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**“I” ITEM NOTE**

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from: General Secretariat of the Council  
to: Coreper  
No. prev. doc.: 8872/1/12 REV 1

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Subject: CCA Review Process:  
Concept Note on "Arrangements for Crisis Coordination at EU political level"

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Discussions on the need to review the EU Emergency and Crisis Coordination Arrangements (CCA) started in 2009 and resulted in more flexible arrangements (doc. 11949/2/10 REV2). At the end of this initial review process it was also agreed by Member States that a more in-depth analysis of the arrangements was needed, particularly to take account of the post-Lisbon Treaty context.

On 3 December 2010 COREPER approved the creation of the Friends of the Presidency (FoP) working group for the review of the EU Emergency and Crisis Coordination Arrangements (CCA).

The group's mandate was defined as follows (doc. 17307/10, page 6): *Taking into account lessons learned from CCA exercises and real-life crises, as well as the post-Lisbon legal and institutional framework, the FoP working group should examine whether the CCA in its current configuration is the politically and strategically agile tool required by the EU as a whole to respond quickly and adequately to a serious crisis situation; as appropriate, develop proposals that incorporate all relevant EU level actors and crisis coordination tools.*

On 24 November 2011 COREPER took note of document 17226/11 + COR 1 and :

- agreed with the FoP working group's conclusion on the appropriateness of the CCA for crisis coordination and response at EU level, in line with paragraphs 12 and 13, and
- confirmed the mandate of the FoP working group for the second phase of the CCA review process in 2012, taking into account the guidelines in paragraph 15.

On 24 February and 30 April 2012, in fulfilling this mandate, the FoP working group discussed subsequent versions of the draft concept note on "Arrangements for Crisis Coordination at EU political level" reflecting comments made by delegations.

On 16 May 2012, following the positive expiry of a silent procedure, the FoP working group finalised at its level the draft concept note on "Arrangements for Crisis Coordination at EU political level" (document 8872/1/12 REV 1) and agreed to its transmission to COREPER for approval.

On this basis, COREPER is invited :

- to approve the document enclosed and
- to confirm the mandate of the FoP working group until the end of 2012 with a view to presenting to COREPER and Council for approval the complete revised arrangements, including the implementing measures in paragraphs 18 and in section IV.

## Arrangements for Crisis Coordination at EU political level

### I. Introduction

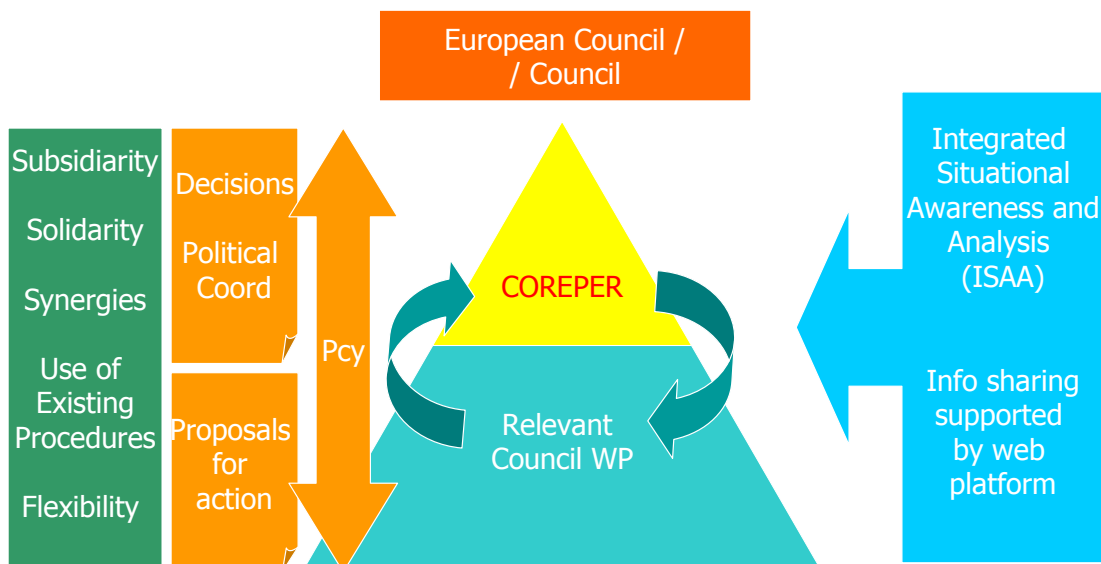
1. Some major emergencies or crises, of internal and/or external origin are of such a wide-ranging impact or political significance, that they require timely policy coordination and response at EU political level.<sup>1</sup> This could result from the number of affected or involved Member States, or the cross-sectorial nature of the crisis, the imminence thereof, or from time constraints, or a combination of these factors. This need, which led in 2006 to the creation of the EU Emergency and Crisis Coordination Arrangements (CCA), is still valid today.
2. Since 2006, in coping with a number of crises, the EU has gained experience and developed a stronger capacity to respond quickly to crisis situations requiring coordination at EU political level. Many aspects of the CCA (exercises, training and activation of the CCA "awareness mode" and use of the CCA Webpage) also contributed to increase the resilience of the EU and its institutions.
3. Council working parties and COREPER can be convened in a more timely manner today if needed. Therefore, in order to allow a swift and efficient action during a crisis, these arrangements will draw on the well-known regular Council procedures instead of having recourse to pre-defined ad hoc groups.
4. The arrangements defined herein are designed to be flexible. They provide the Presidency and the Council with the necessary tools and an Integrated Situational Awareness and Analysis support capability to decide on a case-by-case basis on the steps to be taken and on what format should be used to support political coordination and prepare policy options for Council decision making throughout the crisis situation. This includes also an appropriate coordination of a rapid and effective communication strategy.

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<sup>1</sup> References to "crisis" or "crisis situations" throughout this document cover crises as defined in this paragraph.

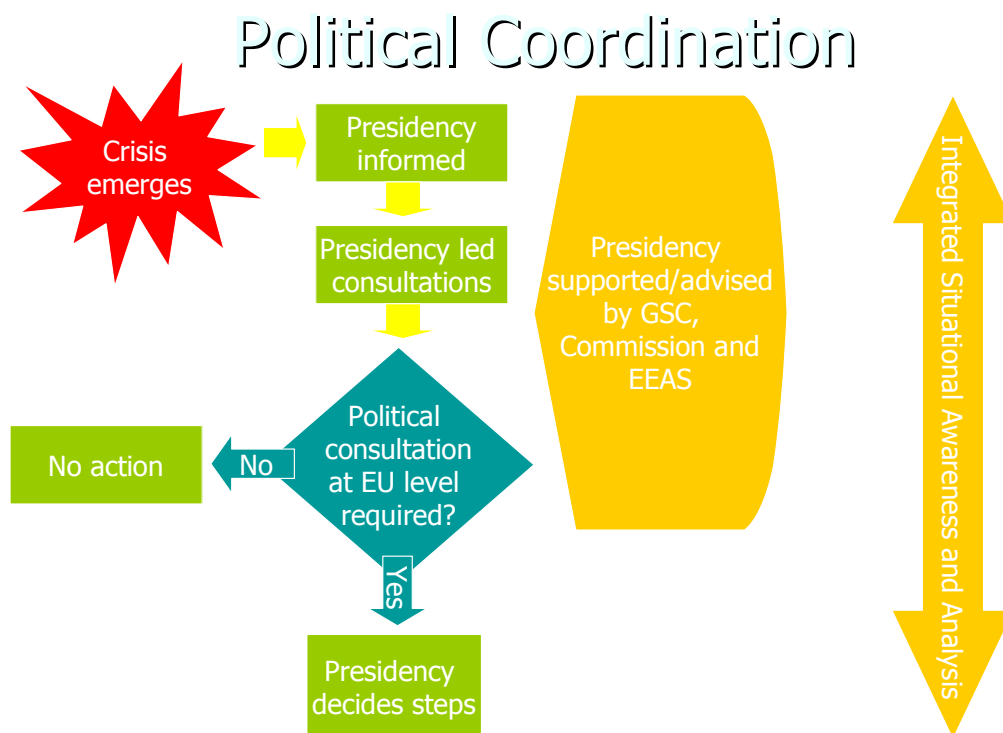
5. The key principle of subsidiarity, on which the 2006 EU Emergency and Crisis Coordination Arrangements were based, continues to apply. These arrangements do not infringe on existing competencies. They do not replace the existing sector-specific mechanisms or arrangements.
6. It will be crucial to fully exploit potential synergies between stakeholders and existing means, structures and capabilities at EU level, avoiding duplication of existing structures and the creation of new permanent structures.
7. Responding at EU political level in a coherent, efficient and timely way to such crises requires one single set of arrangements. The Arrangements for Crisis Coordination at EU political level may need to be adapted as appropriate to support the implementation of the Solidarity Clause once a decision is adopted by the Council in compliance with article 222 of the TFEU.

## Decision Making and Support



## **II. Political coordination and decision-making at EU level**

8. In crisis situations the Presidency has a central role to play. These arrangements provide it with the necessary tools and flexibility to decide on the most appropriate way to prepare rapid consultations and to develop possible proposals for action to be decided on by the Council.
9. In fulfilling its role under these arrangements, the Presidency will consult other Member States, especially those expressing concerns. The Presidency will be advised and supported by the General Secretariat of the Council (GSC), the Commission and the EEAS, within their respective roles and responsibilities. The Presidency may also seek expertise from relevant EU Agencies, Member States and others.
10. The Arrangements for Crisis Coordination at EU political level are organised in a COREPER context, relying on regular Council procedures. When faced with a crisis the Presidency will decide on the appropriateness of convening meetings of the relevant Council Working Parties and/or COREPER. Any Member State, the Commission or the EEAS can request the Presidency to do so.
11. Depending on the crisis, timely consultations or decisions at Council or European Council level could be needed. To this end, the office of the President of the European Council will be fully involved from the earliest stages of the political coordination process.
12. To prepare, develop and update, where needed, proposals for action to be discussed in Council the Presidency may gather a roundtable with the GSC, the Commission and the EEAS and other relevant stakeholders and/or experts (e.g. from the Member States). The office of the President of the European Council will be fully involved.



### III. Integrated Situational Awareness and Analysis (ISAA) support capability

13. In order to ensure an effective response to the crises and coordination at EU political level, the decision-making process shall be supported by Integrated Situational Awareness and Analysis. This is a key requirement expressed by the Member States as the pivotal element underpinning these arrangements.
14. Integrated Situational Awareness and Analysis will be jointly supported by the GSC, the Commission and the EEAS within their respective roles and responsibilities. It is of great importance that it is also fed by relevant information and analysis provided by the Member States (e.g. from relevant national crisis centers) and by EU Agencies.

15. This support will be available on a permanent basis. It will be provided to the Presidency and Council in a timely manner throughout the whole crisis situation, including while a crisis is emerging, allowing for pro-active crisis management. Depending on the evolution of the crisis, the Presidency can request to step up Integrated Situational Awareness and Analysis support. Outside times of crisis, regular monitoring from the sectorial EU sources will continue.
16. The Integrated Situational Awareness and Analysis support capability will:
- collect and share information regarding the current situation, analysis conducted by the EU and the Member States, decisions and measures taken or to be taken by stakeholders, the need for political coordination at EU level expressed by stakeholders;
  - process the above mentioned information and produce an integrated overview of the situation;
  - produce integrated analysis, including on the possible evolution and consequences of the situation.

Integrated Situational Awareness and Analysis will support the development of possible proposals for action, in the Presidency roundtable and/or in the relevant Council Working Group/COREPER. Integrated Situational Awareness and Analysis will also provide input to Member States.

17. A dedicated protected web platform, building on the current CCA webpage will serve as a key tool for the Integrated Situational Awareness and Analysis and as electronic hub between all stakeholders.
18. The GSC, the Commission and the EEAS will develop the Integrated Situational Awareness and Analysis as described in paragraph 14, 15 and 16. This will cover its functioning and organisation, the modalities to integrate information provided by Member States and the respective roles and responsibilities. An initial model shall be presented to the Member States by September 2012 in order to develop a clear understanding of the future system and to allow the development of the measures described in section IV. A fully functional model shall be presented to the Member States by December 2012. Implementation shall start in January 2013.

19. In the current context, pending agreement on the implementation proposal in paragraph 18, Integrated Situational Awareness and Analysis will have to be developed within existing means and capabilities. As a consequence, there will be limitations to the number of crises which could be handled in parallel and to the level of integration of the information and analysis provided.

#### **IV. Further measures to be developed**

20. To strengthen further the capacity to respond quickly at EU political level to crises, the following implementing measures shall be finalised by December 2012:
- Web platform
  - Training and Exercises
  - Lessons Identified/Learned
  - Communication Strategy

##### Web platform

21. As indicated in section III, the web platform is the key tool supporting the Integrated Situational Awareness and Analysis. It should be easily accessible to all stakeholders, both at Member States and EU level, ensuring timely and effective distribution and exchange of information relevant for EU political decision making. The web platform will be protected in order to enhance confidentiality and could be complemented by other existing channels for more classified information. It does not replace any of the existing sectorial web tools and fully respects ownership of information.
22. The web platform will be permanently available, notably for relevant background information, exercises, lessons learned and training activities as well as more routine issues such as the dynamic update of lists of points of contact. In order to prevent information overload, information management and filtering will need to be ensured.
23. The web platform, which will continue to be Council owned, will be managed together by the GSC, the Commission and the EEAS within their respective roles and responsibilities. The Presidency and the Member States will be involved on structural changes to the page.



24. Information will be posted by all relevant authorised stakeholders. The output from the Integrated Situational Awareness and Analysis will also be made available on the web platform. Activities on the web platform will be stepped up for a given crisis in agreement between the GSC, the Commission and the EEAS, fully involving the Presidency.

#### Training and Exercises

25. In order to enhance the knowledge and readiness to react quickly of all stakeholders, training on procedures and tools used in a crisis requiring coordination at EU political level will be organised as required. This will include trainings on the web platform.
26. Training can be complemented by specific exercises to be organised in a structured manner. They will be proposed by the Presidency and will involve the Member States on a voluntary basis.

#### Lessons Identified/Learned

27. Lessons from exercises and real life use of these arrangements will be identified. A structured process of lessons learned will be implemented.

#### Communication Strategy

28. Communication to the public will be taken into account from the earliest stages of and throughout the political coordination process.
29. Coherence of the message will be of the essence and coordination procedures will be defined in order to allow all actors to adhere to a common communication strategy.