and be involved in the Initiative. The conference offered a great opportunity to present the CBRN CoE to a world-wide international audience*

The conference on 22 June 2012 was another event, after the first conference in Brussels in May, that offered a possibility of presenting the concept, achievements and future challenges of the CBRN CoE Initiative. The event was aimed at demonstrating how stakeholders could be involved in the CBRN CoE and how the Initiative could contribute to and complement the existing programmes and networks. This would be important in achieving future synergies and to avoid duplica-

tion of efforts and resource commitment. The wide audience at the conference included UN Member States, several international organisations (e.g. CTITF, the UNSCR 1540 Committee, IAEA, UNICRI, UNODA, UNODC, OPCW, WHO, Interpol), the European Union (EU) and non-state actors.

The EU, as recalled by Mr Vrailas (Deputy Head of the Delegation of the EU to the UN) in his conference statement, acknowledged that the threats posed by the CBRN materials were global, and that the response could only be collective and comprehensive. This was the clear message of the G8 Global Partnership adopted by Heads of State ten years ago, and by the United Nations in the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540.

To answer to these challenges, a new concept of CBRN Centres of Excellence has been developed by the EU and is being implemented in cooperation with the UN. Since then, the Initiative has already received a significant endorsement from the international

community, including from more than 40 non-EU Partner Countries, that have joined the CBRN CoE, as well as from the United Nations Security Council and from the Chair of the Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons of Mass Destruction.

The conference in New York was yet another step forward in bringing together the international community to share experience and best practice, and to discuss how to concentrate future effort in mitigating CBRN risks. This goal was reflected in the conference programme by focusing on cooperation and CBRN risk mitigation from different perspectives. During the session on inter-agency cooperation, several countries (Cambodia, Serbia, the USA and the Netherlands) presented their national approach to inter-agency cooperation and communication. Representatives from international organisations and non-state actors, during another session entitled "Initiative rooted in existing threat reduction networks", presented concrete examples of best practice in CBRN risk mitigation based on their work and vast experience in this area. Representatives from the Partner Countries that will host the Initiative's Regional Secretariats (Algeria, Georgia, Jordan, Kenya, Morocco, the Philippines and Uzbekistan) shared their views from the country and regional point of view, giving updates on their progress in building their national CBRN teams.

Representatives from the UN and the EU presented the CBRN CoE Initiative focusing on the innovative approach it strives to implement by engaging available resources at all three levels, national, regional and international, in order to achieve the common objective of a coherent CBRN policy, at both national and regional levels.



Session chaired by Dr Jonathan Lucas, the UNICRI Director (third from left) during which speakers presented the approach to inter-agency coordination adopted in their countries



COOPERATION AND NETWORKING

# Meetings with Partner Countries

*In the last three months important bilateral and round table meetings took place bringing together representatives from numerous Partner Countries*

## Bilateral meetings

### Kenya

On 12-13 July several meetings took place with Kenyan government officials, the National Focal Point (NFP) for the CBRN CoE Initiative in Kenya and key representatives from the agencies and institutions involved in CBRN risk mitigation. These meetings were organised as a step towards establishing a Regional Secretariat in Nairobi for the Eastern and Central Africa region. The meetings were also an opportunity to update the stakeholders on the current developments, explain the CoE methodology and structure, and clarify processes such as the CBRN risk mitigation needs assessment, the development of project proposals, and the role and responsibilities of the Regional Secretariat, the NFP and the national CBRN team. The participants agreed on a number of concrete actions to be undertaken in the coming months, to ensure a successful launch of the Regional Secretariat in Nairobi. It was also agreed that an additional workshop on the CBRN CoE methodology and the development of project proposals, would be organised in the near future for the national CBRN team of Kenya.

### Uganda

A number of bilateral meetings with the Permanent Secretary of the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the NFPs and the representatives from CBRN related agencies and institutions was held on 11-12 September in Kampala. It was the first mission to Uganda to meet with the national stakeholders, following its official expression of interest to be part of the CBRN CoE.

The meeting with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was organised to present the latest developments in the CBRN CoE. The importance of the Ministry's support in establishing the national CBRN team was emphasised.

A half day meeting was attended by over forty representatives from CBRN related agencies and institutions operating in Uganda. This focused on presenting a general overview of the CBRN CoE, the Regional Secretariat, as well as the roles and responsibilities of the NFP and the national CBRN team. A significant part of the meeting was also dedicated to an overview of the current CBRN activities and initiatives in Uganda. The participants agreed that the establishment of the national CBRN team is of utmost importance

for the participation in the CBRN CoE Initiative and actions to achieve this goal had been set in motion.

### The Philippines

From 7 to 12 September several bilateral meetings took place with representatives from the government of the Philippines and national institutions involved in CBRN risk mitigation. These meetings were organised to discuss the necessary arrangements prior to the launch of the Regional Secretariat for the South East Asia region in Manila.

## Meeting with NFPs

A meeting which brought together NFPs from the Partner Countries that have already joined the CBRN CoE took place in New York in the afternoon of 21 June 2012. It preceded the conference on the EU CBRN Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence Initiative at the United Nations Headquarters in



*Participants at the CBRN CoE bilateral meeting in Kenya, Nairobi, 13 July 2012*



New York. This technical meeting was dedicated to the CBRN CoE methodology for CBRN needs assessment; project proposal drafting and project implementation. Additionally, responsibilities and benefits of the national CBRN team and the importance of the CBRN governance were emphasised. Many of the CBRN CoE Partner Countries were present at this meeting.

## Round table meetings

Round table meetings are organised roughly twice a year in every CoE region, to bring together all NFPs from a region, promoting regional cooperation and to support decisions at the regional level. Regional Secretariats, once fully operational, will be in charge of organising such regular meetings.

Between June and September three round table meetings took place. In June, the NFPs from the South East Asia region met in New York for the fourth round table meeting. In September, the NFPs from the Middle



*Participants at the technical meeting of the National Focal Points, New York, the USA, 21 June 2012*

East region and from the North Africa region met for the first time at the round table meetings held in Amman and in Algiers respectively. Details of the meetings can be found below.

### South East Asia

The NFPs from the South East

Asia region met on 21 June 2012, in advance of the CBRN CoE conference at the United Nations Headquarters the next day. The round table meeting was attended by representatives from eight CBRN CoE Partner Countries in the region, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. The items on the agenda included an update by the Partner Countries on their CBRN risk mitigation activities and the structure and functioning of the Regional Secretariat. A number of presentations on the aforementioned topics were followed by an open discussion about the upcoming activities in the region, including the implementation of projects and putting into operation the Regional Secretariat in the Philippines, Manila.

### North Africa

The first round table meeting of the CBRN CoE for North Africa region took place in Algiers on 12-13 September. The meeting was attended by representatives from 11 countries and



*Participants at the Round Table meeting for South East Asia region, New York, the USA, 21 June 2012*

5 international organisations, including the current members of the CBRN CoE North Africa region: Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia and as observers: Burkina Faso, Chad, Egypt, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Sudan. In line with the commitments made by the Algerian government as host of the Regional Secretariat, the proceedings were opened by Mr Nor-Eddine Aouam, the Secretary General of the Algerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Mr Abdelkader Ouali, the Secretary General of the Ministry of the Interior. This was followed by opening remarks from Mr Alexis Kanstanteopoulos, the Chargé d'Affaires of the Delegation of the EU to Algeria and Mr Mamadou Mbaye, the UN Resident Coordinator in Algeria. The meeting, hosted by the Algerian government, took place at the El Mithak State Residence. It covered the general principles of the CBRN CoE Initiative and allowed members to update each other on the current state of affairs by providing a platform for networking with counterparts in the region. The two-day programme included presentations by local, regional and international experts, to



*Participants at the Round Table Meeting for North Africa region, Algeria, Algiers, 12-13 September 2012*

facilitate discussion and to build the bridge between the principles of the CBRN CoE Initiative and reality on the ground. These presentations and discussions covered bio-safety and bio-security from the BWC-ISU, improving capacities for CBRN threat alert response, Algeria, nuclear security challenges and experiences, Algeria, crisis management response, Morocco, lessons learnt from the CBRN CoE pilot project on bio-safety and

bio-security in South East Asia, from the leader of the project in charge of implementation, and the EU cooperation programme in export control from the Federal Office of Economics and Export Control-BAFA. Additionally, bilateral consultations were held with each participating country.

## Middle East

NFPs from Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon, the CBRN CoE Partner Countries in the Middle East region, met for the first time in the framework of the Initiative at the round table meeting held in Amman on 5 September 2012 within the Middle East Scientific Institute for Security (MESIS). A representative from the Egyptian Council of Foreign Affairs accepted an invitation to take part in the meeting. Other participants included representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Jordan, Delegation of the EU to the Kingdom of Jordan, the European Commission, UNICRI, the Federal Office of Economics and Export Control (BAFA), the University L.Sacco from Milan and the Institute



*Participants at the Round Table Meeting for Middle East region, Amman, Jordan, 5 September 2012*



## REGIONAL COORDINATION

# Regional Secretariat in Middle East

for Research and Education on Negotiation. This technical event aimed at strengthening the cooperation amongst Middle Eastern countries, the EU, UNICRI and international and non-governmental organisations.

The topics addressed included the current state of play of the CBRN CoE Initiative in the region and its possible role in supporting bilateral and multi-lateral cooperation, the CoE methodology and the opportunities for each stakeholder to be further involved. In order to address concrete challenges, consecutive expert panels were organised. At the end of the meeting, participants had a better understanding of the Initiative, and a clearer view how to stay informed on a regular basis and how to coordinate and cooperate with the CBRN CoE. The event aimed at preparing, at a technical level, the successful implementation of the activities and projects to reinforce Partner Countries' CBRN policies. The meeting was also an important opportunity to discuss potential project proposals of a regional concern.

*The CBRN CoE Regional Secretariat in the Middle East located in Jordan is one of eight Regional Secretariats that are being established with the overall mandate of coordination and support at regional level*

It is with great pleasure that the CBRN CoE network can announce the establishment of the Regional Secretariat in Middle East, headed by Al-Sharif Nasser Bin Nasser, in September this year.

The round table meeting in Amman inaugurated operations of the CBRN CoE Regional Secretariat in the Middle East region. Regional Secretariats are a key part of the CBRN CoE network. They ensure a high level of cooperation and coordination with countries in the region and will play a major role in facilitating the implementation of projects. At the same time, they will contribute to the local ownership and greater sustainability of the CBRN CoE.



With the endorsement of the government of Jordan and the CoE Partner Countries in the region, the secretariat is located in the Kingdom of Jordan within the Middle East Scientific Institute for Security (MESIS) based in Amman. The Institute, associated with the Royal Scientific Society, is an independent Jordanian non-governmental organisation. Its core focus is capacity building through training, cross-harmonisation and the integration of technology and best practices to identify risks, tackle pressing regional concerns and enhance the abilities of scientific communities, governmental and non-governmental institutions in the fields such as border control, environmental and energy security. At the opening of the round table meeting, Ms Saja Majali from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Jordan welcomed the presence of the CBRN CoE Initiative in the region and stressed the full commitment of Jordan in hosting the Secretariat. Al-Sharif Nasser Bin Nasser, the Managing Director of the Institute, designated as the Head of the Regional Secretariat, defined its role in the CBRN CoE Initiative as a bridge between national, regional and international stakeholders, to foster cooperation and communication, and the transfer of knowledge amongst the expert and scientific community within countries, the region and internationally.



From left: Adil Radoini, the CBRN CoE Regional Coordinator for the Middle East, Al-Sharif Nasser Bin Nasser, the Head of the Regional Secretariat in Middle East and Michael Thornton, the JRC CBRN CoE Project Coordinator, Amman, 5 September 2012

COOPERATION AND NETWORKING

# Multilateral meetings

*The CBRN CoE team members are actively engaged in coordinating activities with various international and regional organisations and intergovernmental groups, including through participation in international meetings and workshops in order to achieve synergy and reduce duplication of efforts*

## BWC Meeting of Experts

The Biological Weapons and Toxins Convention (BWC) Meeting of Experts was held on 16-20 July 2012 in Geneva. It addressed cooperation and assistance, with a particular focus on strengthening this under Article X of the Convention. Article X urges greater cooperation and assistance between parties in critical areas such as bio-safety, bio-security, laboratory enhancements and awareness raising. The meeting reviewed recent developments in the field of science and technology related to the Convention and strengthening national implementation.

The EU submitted two working papers: the 1st one on "Assistance and Cooperation [Art. X]" was an overview of the implementation of Article X of the Convention by the EU and its Member States. It detailed the contributions allocated by the EU, and of the EU's engagement in the field of bio-safety and bio-security through its support to World Health Organisation (WHO) activities and through the CBRN CoE Initiative and its projects (currently eight projects in this area). The 2nd paper entitled "Measures for mitigation of risks due to new science and technology devel-

opments of relevance to the BWC" contained illustrative examples of best practices and the standards adopted in some EU Member States. More information including the documents can be found at <http://www.unog.ch/>

## Global Partnership

During the BWC Meeting of Experts, on 18 July the CBRN CoE team members participated in the side meeting organised by the Biological Security Sub-Working Group (BSWG) established by the Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction. The meeting concerned the Global Partnership's (GP) bio-security activities and how they relate to the BWC. The BSWG promotes efforts to reduce risks associated with biological threats, regardless of cause, through collaboration with other member nations, international organisations, and health and science sector counterparts. This is an excellent opportunity for CBRN CoE cooperation and collaboration. The meeting of the BSWG in July was followed by a meeting of the GP on 28-29 August 2012 in Stockholm, Sweden. At this meeting, the CBRN CoE Initiative was presented with particular emphasis on the projects approved under the CBRN CoE, offering a background for a discussion on potential areas of collaboration and synergies with the GP funded projects. More information can be found at <http://www.state.gov/t/isn/gp2012/>

## LNCV-IWG workshop

Workshop on "Science Collaboration and Security: New CBRN Challenges and Threats Reduction

Programs Beyond 2012" held on 13-14 September 2012 in Italy was organised by Landau Network Centro Volta (LNCV) in the framework of an informal, international forum and coordination structure on nuclear proliferation expertise called International Working Group (IWG).

## ARF workshop

The ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) workshop on preparedness and response to a biological event on 5-7 September 2012 in Manila focused on enhancing dynamic public health strategies to strengthen health systems and infrastructure related to the preparedness and response to a biological event. It took an in-depth technical approach to: (1) laboratory bio-safety and bio-security as a preparedness measure; (2) the need for local and national communication and coordination; (3) the role of the international community in preparedness and response to a biological event; and (4) other priorities identified through the annual ARF workshops.

## WHO conference

"Consultation to share experiences in risk communication and develop multisectoral information sharing approaches and platforms to manage global public health" took place on 7-8 June 2012 in Bali, Indonesia.

The CBRN CoE contributed to this meeting with information about the methods it employs to help establish coordination and effective communications within national CBRN teams. The event served to highlight the advantages and disadvantages in the different approaches employed by other organisations.



# Focus

## Policy updates

### Council six-monthly progress report on the implementation of the EU Strategy against the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction

[2012/I] [OJ C 237/1, 7.8.2012]

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu>

The six-monthly progress report covers activities carried out in the first half of 2012 in the context of the implementation of the WMD Strategy adopted by the European Council in December 2003. It reports on activities related to CBRN threat mitigation including the EU CBRN Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence (CBRN CoE).

### 2011 Annual Report on the Instrument for Stability. Report from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions

[COM(2012) 405 final, 24.7.2012]

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu>

The fifth Annual Report submitted by the European Commission in line with the Regulation establishing the Instrument for Stability.

### European Union Continues Support for the OPCW

OPCW, 16.07.2012

<http://www.opcw.org>

The European Union is contributing more than €2 million to fund OPCW disarmament and assistance activities for the period from June 2012 to June 2014. It is the fifth consecutive time since 2004 that the EU Council has adopted a decision in support of the OPCW.

The text of the decision is available here.

### Council Decision 2012/421/CFSP of 23.07.2012 in support of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC), in the framework of the implementation of the EU Strategy against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction

[OJ L 196/61, 24.7.2012]

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu>

The Council adopted a decision in support of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC).

## Publications

### Peaceful uses of nuclear technology. European Union International Cooperation

[General Secretariat of the Council, April 2012]

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

The brochure published by the General Secretariat of the Council gives a brief overview of the European Union and its Member States' assistance to work towards the safe and secure use of nuclear energy across the globe.

### The European Union, the IAEA and WMD Non-Proliferation: Unity of Approach and Continuity of Action

[Non-Proliferation Paper No.9, the EU Non-Proliferation Consortium, February 2012]

<http://www.nonproliferation.eu>

In this Paper Lars-Erik Lundin focuses on how the European Union can best support the work of the IAEA and boost its effectiveness in the fight against the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

## Statements and news items

### "EU to hold meeting on reduction of chemical hazards in Amman"

[Jordan Press Agency Petra, 5 September 2012]

<http://www.petra.gov.jo>

Representatives from Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon met for the first time at the round table meeting held in Amman on 5 September 2012. The meeting inaugurated operations of the CBRN CoE Regional Secretariat for the Middle East Region located in the Kingdom of Jordan within the Middle East Scientific Institute for Security (MESIS) based in Amman.

### Statement on behalf of the European Union by Ioannis Vrailas, Deputy Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, at the United Nations Conference on CBRN Risks Mitigation

22 June 2012, New York

<http://www.eu-un.europa.eu>

The statement given by the Deputy Head of the Delegation of the EU to the UN at the conference on the EU CBRN CoE Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence Initiative held on 22 June 2012 at the UN Headquarters in New York.

## Upcoming events

**10-12 October 2012.** 4th Annual International Symposium on Bio-security and Bio-safety: future trends and solutions, Milan, Italy

**16-18 October 2012.** XVth International CBRN Symposium, Defence Academy of the United Kingdom, Shrivenham

**31 October 2012.** 2nd Round Table Meeting of the CoE National Focal Points from the African Atlantic Façade region, Rabat, Morocco

**13 November 2012.** First Round Table Meeting of the CoE National Focal Points from the Eastern and Central Africa region, Nairobi, Kenya

**14-16 November 2012.** Conference on Strategic Trade Controls Enforcement, the World Customs Organisation HQs, Brussels, Belgium

### Legal Notice

Neither the European Commission nor any person acting on behalf of the Commission is responsible for the use which might be made of this publication, nor for any errors which may appear despite careful preparation and checking.

### Disclaimer

This publication does not necessarily reflect the view or the position of the European Commission.

The list of countries published in this publication does not prejudice the status of these countries and territories now or in the future. The maps used in the publication do not imply recognition of any particular boundaries nor prejudice the status of any country or territory.

### Picture credits

CBRN CoE Archive



### About CBRN CoE

The EU CBRN Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence project (CBRN CoE), launched in 2010, is an initiative of the European Union (EU) with an EU contribution of 95 million euros. It is implemented jointly by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI).

This new initiative addresses the mitigation of and preparedness against risks related to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) materials or agents, either of an intentional, accidental or natural origin.

For more information visit CBRN CoE website at: [www.cbrn-coe.eu](http://www.cbrn-coe.eu) or send us an e-mail at: [cbrn-coe@jrc.ec.europa.eu](mailto:cbrn-coe@jrc.ec.europa.eu)

### How to obtain EU publications?

Via the EU Bookshop  
<http://bookshop.europa.eu>  
 Luxembourg:  
 Publications Office of the European Union, 2012  
 CBRN Centres of Excellence Newsletter  
 ISSN 1977-2742 (online)

© European Union, 2012