

Basic information	
1995/0098(CNS) CNS - Consultation procedure Decision	Procedure completed
Civil protection: Community action programme 1998-1999 See also 1998/0354(CNS) Subject 4.30 Civil protection	

Key players				
European Parliament	Committee responsible		Rapporteur	Appointed
	ENVI Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection		GONZÁLEZ ÁLVAREZ Laura (GUE/NGL)	27/06/1995
	Committee for opinion		Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	BUDG Budgets		GREDLER Martina (ELDR)	01/06/1995
Council of the European Union	Council configuration		Meetings	Date
	Fisheries		2063	1997-12-19

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
04/05/1995	Legislative proposal published	COM(1995)0155 	Summary
16/06/1995	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
21/03/1996	Vote in committee		Summary
21/03/1996	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A4-0100/1996	
18/04/1996	Debate in Parliament		
08/05/1996	Modified legislative proposal published	COM(1996)0219 	Summary
19/12/1997	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
19/12/1997	End of procedure in Parliament		
14/01/1998	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1995/0098(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Decision
Amendments and repeals	See also 1998/0354(CNS)
Legal basis	EC Treaty (before Amsterdam) E 235
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ENVI/4/06754

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A4-0100/1996 OJ C 141 13.05.1996, p. 0006	21/03/1996	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T4-0208/1996 OJ C 141 13.05.1996, p. 0247-0258	19/04/1996	Summary
European Commission				
Document type		Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal		COM(1995)0155  OJ C 142 08.06.1995, p. 0019	04/05/1995	Summary
Modified legislative proposal		COM(1996)0219  OJ C 202 12.07.1996, p. 0009	08/05/1996	Summary
Other institutions and bodies				
Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES0963/1995 OJ C 301 13.11.1995, p. 0003	13/09/1995	Summary
CofR	Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR0300/1995 OJ C 100 02.04.1996, p. 0111	20/09/1995	Summary

Additional information		
Source	Document	Date

Final act

[Decision 1998/0022](#)
[OJ L 008 14.01.1998, p. 0020](#)

[Summary](#)

Civil protection: Community action programme 1998-1999

1995/0098(CNS) - 08/05/1996 - Modified legislative proposal

In its amended proposal, the Commission took over several of the amendments adopted by the EP in the House. These amendments related, in particular, to actions aimed at: - promoting the exchange of experiences at all levels within the framework of the programme, - contributing, within the framework of the actions implemented, to the prevention of natural and technological disasters, particularly by including the risks of disaster in environmental impact assessments and by taking preventive measures, - helping to ensure that those primarily responsible for and most directly involved in civil protection were better prepared and thus better able to respond to emergencies, - improving technical forecasting methods by means of demonstrations and pilot projects, - promoting collective solidarity. Research activities should give priority to the techniques which were least harmful to the environment. In the annex dealing with the implementation of actions on the ground, the Commission stated that actions relating to training and the exchange of experiences should also involve specialists and technicians involved in civil protection (particularly the services responsible for dealing with disasters in isolated and ultra-peripheral regions). With regard to simulation exercises, the actions should be aimed at improving effectiveness and speed of response in the event of disasters. In the case of pilot projects, the emphasis was placed on projects designed to increase the speed of response of the emergency services. These projects should, where possible, be multinational and make an impact and be publicised throughout the Union. The Commission also took over in part the amendments aimed at: - giving greater consideration to environmental aspects when forecasting disasters (particularly floods), - enhancing the sense of shared responsibility on the part of citizens and public awareness of hazards (particularly in connection with accidental discharges of toxic substances), - emphasising the role of NGOs and their possible participation in the programme, - implementing actions in close cooperation with national, regional and local authorities, particularly in the Union's isolated and ultra-peripheral regions, - keeping Parliament better informed of the programme's implementation. However, the Commission did not accept the amendments aimed at: - strengthening Community cooperation in the field of civil protection or coordinating the resources available to combat disasters at regional and supraregional level, - integrating a reference to the fifth Community programme on the environment, - providing for Community disaster simulation exercises and measures for peripheral regions in conjunction with third countries, - granting aid to NGOs to help them to improve the resources at their disposal in case of disasters within or outside the Community, - changing the comitology procedure (including the submission of the committee's assessment to Parliament), - amending the financial aspects of the action programme.

Civil protection: Community action programme 1998-1999

1995/0098(CNS) - 19/04/1996 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

In adopting the report by Mrs Laura GONZALEZ ALVAREZ (GUE/NGL, E), Parliament approved this proposal with the following amendments: - Parliament calls for actions which seek, in particular, to enhance prevention, the ability of citizens to protect themselves against risk and crisis situations, and to improve coordination at regional and local level when combating major disasters. It draws particular attention to the importance of heightening awareness of hazards which could arise from specific disasters, such as the accidental release of toxic materials; - the programme should contribute to increasing environmental protection, with a particular emphasis on the Union's isolated and ultra peripheral regions where the bringing-in of aid is difficult and the intervention procedures are limited as far as major emergencies are concerned. Particular attention should be paid to the smaller islands; - provision should be made with regard to determining the causes of disasters as well as their prevention (and, in particular, introducing the risks of disaster in the environmental impact assessment and taking any preventive measures required, including closure of the installation, for example); to the same end, the Annex to the proposal was amended in order to highlight these various points (by introducing new rates of Community financial contribution for one or other action and by clarifying the role of the NGOs); - a contribution should be made to increasing the degree of preparedness of those responsible for civil protection at all levels (including local and regional), the introduction of new intervention techniques, and self-protection and collective solidarity actions; - a report evaluating the programme should be forwarded to it every two years (instead of three years); - a new committee (advisory committee on civil protection) should be set up to implement this programme of actions jointly with the Commission.

Civil protection: Community action programme 1998-1999

1995/0098(CNS) - 13/09/1995 - Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report

The ESC hoped that as well as supporting, backing up and supplementing national activities, the programme would seek to inject Community added value in an area that was closely bound up with the development of a citizens' Europe. It noted that in the absence of a specific legal basis, the proposal for a decision establishing the action programme was based on Article 235. The ESC felt that the forthcoming Treaty revision should include a Title on civil protection, either in the form of a separate chapter or as an adjunct to an existing chapter, bearing in mind the potential Community added value in this field. The insertion of a separate chapter would be justified by the cross-sectoral nature of the problem, as in the case of the new chapters

on public health and consumer protection. As part of the preventive approach advocated by the ESC, it was important to enable the non-governmental organisations to contribute to the work of the advisory committee provided for in Article 4, as well as to training and experience-swapping activities.

Civil protection: Community action programme 1998-1999

1995/0098(CNS) - 04/05/1995 - Legislative proposal

This proposal for a decision aimed to establish a Community action programme in the field of civil protection. The programme's objective was to help protect persons, the environment and property in the event of natural or technological disasters. It was drawn up in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity (the idea was to complement and accompany the initiatives undertaken by the Member States rather than to replace the action of the Member States in this area) and had three main goals: - to help increase the level of preparation of those responsible for civil protection in the Member States in order to increase their ability to respond to an emergency; - to use pilot projects to help improve intervention techniques and methods; - to help promote public information, education and awareness in Europe in order to help citizens to protect themselves more effectively. An annex to the proposal detailed the type of actions financed and gave an indication of the allocation of resources to each action: - increase in the level of preparation of those responsible for civil protection: training (organisation of workshops bringing together senior experts from the Member States), exchanges of experts between Member States (training for a limited period of time in another Member State), secondment of one or several qualified training officers to undertake training modules, Community simulation exercises (comparison of the various means of intervention in the Member States with a view to improving effectiveness); - pilot projects to help improve the ability of the Member States to respond in the event of an emergency; - greater public information, education and awareness: exchanges between Member States of particularly effective measures to raise awareness, with emphasis on actions targeted at young people undergoing initial training or still at school, funding for travelling exhibitions and the distribution of information; - other actions: conferences, seminars directed at large audiences, actions having a direct impact on other Member States; - rapid mobilisation of experts to strengthen the emergency arrangements put in place in the Member States or third countries following a natural, technological or environmental disaster; - additional actions further to those provided for in the programme could also be envisaged if the necessary financial resources were available. As regards the budget, the Commission allocated the programme a financial envelope of ECU 13.8 million for the period 1996-2000. In implementing the programme, the Commission would be assisted by an advisory committee composed of representatives of the Member States.

Civil protection: Community action programme 1998-1999

1995/0098(CNS) - 20/09/1995 - Committee of the Regions: opinion

In its Opinion, the Committee of the Regions welcomed the Commission's proposal for an action programme and wholly supported its objectives. The Opinion drew a distinction between civil protection and disaster rescue. As regards the allocation of funding, a further distinction had to be made between the local and regional level on the one hand, and the supra-regional level on the other. The action programme should concentrate on the supra-regional or inter-regional aspects of civil protection. The Opinion recommended that Community resources be provided for supra-regional measures. It also put forward a number of recommendations to improve the efficiency of such cooperation in practice. As disasters rarely required supra-regional assistance, there was little mention of the EU's experience in areas such as communication or intervention. The rapporteur suggested that the programme should give priority to reciprocal training in the various methods used in the Member States, by both the authorities and the rescue services. The specific amendments related to: - the involvement of rescue services in the action programme; - increased reaction speeds through the improvement of the communication.

Civil protection: Community action programme 1998-1999

1995/0098(CNS) - 19/12/1997 - Final act

OBJECTIVE: to establish an action programme in the field of civil protection which seeks, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity, to help protect persons, the environment and property in the event of natural or man-made disasters. **COMMUNITY MEASURE:** Council Decision 98/22/EC establishing a Community action programme in the field of civil protection. **CONTENT:** this two-year programme (1998-1999) seeks to support and supplement the efforts made by Member States at national, regional or local level to promote civil protection and to encourage cooperation in this field. It explicitly excludes any harmonization of the legislation and regulations of the Member States in this area or the organization of the level of preparation at national level. The programme has a budget of ECU 3 million for the period in question and seeks specifically to: - help increase the level of preparation of those responsible for civil protection (training, exchanges of experts, Community simulation exercises); - use pilot projects to help improve intervention techniques and methods; - help promote information, education and sensitization of the public in order to improve their self-protection (exchanges of experience, distribution of information, travelling exhibitions); - mobilize experts in an emergency. An Annex to the decision details the type of action financed and gives an indication of the allocation of resources to each action. Actions are to be carried out in close cooperation with the competent national authorities and coordinated with other compatible Community action. The Commission will be responsible for implementing the programme, with the help of a committee of representatives from the Member States. An annual report on the progress and implementation of the programme will be drawn up. **ENTRY INTO FORCE:** 1 January 1998.