

II

(Acts whose publication is not obligatory)

COMMISSION

COMMISSION DECISION

of 29 December 2003

laying down rules for the implementation of Council Decision 2001/792/EC, Euratom establishing a Community mechanism to facilitate reinforced cooperation in civil protection assistance interventions

(notified under document number C(2003) 5185)

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2004/277/EC, Euratom)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community and the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community,

Having regard to Council Decision 2001/792/EC, Euratom of 23 October 2001 establishing a Community mechanism to facilitate reinforced cooperation in civil protection assistance interventions ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 8(2)(a) to (e) and (g) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The Community mechanism established by Decision 2001/792/EC, hereinafter referred to as 'the mechanism', is intended to provide support in the event of major emergencies which may require urgent response action, including emergencies occurring within the context of crisis management referred to in Title V of the Treaty on European Union. In the event of the latter the Joint Declaration by the Council and the Commission on the use of the Community civil protection mechanism in crisis management referred to in Title V of the Treaty on European Union will be taken into account.
- (2) The mechanism is intended to help ensure better protection primarily of people, but also of the environment and property, in the event of a major emergency, including accidental marine pollution, as provided for in Decision No 2850/2000/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 December 2000 setting up a Community framework for cooperation in the field of accidental or deliberate marine pollution ⁽²⁾.

- (3) Participation in the Community mechanism is open to Member States, but should also be open to Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein in the light of Decision of the EEA Joint Committee No 135/2002 of 27 September 2002 amending Protocol 31 to the EEA Agreement on cooperation in specific fields outside the four freedoms ⁽³⁾. With regard to the candidate countries, participation should be open to those countries having signed a memorandum of understanding with the Commission.
- (4) A procedure for the provision of up-to-date information on the resources available in the States participating in the mechanism for different types of interventions should be established, in order to facilitate, in the event of emergency, the mobilisation of intervention teams, experts and other resources and to ensure a better use of those resources.
- (5) A monitoring and information centre should be established which should be accessible and able to react immediately 24 hours a day in order to serve the States participating in the mechanism and the Commission.
- (6) The monitoring and information centre is an essential element of the mechanism because it ensures uninterrupted links with the civil protection operational contact points of the States participating in the mechanism. The monitoring and information centre should, in case of emergency, provide immediate access to essential information on experts, intervention teams and other intervention support available.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 297, 15.11.2001, p. 7.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 332, 28.12.2000, p. 1.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 336, 12.12.2002, p. 36.

- (7) A common emergency communication and information system (CECIS) should be established in order to enable communication and sharing information between the monitoring and information centre and the designated contact points.
- (8) The CECIS is an essential element of the mechanism because it should guarantee the authenticity, integrity and confidentiality of information exchanged among the States participating in the mechanism under routine conditions as well as in emergencies.
- (9) The CECIS should be set up on the basis of a global implementation plan (GIP) as part of the PROCIV-NET project conducted and financed in the context of a programme for the interchange of data between administrations, the IDA programme as provided for in Decision No 1719/1999/EC of the European Parliament and the Council of 12 July 1999 on a series of guidelines, including the identification of projects of common interest, for trans-European networks for the electronic interchange of data between administrations (IDA) ⁽¹⁾, as last amended by Decision No 2046/2002/EC ⁽²⁾, and Decision No 1720/1999/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 July 1999 adopting a series of actions and measures in order to ensure interoperability of and access to trans-European networks for the electronic interchange of data between administrations (IDA) ⁽³⁾, as last amended by Decision No 2045/2002/EC ⁽⁴⁾.
- (10) The availability of experts capable of organising and coordinating intervention teams represents an important element of the Community mechanism. In order to enable an efficient selection of the experts required, it is essential to agree on common selection criteria
- (11) The tasks of the experts should be defined and the procedure for dispatching them should be determined.
- (12) A training programme should be set up, with a view to improving the coordination of civil protection assistance interventions by ensuring compatibility and complementarity between the intervention teams and by improving the competence of experts. The programme should include joint courses and exercises and an exchange system, combined with lectures, case studies, working groups, simulations, and practical exercises, appropriate to the content of each action. The setting up of such a training programme is also in the spirit of Council Resolution 2002/C 43/01 of 28 January on reinforcing cooperation in the field of civil protection training ⁽⁵⁾.
- (13) In the framework of the Community mechanism, the definition of clear intervention rules is important to ensure efficient assistance in case of emergency.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 203, 3.8.1999, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 316, 20.11.2002, p. 4.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 203, 3.8.1999, p. 9.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 316, 20.11.2002, p. 1.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ C 43, 16.2.2002, p. 1.

- (14) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Committee established pursuant to Article 4(1) of Council Decision 1999/847/EC ⁽⁶⁾,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

CHAPTER I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

This Decision establishes rules implementing Decision 2001/792/EC, Euratom, as regards the following:

1. information on the relevant resources available for civil protection assistance intervention;
2. the establishment of a monitoring and information centre;
3. the establishment of a common emergency communication and information system, hereinafter referred to as 'CECIS';
4. the assessment and/or coordination teams, including criteria for the selection of experts;
5. establishment of a training programme;
6. interventions inside and outside the Community.

Article 2

For the purpose of this Decision the following definitions shall apply:

- (a) 'participating States' means the Member States, the candidate countries having signed a memorandum of understanding with the Commission, and Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein;
- (b) 'third countries' means countries not participating in the mechanism.

CHAPTER II

RESOURCES AVAILABLE

Article 3

1. The participating States shall provide the Commission with the following information on the resources available for civil protection assistance interventions:
 - (a) the intervention teams identified in accordance with Article 3(a) of Decision 2001/792/EC, Euratom, and in particular
 - (i) the size of the teams and the mobilisation time foreseen,
 - (ii) their availability for interventions within the participating States and in third countries,

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 327, 21.12.1999, p. 53.

- (iii) their availability for short, medium or long-term missions,
 - (iv) their means of transportation, and their degree of self-sufficiency,
 - (v) any other relevant information;
- (b) the experts selected in accordance with Article 3(b) of Decision 2001/792/EC/Euratom.

2. The information referred to in paragraph 1 shall be regularly updated.

3. The Monitoring and Information Centre, established in accordance with Article 4, shall compile the information referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article and make it available through the CECIS set up in accordance with Article 7.

4. The information referred to in paragraph 1 is based on a mission scenario approach for inside the participating States and outside these States.

CHAPTER III

MONITORING AND INFORMATION CENTRE

Article 4

A monitoring and information centre accessible and able to react immediately 24 hours a day is hereby established and is located in the premises of the Commission.

Article 5

The day-to-day duties of the Monitoring and Information Centre shall include, in particular,

1. regularly updating the information provided by the participating States on the intervention team and experts identified and selected in accordance with Article 3(a) and (b) of Decision 2001/792/EC, Euratom, as well as other intervention support and medical resources that might be available for interventions;
2. pooling the information provided on the capability of the participating States to maintain a production of serums and vaccines or other necessary medical resources and on the stocks which might be available for intervention in the event of a major emergency and compile this information in the information system secured at the appropriate level;
3. regularly updating its working and emergency procedures;
4. contacting the contact points of the participating States with the aim of preparing, if necessary, a report on major emergencies;

5. participating in the 'lessons learned' programme and disseminating its results;
6. involvement in the preparation, organisation, and follow-up of the training courses;
7. involvement in the preparation, organisation, and follow-up of the field and tabletop exercises.

Article 6

In the event of a major emergency, the Monitoring and Information Centre shall operate according to the provisions set out in Chapter VII.

CHAPTER IV

COMMON EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SYSTEM

Article 7

A common emergency communication and information system (CECIS) is hereby established.

Article 8

The CECIS shall consist of the following three components:

- (a) a network layer, consisting of the physical network connecting the competent authorities and the contact points in the participating States and the Monitoring and Information Centre;
- (b) an application layer, consisting of the databases and other information systems necessary for the functioning of the civil protection assistance interventions and in particular those needed:
 - (i) for communicating notifications,
 - (ii) for ensuring communication and information sharing between the Monitoring and Information Centre and competent authorities and the contact points,
 - (iii) for compiling information on serums and vaccines or other medical resources and on stocks,
 - (iv) for disseminating lessons learnt from interventions;
- (c) a security layer, consisting of the set of systems, rules and procedures necessary for ensuring the confidentiality of the data stored in and exchanged via the CECIS.

Article 9

1. The CECIS shall be set up and operate in accordance with Decision No 1719/1999/EC and Decision No 1720/1999/EC.

2. The network layer shall be operated using the trans-European services for telematics between administrations (TESTA), an IDA generic service as set out in Article 4 of Decision No 1720/1999/EC.

3. The application layer shall be a web-enabled multilingual database, accessible over TESTA and linked with the use of a normal SMTP e-mail application.

4. The security layer shall be based on the use of the public key infrastructure for closed user groups (IDA PKI-CUG), an IDA generic service as set out in Article 4 of Decision No 1720/1999/EC.

Article 10

The handling of documents, databases, and information systems classified up to 'EU RESTRICTED' within the CECIS shall conform to the provisions set out in Council Decision 2001/264/EC⁽¹⁾ and in Commission Decision 2001/844/EC, ECSC, Euratom⁽²⁾.

Documents and information classified as 'EU CONFIDENTIAL' or higher, shall be transmitted pursuant to special arrangements between the originator and the recipient(s).

The security classification of the CECIS shall be upgraded as appropriate.

Article 11

1. The participating States shall submit to the Commission the appropriate information using the 'Country card template' set out in the Annex.

2. The participating States shall provide information on contact points in the context of civil protection and, where appropriate, of other services handling natural, technological, radiological or environmental accidents, including accidental marine pollution.

3. The participating States shall notify the Commission of any changes to the information referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 immediately.

Article 12

A user group consisting of representatives nominated by the participating States shall be established. It shall assist the Commission in the validation and testing of the CECIS.

Article 13

1. A global implementation plan (GIP) for the implementation of the CECIS is hereby established. According to the GIP the Commission shall:

- (a) establish specific agreements in the context of the respective IDA framework contracts for the implementation of the network and security layers;

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 101, 11.4.2001, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 317, 3.12.2001, p. 1.

- (b) on the basis of an open call for tenders, establish agreements for the development and validation of the application layer as well as for the feasibility studies;

- (c) ensure that all persons involved in the development and validation phases as well as the subsequent feasibility studies are appropriately cleared to handle information classified at least 'EU CONFIDENTIAL' according to Decision 2001/264/EC and Commission Decision 2001/844/EC, ECSC, Euratom;

- (d) ensure the management of the project in view of the final installation of the CECIS. In this respect, the Commission shall provide and update a general plan and shall coordinate the development, validation, and implementation phases with the participating States, and the selected contractor(s). The Commission shall also take into account the needs and requirements of the participating States;

- (e) follow up, validate and test the separate layers and the completed CECIS with the help of the user group;

- (f) ensure the training of trainers and that the participating States are regularly informed of the advancement of the project;

- (g) ensure security of the project mainly by not permitting unauthorised dissemination of sensitive information;

- (h) ensure, via the Commission's Data Centre, that the server is appropriately connected to TESTA and is available on at least the same service level as the rest of the network;

- (i) ensure the implementation of the PKI through the Telecommunications Centre;

- (j) provide all the necessary support for the implementation phase of the project and ensure necessary maintenance and support thereafter.

2. The participating States shall ensure the fulfilment of the engagements undertaken in the context of the country card template, such as connection to the TESTA II network, availability of conformant web browsers and e-mail clients and implementation of PKI procedures, in line with the approved planning.

CHAPTER V

ASSESSMENT AND/OR COORDINATION TEAMS, INCLUDING CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION OF EXPERTS

Article 14

The participating States shall provide and regularly update their information on the experts selected in accordance with Article 3(b) of Decision 2001/792/EC, Euratom.

Article 15

The experts shall be classified in the following categories:

- (a) technical experts;
- (b) assessment experts;
- (c) coordination team members;
- (d) coordination head.

Article 16

1. The technical experts shall be able to provide advice on specific, highly technical topics and on risks involved and be available for missions.

2. The assessment experts shall be able to provide an assessment of the situation and advise on the appropriate action to be taken and be available for missions.

3. The coordination team members may include a deputy coordination head, persons responsible for logistics and communications and other personnel as necessary. If requested, the technical experts and the assessment experts may be incorporated into the coordination team in order to assist the coordination head for the whole duration of a mission.

4. The coordination head shall be responsible for leading the assessment and coordination team during an intervention. She/he shall assume proper liaison with the authorities of the affected country, with the Monitoring and Information Centre, with other international organisations and, in case of any civil protection assistance interventions outside the participating States, also with the Member State holding the Presidency of the Council of the European Union or its representative and with the Commission delegation in that country and with the office or official representative of the European Community Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) in that country.

Article 17

The information on the experts shall be compiled by the Commission in an expert database and be made available through the CECIS.

Article 18

The experts shall, where necessary, follow the training programme set up in accordance with Article 21.

Article 19

In the event of a request for assistance, the participating States shall be responsible for activating the available experts and put them in touch with the Monitoring and Information Centre.

Article 20

1. The Monitoring and Information Centre shall be capable of mobilising and dispatching the designated experts at very short notice after the experts have been activated by the participating States.

2. The Monitoring and Information Centre shall follow the dispatch procedure based on the confirmation for mission used by the Commission for the secondment of experts in emergency situations, which covers the following elements:

- (a) written confirmation of the mission;
- (b) the objectives of the mission;
- (c) the envisaged duration of the mission;
- (d) the local contact person information;
- (e) the insurance condition coverage;
- (f) the daily compensation allowance to cover expenses;
- (g) the specific payment conditions;
- (h) guidelines for technical experts, assessment experts, coordination experts and heads.

CHAPTER VI

TRAINING PROGRAMME*Article 21*

1. A training programme covering civil protection assistance interventions is set up. The programme shall include general and specific courses, exercises and an exchange of experts system. The programme shall be aimed at the target groups set out in Article 22.

2. The Commission shall be responsible for the coordination and organisation of the training programme and for defining the content and the schedule of the training programme.

Article 22

The target groups of the training programme shall be:

- (a) participating States' intervention teams;
- (b) participating States' intervention team leaders, their deputies and liaison officers;
- (c) experts of the participating States as set out in Article 15;
- (d) national key contact point staff;
- (e) officials of the Community institutions.

Article 23

The general and specific courses shall be aimed at the different target groups set out in Article 22(b) to (e).

Article 24

The exercises shall, in particular with regard to the target group set out in Article 22(a), aim at:

- (a) improving the response capacity and providing the necessary practice of the teams meeting the criteria for participation in civil protection assistance interventions;
- (b) improving and verifying the procedures and establishing a common language for the coordination of civil protection assistance interventions and reducing the response time in major emergencies;
- (c) enhancing operational cooperation between the civil protection services of the participating States;
- (d) sharing lessons learned.

Article 25

The exchange system shall include the exchange of experts between participating States and/or the Commission, with the aim of enabling experts to:

1. gain experience in other fields;
2. become acquainted with various techniques and operational procedures used;
3. study approaches taken by other participating emergency services and institutions.

Article 26

Where appropriate, additional training opportunities to meet identified needs for the smooth and efficient operation of civil protection assistance interventions shall be provided.

Article 27

1. The Commission shall ensure coherence of the level of training and its content.
2. The participating States and the Commission shall designate their trainees for each training session.
3. The Commission shall organise an appropriate evaluation system of the training actions organised.

CHAPTER VII

INTERVENTIONS INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE COMMUNITY*Article 28***Alert phase**

1. In the event of a major emergency within the participating States or imminent threat thereof, which causes or is capable of causing transboundary effects or which may result

in a call for assistance through the Monitoring and Information Centre from one or more countries, the competent authority and/or contact points of the State in which the emergency is imminent or has occurred, shall without delay inform the Monitoring and Information Centre via the established communication channels.

2. If the Commission has been informed of a major emergency occurring in a third country, which may require civil protection assistance, the Monitoring and Information Centre shall take contact with the competent authorities of the Member State holding the Presidency of the Council of the European Union and with the other relevant Commission services in order to inform them of the situation.

3. The Monitoring and Information Centre shall collect the essential information on early warnings and transmit that through the established communication channels and networks to the competent civil protection authorities of all participating States and/or their contact points.

4. A participating State affected by a major emergency shall keep the Monitoring and Information Centre informed of the evolution of the situation if any risks for transboundary consequences may appear. The Monitoring and Information Centre shall subsequently inform other participating States and relevant Commission services and regularly update its information of any evolution of the situation.

*Article 29***Requests for assistance**

1. A participating State or a third country affected by a major emergency shall, if assistance is required through the Community mechanism, address a formal request for civil protection assistance to the Monitoring and Information Centre.

2. In case of a major emergency occurring in a third country, which may require civil protection assistance, the Commission may decide on its own initiative to inform the third country of potential Community assistance if needed. The Monitoring and Information Centre shall keep the Member State holding the Presidency of the Council of the European Union regularly informed of any developments.

3. The State requesting assistance shall provide the Monitoring and Information Centre with all relevant information concerning the situation, and in particular, specific needs, the support requested and the location.

If assistance in the form of experts and/or intervention teams and means is requested, the requesting State shall inform the Monitoring and Information Centre about the time frame and location of arrival of the assistance, and the on-site operational contact point managing the emergency.

4. Following coordination between the Monitoring and Information Centre and the requesting State, the Monitoring and Information Centre shall dispatch the request for assistance to the participating States and, where appropriate consult the resources database and inform the relevant Commission services. Any changes in the initial request for assistance by the requesting State shall immediately be transmitted to all participating States.

5. Following the formal request, the participating States shall immediately inform the Monitoring and Information Centre about their current capacity for providing assistance, indicating its scope and terms.

6. The information referred to in paragraph 5 shall immediately be compiled and transmitted by the Monitoring and Information Centre to the requesting State and to the other participating States.

7. The requesting State shall inform the Monitoring and Information Centre of which intervention teams and means it has selected.

8. With regard to requests for intervention teams and means, the Monitoring and Information Centre shall inform the participating States of the selection of the requesting State. The participating States providing the assistance shall keep the Monitoring and Information Centre regularly informed on the dispatch of the intervention teams and means.

9. With regard to requests for experts, the Monitoring and Information Centre shall:

- (a) contact the participating States, using the 'expert database' set up in accordance with Article 17, and enquire about the availability of experts ready to leave, whenever necessary, within three hours after their designation;
- (b) after consultation with the requesting State, make a selection from amongst the available experts and inform the participating States accordingly;
- (c) immediately make contact with the experts and proceed to dispatch them in accordance with the dispatch procedure set out in Article 20(2);
- (d) on the basis of an updated report established by the requesting State, the Monitoring and Information Centre shall prepare a briefing for the experts and intervention team leaders before their dispatch.

10. In the event of a major emergency occurring in a third country, the Monitoring and Information Centre shall work in close consultation with the Member State holding the Presidency of the Council of the European Union and relevant Commission services.

11. The requesting State shall activate its own arrangements allowing coordination of the dispatched assistance at national or regional levels. The requesting State shall facilitate border crossings for the interventions and ensure logistical support.

Article 30

Direction of interventions

1. In the event of a major emergency occurring inside the Community, the requesting State shall direct the assistance intervention in accordance with Article 5(3) and(4) of Decision 2001/792/EC, Euratom.
2. In the event of a major emergency occurring outside the Community, the assessment and coordination teams shall carry out their tasks in accordance with Article 16. The coordination is ensured by the Member State holding the Presidency of the Council of the European Union or its appointed representative.

Article 31

Interventions in third countries

In third countries, the Community assistance intervention may either be conducted as an autonomous operation between the affected third country and the Monitoring and Information Centre and the representative of the Member State holding the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, or as a contribution to an intervention led by the EU or by an international organisation.

Article 32

Expert missions

1. The dispatched experts shall carry out the tasks set out in Article 16. They shall report regularly to the requesting State authorities and to the Monitoring and Information Centre.
2. The Monitoring and Information Centre shall keep the participating States informed about the progress of the expert mission.
3. With regard to the progress of the expert missions in third countries, the Monitoring and Information Centre shall keep the Delegation of the Commission in the country concerned and the representative of the Member State holding the Presidency of the Council of the European Union informed as well as the relevant services of the Commission.
4. The requesting State shall inform the Monitoring and Information Centre on a regular basis about the evolution of ongoing activities at the site of the emergency.
5. In the case of interventions in third countries, the coordination head shall inform the Monitoring and Information Centre on a regular basis of the evolution of ongoing activities on the site of the emergency.

6. The Monitoring and Information Centre shall compile all information received and distribute it to the contact points and competent authorities of the participating States.

Article 33

Operational disengagement

1. The requesting State or any of the participating States providing assistance shall inform the Monitoring and Information Centre and the dispatched Community experts and assistance intervention teams when their assistance is no longer required or can no longer be provided. The effective disengagement shall be organised in an appropriate way by the requesting State and the participating States; the Monitoring and Information Centre shall be kept informed thereof.

2. In third countries, the coordination head shall report to the Monitoring and Information Centre when assistance is no longer required or can no longer be provided. The Monitoring and Information Centre shall transmit this information to the delegation of the Commission in that country and the representative of the Member State holding the Presidency of the Council of the European Union as well as the relevant Commission services. The Monitoring and Information Centre in coordination with the Member State holding the Presidency of the Council of the European Union and the requesting State shall ensure the effective disengagement.

Article 34

Reporting and lessons learnt

1. The competent authorities of the requesting State and of the participating States having provided assistance, as well as the dispatched Community experts, shall present their conclusions on all aspects of the intervention to the Monitoring and Information Centre. A summary report shall then be prepared by the Monitoring and Information Centre on the assistance provided.

2. The Monitoring and Information Centre shall disseminate lessons learnt in order to evaluate and to improve the civil protection assistance interventions.

Article 35

Costs

1. If not agreed otherwise, the State requesting assistance shall bear the costs of assistance provided by the participating States.

2. The Participating State providing assistance may, bearing in mind in particular the nature of the emergency and the extent of any damage, offer its assistance entirely or partially free of charge. That State may also waive all or part of the reimbursement of its costs at any time.

3. If not agreed otherwise, for the duration of the intervention, the requesting State shall house and feed the assisting teams from the participating States, and, if their supplies and provisions run out, shall replenish them at its own expense. Nevertheless, assisting teams shall be initially logistically independent and self-sufficient for a reasonable period depending on the used assets and shall inform the Monitoring and Information Centre accordingly.

4. Costs for dispatching Community experts shall be handled in accordance with Article 20. The Commission shall bear these costs.

Article 36

Compensation for damage

1. The requesting State shall refrain from making any request for compensation from participating States for damage caused to their property or service staff where such damage is the consequence of the assistance intervention provided for by this Decision, unless it is proven to be the result of fraud or serious misconduct.

2. In the event of damage suffered by third parties as the result of assistance interventions, the requesting State and the participating State providing assistance shall cooperate to facilitate compensation of such damage.

Article 37

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 29 December 2003.

For the Commission

Margot WALLSTRÖM

Member of the Commission

ANNEX

According to Article 5

**Country card template for _____ (country)
in view of the establishment of the common emergency communication and information system (CECIS)**

as laid down in Article 4(b) of Council Decision 2001/792/EC, Euratom establishing a Community mechanism to facilitate reinforced cooperation in civil protection assistance interventions ⁽¹⁾

Competent national authority: _____

Member of the Management and Regulatory Committee

First name		Last name	
	Street		City
	Postcode		
Tel.		Fax	E-mail:

(in case of deputy members please fill in similar table)

Information on the site(s) of the contact point(s) to be connected to the CECIS

Institution			
Street			
City			
Postcode			
	Head of the operational service of the contact point organisation	Contact person for technical matters	Local security registration officer
Last name			
Given name			
Tel.			
Fax			
E-mail			

(Add lines in case of more than one site)

Role and tasks

In the context of the development, validation and implementation phases of the PROCIV-NET Stage I project (CECIS) _____ (country) undertakes to fulfil the following:

1. NETWORK LAYER

The site(s) of the national competent authority will connect to the Common communication and information network through the following (please tick a box):

Off-net permanent access to TESTA II: this is a direct connection between the site and the nearest Eurogate through a leased line provided by the TESTA II provider (Equant). The package includes (a) a leased line of 128 kbps; (b) an ISDN back-up; (c) a Cisco 2610 IP Plus router; (d) a maintenance level 3 (24 hours × seven days with four hours MTTR). The estimated costs are the following:

- One-time installation charges according to the attached offer by Equant. This cost is subsidised by the European Commission.
- Yearly recurring charges: according to the attached offer by Equant. This cost is subsidised by the European Commission during the first year of operation but has to be paid by the national competent authority for the subsequent years.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 297, 15.11.2001, p. 7.

The Service Level Agreement that applies to the TESTA II service covers the quality of service for this type of connection ⁽²⁾.

Permanent access to TESTA II through the national network for _____ (country).

Please specify the date on which the site(s) of the contact points mentioned will be connected to the national network: _____ (date or mention 'Already connected').

Depending on the option selected, the authorised technical personnel will conduct all the necessary adjustments to ensure that the interconnection will be operational according to the project plan.

The Commission shall ensure that all persons involved in the development, validation and implementation are appropriately cleared to handle information classified at least 'EU CONFIDENTIAL' according to the Council Decision of 19 March 2001 adopting the Council's security regulations (2001/264/EC) ⁽³⁾.

2. APPLICATION LAYER

Workstations of personnel authorised to access the CECIS will be equipped with:

- a standard web browser (i.e. Microsoft Internet Explorer or Netscape — version 5.0 or later)
- a standard SMTP e-mail client supporting SSL.

3. SECURITY LAYER

E-mail and session security will be ensured through the IDA public key infrastructure (PKI) that provides for implementation of SSL. To this end the national competent authority undertakes to establish the following for each site connected to the common communication and information system:

Nominate a local security registration officer.

Ensure that the web browser and e-mail systems installed support 128-bit SSL encryption.

4. IMPLEMENTATION PLANNING

As mentioned in the relevant global implementation plan (GIP), the network, application and security layers will be developed and implemented under the responsibility of the European Commission according to the established work programme for the project. During the implementation period, the administrative and local technical contacts will be available to provide support to the respective contractors responsible of the development and implementation.

AGREEMENT

We agree with the above and undertake:

- to provide to the European Commission all necessary information and assistance in the context of the development and implementation phases of the project entitled 'PROCIV-NET Stage I'.
- to ensure the availability of the necessary budgetary resources for the functioning of the connection with TESTA II after the first year of operation (in case of selection of the first connection mode).

Member of the Management and Regulatory Committee:

.....
(Signature)

.....
(Date)

⁽²⁾ Text available on request as well as online within the IDA website at : <http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida>.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 101, 11.4.2001, p. 1.

Director-General:

.....
(Signature)

.....
(Date)

(This signature is required in case of selection of the solution 'Off-net permanent access to TESTA II' that implies the availability of budgetary resources after the first year of operation).

Please transmit a signed copy by normal mail or fax to the Civil Protection and Environmental Accidents Unit, DG Environment, European Commission as well as an e-mail copy to civil-protection@cec.eu.int
