

## Information Note<sup>1</sup>

**Event:** Working with the EU CBRN Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence: What concrete role for EU Stakeholders and Partners?

**Organizer:** European Union

**Date and Venue:** 14-15 May 2012, Brussels, Belgium

**Participants:** *States:* Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Germany, Greece, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, USA

*European Union:* European External Action Service (Security Policy Division, Directorate for Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, Crisis Management and Planning Directorate), European Commission (DG Joint Research Centre Nuclear Safety and Security Coordination, DG Joint Research Centre Institute for the Protection and Security of Citizens, DG Joint Research Centre Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements, DG Joint Research Centre Institute for Transuranium Elements Karlsruhe, DG DEVCO Human and Society Development, DG Home Affairs, DG Health and Consumers Public Health, Bureau of European Policy Advisers), General Secretariat of the Council of the EU, European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), European Defence Agency, European Parliament, Executive Agency for Health and Consumers (EAHC)

*International organizations:* Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit (BWC-ISU), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), INTERPOL, World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), World Health Organization (WHO), 1540 Committee expert

*Civil society, private sector and academia:* Academie Diplomatique Internationale (ADI), B&S Europe Ltd Consultancy, BAE Systems, European BioSafety Association (EBSA), Falcon Communications Ltd, Fondazione per la Ricerca sulla Migrazione e Integrazione delle Tecnologie (FORMIT), Fundacion Internacional y para Iberoamerica de Administracion y Political Publicas (FIIAP), Fundacion para las Relaciones Internacionales y el Dialogo Exterior (FRIDE), Gesellschaft für Reaktor und Anlagensicherheit mbH (GRS), Industrial Chemistry Research Institute, Ingeniería de Sistemas para la Defensa de España (ISDEFE), Institute for Research and Education on Negotiation (ESSEC IRENE), Institute of Industrial Organic Chemistry, International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), Istituto Nazionale per l'Assicurazione contro gli Infortuni sul Lavoro (INAIL), King's College London, L. Saccho University

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<sup>1</sup> For information – not an official report. The views expressed here do not necessarily represent those of the 1540 Committee or of the organizers or participants in the event.

Hospital, Landau Network – Centro Volta, MediatEUr, Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research (TNO), NTU Strategic Development and Consulting, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), Universite Catholique de Louvain (UCL), Xibios – Biosafety Consulting

### 1. **Objectives for a 1540 Committee expert participation**

- Intervene in the roundtable discussion on “cooperation with international organizations”;
- Discuss options to foster the cooperation between the 1540 Committee and the EU Centres of excellence initiative, with a view to facilitate the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) by States.

### 2. **Background**

- The EU CBRN Centers of Excellence (CoE) initiative was launched in May 2010 with the aim of developing a Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CRN) risk mitigation policy at national and regional levels, involving national, regional, and international resources.
- The EU anticipates an EU contribution to this initiative of 95 million Euros between FY 2009 and FY 2013.
- The March 2012 Six-monthly Progress Report on the implementation of the EU Strategy against the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (2011/II)<sup>2</sup> notes that “*the aims and objectives of the CoE Initiative present strong similarities with those of the UNSC Resolution 1540. Both are concerned with illicit trafficking and criminal use of CBRN materials and both target exclusively non-state actors.*”
- The 19 April 2012 Statement by the President of the Security Council notes that “*the Security Council welcomes the establishment of the European Union Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Risk Mitigation Centers of Excellence*” (S/PRST/2012/14).

### 3. **Highlights and discussions**

#### ***Welcome and opening remarks***

The Director General of the European Commission Joint Research Centre (JRC), Dominique Ristori, emphasized in particular the need for local ownership and for local expertise and capacity-building at the regional and national levels, stating that the lack of coordination and the fragmentation of responsibilities can result in dramatic consequences. It is therefore crucial to enhance networking among stakeholders. The speaker noted that EU Member States have fully recognized the need to participate in the CBRN CoE Initiative, many of them having already designated points of contact to interface with this initiative. Key international partners have been engaged, such as the United Nations Organization, the IAEA, regional organizations and non-EU partner countries.

The Director of Human and Society Development at Development and Cooperation – Europeaid Directorate-General (DEVCO), Kristian Schmidt, described the Centres of Excellence as a platform for cooperation, and as a way of building security locally, in a sustainable manner, through a network of

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<sup>2</sup> Available at [http://www.cbrn-coe.eu/Portals/0/cbrn-coe-public-documents/2012%20C%2066%2003\\_en.pdf](http://www.cbrn-coe.eu/Portals/0/cbrn-coe-public-documents/2012%20C%2066%2003_en.pdf)

experts and collaborating partners. Highlighting the complementarity between security and development objectives, the speaker stated that “*there is no security without development*”.

The Head of division for Security Policy and Sanctions, Rudolf Roy, expressed appreciation for the UN Security Council welcoming the establishment of the EU CBRN Centres of Excellence. The speaker mentioned some of the areas in which further actions are needed: increase CBRN coordination and strategic planning inside the EU; better define the role and tasks of the relevant entities; synchronize efforts with EU geographical directorates; reinforce the EU policy dialogue on non-proliferation with non-EU partner countries that could become de facto regional coordinators; build up on the political dialogue on Centers of Excellence initiated with five regional organizations (League of Arab States, ASEAN, African Union, ECOWAS, Gulf Cooperation Council).

### ***Session 1: “Developing new paradigms and reaching new communities”***

The Policy coordinator for CBRN issues, Bruno Dupré, described the new non-proliferation paradigm in the context of the EU Centers of Excellence:

- CBRN risk mitigation “*is not only about CBRN, it is also about other crimes*”;
- An effective CBRN policy should tackle CBRN risks, not only CBRN threats. In this regard, a cultural change is needed;
- CBRN risk mitigation is “*less about weapons of mass destruction, more about CBRN*” (in the sense of “related materials”). To facilitate outreach activities, it is therefore necessary “to go out of the WMD/CBRN amalgam”;
- A more inclusive approach is to be preferred to the fragmented one relying on segregating pillars;
- Non-proliferation efforts need to be directed to the national and regional levels, with a need “to move from the center to the periphery”.

The Chair of the International Working Group (Landau-Volta Network), Maurizio Martellini, confirmed a paradigm shift, describing in particular the irruption of non-State actors into the non-proliferation landscape. The speaker noted how difficult it is to track and evaluate the dissemination of knowledge and sensitive information. Therefore, it is crucial to work on the supply-side as well as on the demand-side, including through awareness-raising activities.

### ***Session 2: “EU CBRN Risk Mitigation Centers of Excellence: what has been achieved and what are the current and future challenges”***

The CBRN CoE Project Coordinator at the Joint Research Centre, Michael Thornton, described the current status of the Centres of Excellence Initiative, underscoring the will to create tangible effects, “*spending money where it is needed, not on creating bureaucracies*”:

- Regional Secretariats will soon be operational in five regions (African Atlantic Façade; Middle East; North Africa; South East Asia; South East Europe, the Caucasus, Ukraine and Moldova), the subsequent opening of Regional Secretariats being planned in three other regions (Central Asia; Gulf Cooperation Countries; Sub-Saharan Africa);
- Around 30 national focal points have been designated;
- National CBRN teams have been established, involving relevant stakeholders (MFA, MoD, Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Health, academia);
- Roundtables are organized in each region every six months;
- 2 pilot projects have been successfully launched in South East Asia, and are almost completed:
  - Pilot project 1 on capacity building in countering illicit trafficking;

- Pilot project 2 on reinforcement of legislations and regulations in the field of bio-safety, bio-security and laboratory management systems;
- 19 other projects are about to be launched<sup>3</sup>;
- Additional projects are being developed, including in cooperation with international organizations.

The speaker mentioned existing coordination with other partners, with a view to avoid duplication of efforts.

The Director of UNICRI, Jonathan Lucas, emphasized the critical role played by the EU through the CoE Initiative and the importance of local ownership. The manager of the CoE programme at UNICRI, Francesco Marelli, gave an overview of the CoE architecture, and presented the expected results: national coordination; national inter-agency communication; national, regional and international standards; regional and international cooperation; collaboration with the civil society; planning; annual reviews.

***Session 3: “How to work together? From information to coordination and cooperation, your role today and tomorrow in the EU CBRN Risk Mitigation Centers of Excellence Initiative”***

Panel discussions moderated by Bruno Dupré (EEAS) and Michael Thornton (DG JRC) explored the topic from three perspectives: EU Member States, international organizations, and civil society. The rapporteur’s summary of each of the three panel discussions is available at <http://www.cbrn-coe.eu/>

***Session 4: “US and Japan views on the EU CBRN Risk Mitigation Centres”***

The Coordinator for Threat Reduction Programs at the US Department of State and the Director for Non-proliferation at the Science and Nuclear Energy Division in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan delivered statements.

**4. Additional comments**

Information on the meeting as well as on the EU CBRN Risk Mitigations Centres of Excellence Initiative is available at <http://www.cbrn-coe.eu/>

For further information, please contact the 1540 Committee experts by e-mail at [1540experts@un.org](mailto:1540experts@un.org)

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<sup>3</sup> For the detail of the 19 projects, see: <http://www.cbrn-coe.eu/Projects.aspx>