
Cooperation protocol

ESTABLISHMENT OF A NETWORK OF THE DIRECTORS-GENERAL OF EUROPEAN CRISIS CENTRES

We the undersigned,

Noting the similar challenges and problematics confronting the European Crisis Centres.

Aware of the fact that all of the European Crisis Centres are actively mobilised in the management of the COVID-19 crisis, and that this crisis once again demonstrates the absolute necessity of jointly providing quick, coordinated and effective answers on both the transnational and cross-border levels.

Wishing on this basis to continue and strengthen the cooperation between the Crisis Centres and establish a network of Directors-General of European Crisis Centres.

Highlighting the relevance of such a network having as its main objectives:

- to be mutually informed of the challenges confronting the different crisis centres;
- to share existing expertise and experiences;
- to support one another in the implementation of common solutions;
- to develop a network of colleagues for the various crisis management positions;
- to actively cooperate in the event of a crisis having international ramifications.

Emphasising the importance of maintaining the structural integrity of each centre of this network and taking account of the national character of crisis management.

Confirming that this network is a tool at the disposal of the Crisis Centres of European states for a more effective crisis management on the national level.

Assuring that this network neither duplicates nor replaces structures and mechanisms existing on the level of the EU or other international authorities, nor does it create any international-law obligations.

Thanking the General Secretariat of the Benelux Union for the logistical support it is graciously willing to provide to this network.

Given the foregoing, we acknowledge this day **the establishment of a network of the Directors-General of European Crisis Centres**, at the initiative of Belgium and supported by the Benelux partners.

Signed at **Brussels**, on 14 September 2021 by:



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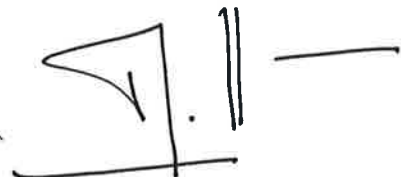
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