European Union
Crisis Response Capacity

Biological Weapons Convention:
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Presentation Outline

• EU Crisis Management Capacity
• Policies and instruments: some examples
• EU Crisis Coordination Arrangements Exercise CCAEX10
EU Crisis Management Capacity
What is Crisis Management:

EU policies and instruments that contribute to the response to crises, i.e. serious, unexpected and often dangerous situations, requiring immediate action; situations that may affect the lives, the environment or the basic values of EU society.
Some principles

- Addresses both the before phase (prevention, preparedness) and the after phase (response, recovery)
- Crises inside and outside the EU
- Both natural and man-made disasters
Some principles

• In coordination amongst the EU institutions and Member States
• In collaboration with implementing partners (international organisations, civil society, Member States, NGOs, Developing countries)
  - Subsidiarity
  - Solidarity
Main actors

• The Council of the European Union
  – The Presidency
  – The European Council
Main actors

The European Commission

SG – Secretariat General; AGRI – Agriculture; BEPA – Bureau of Policy Advisors; COMP – Competition; DEVCO – Development and Aid Implementation; ECHO – Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection; ELARG – Enlargement; ENER – Energy; ENV – Environment; HOME – Home Affairs; JUST – Justice; MARKT – Internal Market and Services; MOVE – Transport; RELEX – External Relations; REGIO – Regional Aid; SANCO – Health; TAXUD – Taxations and Customs Union; RTD – Research; INFSO – Information Society; ENTR – Enterprise and Industry; JRC – Joint Research Centre; COMM – Communication; DIGIT – Informatics
Main actors

• European Union Agencies
  – ECDC – Disease Control
  – FRONTEX – Border Security
  – EMSA – Maritime Safety
  – EFSA - Food Safety
  – ENISA – Network and IT Security
  – EUROPOL – European Police Office
  – EMA – European Medicines Agency
  – EEA – European Environment Agency
Policies and instruments: some examples
EU capacities to respond to CBRN attacks and incidents

• The EU Civil Protection Mechanism
• RAS / EWS – monitoring tools
  – ECURIE (European Community Urgent Radiological Information Exchange)
  – RAS-BICHAT (Rapid Alert System for Biological and Chemical Agent Attacks)
• Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) support to disaster response
  – military assets in support of civil protection activities
EU capacities to respond to CBRN attacks and incidents

- **EU CBRN Action Plan (2009)**
  - **130 actions** to complement measures by Member States to address existing gaps and promote the exchange of information and best practices. 3 strands:
    - **Prevention** – ensuring that unauthorised access to CBRN materials is as difficult as possible;
    - **Detection** – having the capability to detect CBRN materials in order to prevent or respond to incidents;
    - **Preparedness and response** – being able to efficiently respond to incidents involving CBRN materials and recover as quickly as possible
- CBRN Advisory Group
- CBRN Resilience Programme
Community Civil Protection Mechanism

Since its creation in 2001, the Mechanism has been activated for over a hundred disasters in EU (like floods & forest fires), and worldwide including Haiti, Chile and Pakistan

- 31 participating states (EU-27 plus Croatia, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway)
- Preparedness activities (training, exercises, exchange of experts)
- NEW: prevention and risk assessment
- Response (facilitating coordination of national assistance, EU assessment and coordination experts and modules)
- Monitoring and Information Centre (MIC)
Toxic sludge in Hungary

• Break of a sludge depository in the city of Ajka on 4 Oct 2010
• HU requested international assistance to respond to the pollution
• EU CP team - to advise with experience in handling toxic sludge, decontamination and mitigation of environmental damage
• Rescue operations involved 1166 civil protection staff and 186 vehicles
To support Member States and contribute to the overall response to this global health threat, the EU Commission adopted a strategy on Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 – setting out key public health priorities and actions for the EU in tackling this pandemic. This includes vaccination strategy; the regulatory process; joint procurement; communication to the public and support to third countries.
Humanitarian aid

**Mandate:** emergency assistance and relief to the victims of natural disasters or armed conflict outside the EU

- Humanitarian principles of non-discrimination and impartiality
- Grants cover emergency aid, food aid and aid to refugees and displaced persons
- Every year: more than €700 mio to assist 18 million people
- 200 partners (NGOs, ICRC, UN agencies like UNHCR WFP)
- The EU as a whole – Commission plus Member States - is the world's largest humanitarian aid donor
Haiti – Cholera Epidemic

• The EU is concerned
• Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) anticipates 400,000 symptomatic cases in coming months
• 1,882 deaths and 84,391 hospitalised
• Case fatality rate: 2.2%
• Urgent need for more Cholera Treatment Centres/Units, rehydration centers, supplies and trained medical personnel
• Additional international support urgently needed to cover growing gaps in health, water, sanitation, hygiene and logistics
EU Assistance made available so far

- **Humanitarian aid** to NGOs (12 M€)
- Activation of **Civil Protection / MIC** and co-funding of transport
- **MIC mission of 7 experts** focusing on water/sanitation, health and logistics deployed
- **Contributions in-cash and in-kind from Member States** (water and sanitation, emergency shelter, medical supplies)
- **Experts from ECDC** deployed to assess how to reinforce epidemiological surveillance
- Financing epidemiologists deployed through GOARN (Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network) / PAHO
- **Support the efforts of the UN** to reinforce government decision-taking and coordination and speed up customs clearance for assistance
EU Crisis Coordination Arrangements Exercise CCAEX10
CCA in Brief

• To ensure rapid and coordinated EU level political response in severe emergencies with wide-ranging impact or political significance

• Awareness - Alert - Emergency Mode

• The EU Situation Centre, under the leadership of the Presidency and in cooperation with the Commission, organises annual exercises
CCAEX10

- 27 to 29 September 2010
- 5th exercise since 2006
- Simulation exercise in Brussels and capitals
- Players: EU Presidency, SitCen, Council, Commission, 9 Member States, EU Agencies
• Scenario: bioterrorist attack by means of potentially lethal bacteria targeting a major sporting event. The disease spreads in other directly affected Member States
• Impact: internal security, border control, public health, transport and civil protection
CCAEX10: Objectives

• To test
  – ability of arrangements to respond rapidly and efficiently to a crisis
  – coordination and advice structures
  – operational procedures
  – identifying existing policy gaps
  – media communication aspects
CCAEX10: Evaluation

• Need to review the CCA & adapt them to the new institutional framework
• Role and interaction of coordination instances to clarify
• Better consultation and cooperation amongst institutions and Member States
• Media communication aspects are key
Thank you!

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