



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 18.11.2004
SEC(2004) 1473

COMMISSION STAFF WORKING PAPER

**ANNUAL REPORT ON THE ACTIONS BY THE COMMISSION IN THE CONTEXT
OF THE COUNCIL AND COMMISSION PROGRAMME OF 20 DECEMBER 2002
TO IMPROVE COOPERATION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION FOR PREVENTING
AND LIMITING THE CONSEQUENCES OF CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL,
RADIOLOGICAL OR NUCLEAR TERRORIST THREATS**

INTRODUCTION

1. The terrorist attacks in the US on 11 September 2001, and a spate of terrorist incidents since, showed that terrorism, including its chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) forms, has become a major threat to international peace and security. The fight against terrorism requires a comprehensive approach comprising political, economic, diplomatic, military and legal means. It should also include preparation for attacks, and the prevention and limitation of the consequences of any attack.
2. At the Ghent European Council of 19 October 2001, following threats of the use of biological and chemical means in terrorist operations, the Heads of State and Government asked the Council and the Commission “*to prepare a programme to improve cooperation between the Member States on the evaluation of risks, alerts and intervention, the storage of such means, and in the field of research*”.¹
3. The Laeken European Council on 13 and 14 December 2001 invited “*the Council and the Commission to move swiftly towards finalising the programme to improve cooperation between Member States with regard to threats of the use of biological and chemical means*”.² The Council agreed, on 13 June 2002, to broaden the scope of the programme so as to cover nuclear and radiological terrorism as well.³ The Seville European Council of 21 and 22 June 2002 reiterated its determination to combat terrorism.⁴
4. Following the request made in Laeken by the Heads of States and Governments, a programme to improve co-operation on preventing and limiting the consequences of chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear terrorist threats (CBRN Programme) was adopted by the Commission on 21 November 2002 and by the Council at the end of 2002.⁵ This Programme sets out seven strategic objectives that need to be addressed in order to improve protection of the population, the environment, the food chain and property against CBRN threats and attacks, and describes where there is a need for further action. On 20 December 2002, the Presidency, acting in cooperation with the Commission Services, issued an inventory of the instruments relevant to the programme.⁶
5. As reaction to the Madrid bombings of 11 March 2004 the European Council issued the Declaration on Combating Terrorism, stressing the necessity of joint action against terrorism. The Declaration emphasized the need for enhanced capability in the European Union and Member States to deal with the consequences of a terrorist attack. This could be achieved through the full implementation of the CBRN Programme.
6. The Presidency of the Council is currently working on widening the scope of the CBRN programme. The Commission’s position on the question of critical

¹ SN 4296/2/01 REV 2, p. 4, No 5.

² SN 300/01, p. 5.

³ 9593/02 + COR 1.

⁴ SN 200/02.

⁵ 14627/02

⁶ 15873/02

infrastructure, financing of terrorism and consequence management of terrorist attacks is covered by four Communications adopted on 20 October 2004⁷.

7. Paragraph 44 of the CBRN Programme states that “the programme will be regularly reviewed i.a. on the basis of information transmitted by the Member States and a brief status report on the progress of the Programme will be presented to the Council once a year”.
8. The present report is the Commission’s contribution to the second annual report for 2004. **It only mentions the changes that have occurred since the first annual report and until the end of September 2004 for each of the strategic objectives of the Programme.**

1 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE ONE:

Strengthening the risk analysis and the risk assessment of threats of CBRN-terrorism and their lines of propagation

To enhance the Community public health systems preparedness for CBRN terrorism, the focus is on strengthening risk assessment, communication and management of all kinds of health threats. Preparedness for threats to health has to cover the spectrum of activities. This ranges from a simple threat or suspicion of a deliberate release designed to cause harm all the way up to mass casualties and interdiction of movement that might require law enforcement and civil protection interventions.

The Commission has already devised a system for the classification of CBRN incidents. It has also envisaged scenarios of releases of each of the different categories of CBRN agents under different circumstances and corresponding algorithms for introducing counter-measures and for informing partners in the Rapid Alert System RAS-BICHAT and the communication system between the Global Health Security Initiative partners (Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Italy, Mexico, United Kingdom, United States, the World Health Organisation, and the Commission).

Furthermore, the Commission addresses the risk analysis and the risk assessment of critical industrial, chemical and petrochemical plants falling under the scope of the Seveso II Directive⁸.

In the field of threat assessment and scenario analysis for emergency planning, the Commission is preparing to classify terrorist actions (both CBRN and conventional) into scenarios and to model their impact on the population. It is also working on assessment of the effects of potential countermeasures. Moreover, the Commission is participating in the development of “Probabilistic Risk Assessment: ASTRA” in the context of anti-fraud and on “Assessment of threats in country profiles” in the field of non-proliferation.

⁷ COM(2004) 698 final, COM(2004) 700 final, COM(2004) 701 final, COM(2004) 702 final

⁸ 96/82 EC

2 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE TWO:

Reducing the vulnerability of the population, the environment, the food chain and property against CBRN threats through preventive measures

2.1 Analysis of vulnerabilities to terrorist attacks

In the chemicals sector (a so-called critical infrastructure) the Commission is working on a methodology to identify the sensitive areas within an industrial installation in order to make operators more aware of the potential weaknesses of their safety and security systems.

As far as the vulnerability of the population is concerned, the Commission is developing a method for the definition of areas at risk from attacks on hazardous installations.

In 2002 the Commission, taking into account scientific and social developments, performed a prospective study which identifies, explains and evaluates the ways in which EU society is or may become significantly vulnerable to attack by terrorists using infective and toxic agents. Due to the sensitivity of its content, access to the final report has been restricted.

The Commission has also undertaken a study on the issue of the security of supply of various strategic products. This document consists of an inventory which describes extensively the current situation as regards inter alia security of supply at European Union level in the health sector, the energy and transport sector, as well as civil protection and communication.

2.2 Implementation of preventive measures

a) Human health

Health security is a major component in the Commission's "stability and security" objective for 2003 and 2004. A Communication on progress with the implementation of the Health Security Programme was published on 2 June 2003.⁹ The Commission and the Member States are in the process of implementing and developing the 25 action points of this programme.

At the request of the Council, in 2003 the Commission services prepared a blueprint for work to start on Generic Preparedness Planning for Community level health threats. This has been the subject of consultation with the Member States in the framework of the Health Security Committee. Once updated and developed, it will be presented in 2005 as a Commission Communication.

The goal of the EU in generic preparedness planning is to assist Member States in factoring in their plans the EU dimension with its body of laws in various sectors that impinge on emergency plans and to make possible the inter-operability of such plan, mainly by the setting up of a co-ordination mechanism that enhances co-operation between key Member States' and Commission-players. By doing so the draft for

⁹ 10327/03 - COM(2003) 320 final

discussion of a Planning contains different chapters aiming to identify shortcomings, vulnerabilities and incompatibilities between national and/or EU systems, policies and co-ordination.

Moreover, on 26 March 2004 the Commission published a working paper on pandemic influenza planning which will apply irrespective of the origin (natural or deliberate) of the pandemic.

b) Food chain

Emergency measures could be adopted for each stage of the food chain. A general plan for food/feed crisis management was adopted on 29 April 2004 by the Commission.¹⁰ The plan focuses not only on the management of crises, but also on tools to prevent a difficult situation from developing into a real crisis.

c) Environment

The Seveso II Directive¹¹ was extended in December 2003. The new legislation took account of recent accidents (Baia Mare, Enschede, Toulouse) and of the outcome of technical work carried out in the field of Seveso, in particular on carcinogens, substances dangerous for the environment, explosives and fertilizers. The amendment imposes additional requirements on operators and on Member States and emphasizes the need to facilitate reinforced cooperation with civil protection assistance operations.

d) Transports and energy

The Commission has adopted a number of measures relating to aviation, maritime, railway and road security:

- implementation of the common basic standards on aviation security;¹²
- common specifications for national civil aviation security quality control programmes;¹³
- procedures for conducting Commission inspections in the field of civil aviation security;^{14,15}
- measures on the security of maritime vessels and port installations;¹⁶
- minimal requirements for security applicable to the tunnels of the trans-European road networks;¹⁷

¹⁰ Commission Decision 2004/478/EC

¹¹ 96/82/EC

¹² Commission Regulation (EC) No 622/2003 of 4 April 2003

¹³ Commission Regulation (EC) No 1217/2003 of 4 July 2003

¹⁴ Commission Regulation (EC) No 1486/2003 of 22 August 2003

¹⁵ The three Commission regulations mentioned above are based on the Council Regulation 2320/2002 EC

¹⁶ Commission Regulation (EC) No 725/2004

¹⁷ Directive (EC) No 2004/54

- measures on the security of the Community railroads.¹⁸

The Commission has also submitted a proposal on international rail passengers' rights and obligations¹⁹ requiring railways to take adequate measures to ensure high level of security in the railway stations and on trains.

Moreover, the Commission is developing instruments and working on increasing harmonisation in order to improve the safety of energy installations and infrastructure, including fuel storage, across the EU. This work is primarily focused on the nuclear sector, and on electricity, gas and oil networks,.

3 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE THREE:

Ensuring a quick detection and identification of an actual attack and spreading of information (monitoring, warning and communications)

3.1 Detection and identification of a biological and chemical attack

The detection of deliberate releases of biological agents relies first and foremost on Member States' surveillance systems for monitoring the occurrence of infectious diseases. Co-ordination of these surveillance systems at EU level, especially for notification and exchange of information on outbreaks, is conducted in the framework of Decision 2119/98/EC on the surveillance and control of communicable diseases and its specific executive Commission Decision on case definitions for potential BT-pathogens.²⁰

Inventories of laboratories and their diagnostic capabilities were compiled to ensure the reliable and timely detection of agents likely to be used in a bio-terrorist attack.

The Commission services have evaluated the means available to diagnose some of the "very high and high threat" pathogens in some Member States. To do this projects have been launched on laboratory networking to ensure state of the art diagnosis of those pathogens likely to be used in a terrorist attack. A laboratory-working group has been established under the Health Security Committee (HSC). The mandate of the group is to provide a sensitive and reliable diagnosis of rare pathogens, including ortho-poxes, in each Member State through officially appointed laboratories and to reach agreement on methods and protocols. In the same field, the Commission is developing supporting equipment.

¹⁸ Directive (EC) No 2004/49

¹⁹ COM (2004) 143 final

²⁰ Commission Decision 2003/534/EC, of 17 July 2003 amending Decision No 2119/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and Decision 2000/96/EC as regards communicable diseases listed in those decisions and amending Decision 2002/253/EC as regards the case definitions for communicable - OJ L 184 , 23/07/2003 P. 0035 - 0039

3.2 New developments relating to existing networks

- the Rapid Alert System BICHAT in the Health Sector

A risk analysis of this system was performed at the end of 2003. This determined the needs and the level of security involved, established the risks and the level of threats the system may face, and fixed the cost effectiveness of its implementation. An enhanced system will be in place in the new crisis and communication centre to be developed in the coming months.

A medical intelligence system (MedISys) reinforces the network for surveillance of communicable diseases and the early detection of bio-terrorism activities. It uses online electronic information sources in order to detect rapidly, track and assess threats so that advance warning can be provided before any official confirmation or news reports.

- the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF)

A rapid alert system for the notification of a direct or indirect risk to human health deriving from food or feed was established in 2002. It involves Member States, the Commission and the European Food Safety Authority. Where a member of the network has any information on a serious direct or indirect risk to human health deriving from food or feed, this information must be immediately notified to the Commission under the rapid alert system. The Commission immediately transmits the notification to members of the network, together with any supplementary information on measures to restrict placing on the market, or forcing withdrawal from the market, etc.

- Common Emergency Communication System (CECIS)

In the field of civil protection and marine pollution, the CECIS communication system is currently undergoing a number of technical tests. At the same time the Commission has held two cycles of training courses for trainers from different Member States in order to prepare the national operational centers for the implementation of the system.

The testing phase will start in November 2004.

4 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE FOUR:

Mitigating the consequences of an attack and facilitating the return to normal conditions, and using and further developing all instruments that may be needed for such efficient consequence management

4.1 Civil protection

a) Inventory of equipment and resources available

- **military database**

In February 2003, the European Union Military Committee was mandated to establish a database of military assets and capabilities that could be used to protect civilian populations against the effects of terrorist attacks, including CBRN. This database, kept by the EUMS, is the military equivalent of the civil protection database kept by the Commission.

In December 2003, the Council decided to make the content of the military database available to the Community Mechanism. Following the adoption of the modalities, procedures and criteria on 17 May 2004, the Commission was given access to this database in June.

- **scenario approach**

In the area of health protection, the Commission has established a system of CBRN classification of incidents based on scenarios and algorithms for action developed with the Member States and the Global Health Security Initiative partners. These scenarios and algorithms have resulted in a classification system in RAS BICHAT and in GHSAG (Global Health Security Action Group) communications and serve for the formulation and testing of emergency plans in Member States. Scenarios have also been developed for exercises evaluating response plans for smallpox and anthrax outbreaks.

The Commission has actively contributed to exercises in Member States concerning the release of chemical and biological agents. The lessons from these exercises have been considered by all the Member States in the context of the Health Security Committee.

In response to the request put forward by the June European Council, and after consultation with the EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator, the Commission has initiated a new process designed to assess the civil protection capabilities that are available at European level to assist countries affected by a major terrorist attack. This exercise is not intended to provide a realistic picture of all national civil protection resources available within the participating countries, but focuses specifically on the assets and capabilities that could be made available to assist other countries in the event of a major terrorist attack.

The Commission has taken a scenario-based approach to identify both the needs for assistance at EU level and the resources available in such cases. These scenarios

cover the following types of attacks: a massive explosion affecting critical infrastructure in the affected country, the dispersal of a chemical agent, the dispersal of a biological agent, the dispersal of radiological material (N and R-scenario), an attack against a sea-going tanker, agri-terrorism and the deliberate contamination of food.

Based on the scenarios, the Commission has developed a consolidated list of the civil protection assets and capabilities required to handle the consequences of major terrorist attacks in Europe, and a comprehensive questionnaire focusing both on quantitative and qualitative information. The Commission has requested the 30 countries participating in the Community Mechanism to provide information on the civil protection assistance they could offer in each of these scenarios. In the meantime, the European Union Military Staff has started upgrading the military database on the basis of the consolidated list and questionnaire developed by the Commission.

b) Organisation of workshops and exercises

In the area of health protection, numerous workshops, conferences and seminars have been organised by the Commission, including on forensic epidemiology with Europol, on deliberate releases of chemical agents, on vaccines and antivirals, and on the interoperability of emergency plans.

In the period 2004/05, in the framework of the Community Civil Protection Mechanism, the Commission funded five exercises, accompanied by workshops. While not uniquely devoted to terrorist threats, one exercise deals with an explosion in a petrochemical plant and two of them are on the release of dangerous CBRN materials as the result of an earthquake. The Austrian exercise EUDREx 2004, for instance, will involve search and rescue activities in full protective gear due to the release of R, B and C agents. The mitigation measures under these scenarios are very much the same as would be needed following a terrorist attack.

The call for proposals launched in May 2004 requested proposals for exercises simulating either terrorist attacks or natural disasters. Unfortunately, none of the proposals submitted involves a terrorist scenario. Based on this experience, the 2005 call for proposals may focus exclusively on terrorist scenarios.

4.2 Health

The Programme of cooperation on preparedness and response to biological and chemical agent attacks (health security) includes actions relevant to the mitigation of the consequences of an attack.

a) Creation of a database of health experts

Knowledge about bio-terror agents and corresponding diseases and their clinical and epidemiological management and laboratory analysis is limited. Identifying experts in the EU and listing them in a Directory of Experts on health assistance to be shared by Member States authorities will help with mutual assistance. A Directory of Experts has already been set up, but more information from Member States on the resources available and on those willing to participate is needed.

b) Working Group on medicinal product development set up under the Health Security Committee

This group investigates the capabilities of Member States for the development and production of medicinal products (including vaccines) against bio-terror agents.

A study has been completed on the dilution of existing smallpox vaccines and on vaccine immuno-globulin development. The study showed that dilution of first generation vaccines will be difficult in case of urgent need.

Clinical guidelines for the recognition and case management of diseases related to the pathogens that may be used in deliberate releases have been developed on the basis of a consensus process and peer review. Ten manuscripts have been prepared and will be published, on anthrax, smallpox, botulism, plague, tularaemia, haemorrhagic fever viruses, brucella, Q fever, encephalitis viruses, glanders and melioidosis.

c) Co-ordination and evaluation of emergency plans

It has become a necessity to intensify work on emergency planning, in particular through modelling, to permit the refinement and strengthening of current plans. A detailed comparison of smallpox plans of all the Member States has been carried out and the issues of the interface and Community dimension have been identified for action. The Commission jointly with EUROPOL has developed a training module on interaction between Public Health and Law Enforcement to develop understanding of relevant laws and common approaches, using the "train-the-trainers" strategy.

4.3 Research and development

The Commission is currently working on modelling the consequences of possible attacks, and estimating the area affected and the extent of the consequences and thus the needs for emergency response. It is examining the adequacy of conventional tools for assessing the consequences of chemical attacks.

5 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE FIVE:

Strengthening the scientific basis of the programme

5.1 Cooperation between the Commission and the Member States

The Sixth Research and Development Framework Programme provides for studies and research on issues related to civil protection, crisis management, life sciences, radiation emergency management, genomics and biotechnology for health, food quality and safety (including traceability of food and food components with regard to malicious introduction of pathogens), bio-security and protection against risks arising from terrorist attacks.

In the context of "Scientific Support for Policies", six co-ordination activities are currently being implemented following the launch of two calls for proposals in 2002 and 2003, in the following areas:

- Detection of haemorrhagic fever viruses and variola virus and their use in diagnostics;
- European research networking activities to develop safe products and policies to protect citizens from the threat of anthrax attacks and other agents of bio-terrorism;
- Assessment of the vulnerabilities of modern societies to terrorist acts employing radiological, biochemical or chemical agents with a view to helping develop preventive and suppressive crisis management strategies;
- Transmission modelling and risk assessment for released or newly emergent infectious disease agents;
- Crop bio-security as a means of preventing and preparing for bio-terrorism;
- A European approach to nuclear and radiological emergency management and rehabilitation strategies, to provide better coherence and transparency in decision-making processes on local, national and cross-border operations.

Under "Support for Policies", a third call for research proposals has been launched. It will cover topics in the areas of protection, cure, biology of pathogens, and policy.

In the context of GMES (Global Monitoring for Environment and Security), a Network of Excellence in support of Security, GMOSS (Global Monitoring for Security and Stability), started in March. The objective of this project is to work towards enhancing European monitoring capability, based on earth observation, for civil applications such as humanitarian aid, reconstruction, verification of compliance with non-proliferation treaties, policing operations, including vulnerability assessment, and developing stability beyond EU's borders.

In addition to INSPIRE (Infrastructure for Spatial Information In Europe), a specific support action has been introduced to the Work Programme on Space on data harmonisation in order to increase the level of interoperability among geospatial information systems. The development of common standards and specifications for data documentation, collection, and exchange is central to the successful technical implementation of INSPIRE.

Under the objective "Improving aircraft safety and security", a project on Security of Aircraft in the Future European Environment, SAFEE, started in early 2004. The general aim of the project is the construction of an advanced aircraft security system designed to operate during on-board terrorist threat scenarios.

5.2 Coordination activities

The Research and Development Expert Group on Countering the Effects of Biological and Chemical Terrorism has met six times. The inventory of research activities in Member States discussed by this group is being updated in the second half of 2004.

The Commission services have started an initiative on exploring the ethical implications of scientific research on bio-weapons and prevention of bio-terrorism,

which addresses issues such as the science/security dilemma and raising the awareness of scientists regarding the possible dual use of their findings. A conference on ethical implications took place in Brussels in February 2004. As part of the follow-up, a research topic on “The Science-Security Dilemma (SSD) and its implications for research on or with possible spin-offs for bio-terrorism” is planned for inclusion in the Call for Proposals on Scientific Support to Policies (to be launched in October 2004).

Based on lessons learnt from previous disasters, accidents and acts of terrorism, the Commission reviews the available techniques of decontamination following attacks involving dangerous substances. Furthermore, it models the dispersion of radioactive materials and estimates dose rates by using the software simulation code, combined with digital maps and satellite information.

5.3 Contribution from the Information Society Technologies (IST) work programme

Electronic communications networks and information infrastructures are converging and becoming increasingly intertwined, leading to complex new physical and logical interdependencies. There is thus potential for new threats through intentional attacks or accidental disruptions that could be launched or propagated from anywhere in the world to anywhere in the world at any time. Both current and future IST work programmes address prevention and management by encouraging the development of integrated multidisciplinary frameworks for dependability and security, and advanced modelling/simulation techniques and technologies for critical infrastructure, interdependencies, recovery and continuity.

Research projects newly funded, as of September 2004, by the IST programme’s strategic objective on risk management are addressing among other themes: inspection of explosives in containers via neutron technology; positioning and communication with rescue personnel via ultra-broad band radio; emergency interventions and bomb disposal support via secure mobile mechatronics; real-time alert in dangerous goods transport incidents; and advanced crisis management systems for efficient response to crises based on dual-use technologies such as C4I (command, control, communication, computer & intelligence).

5.4 Preparatory Action on security related research

Following the different requests from the Parliament and the Council, the Commission has started a Preparatory Action entitled "Enhancement of European industrial potential in the field of security research 2004-2006", designed to help improve European citizens’ security, to reinforce European technological and industrial potential in this area, and to develop advanced technological tools in support of policy makers. This Preparatory Action covers the period 2004-2006 and addresses five main areas, including protection against terrorism.

The first call for proposals, which closed on 23 June 2004, generated tremendous interest and resulted in 173 eligible proposals. Twelve proposals were retained for funding, seven for research projects and five for supporting activities. Out of the seven research proposals, two proposals are related to the fight against terrorism, including CBRN.

5.5 Towards a “European Security Research Programme” (ESRP)

A Group of Personalities (GoP) was established in 2003 and tasked to propose key orientations, principles and priorities for a future European Security Research Programme (ESRP).

The GoP report, presented to Romano Prodi on 15 March 2004, describes the essential elements of a “**European Security Research Programme**” (ESRP) and its contribution towards addressing the new security challenges of a changing world. Its main recommendations include:

- The establishment of an ESRP, from 2007 onwards, with funding of at least 1 billion euros per year²¹, additional to currently existing resources,
- The creation of a “**European Security Research Advisory Board**” to define strategic lines of action, user involvement, implementation mechanisms and a strategic agenda for the ESRP,
- The need for cooperation between European institutions and the other stakeholders involved (e.g. industry, research institutes, public authorities and other end users).

As a follow-up, the Commission adopted on 7 September a **Communication** entitled “**Security Research: The Next Steps**”,²² to initiate a debate with the Council and the Parliament. It subscribes to the main thrust of the report, and indicates steps for taking the activity forward:

- Consultation and cooperation with stakeholders, especially via the “European Security Research Advisory Board” to be established in the autumn of 2004.
- Development of an ESRP, to become, from 2007, a specific programme within the 7th Framework Programme of Community Research.
- Ensuring an effective institutional setting, taking into account the Common Foreign and Security Policy and European Security and Defence Policy and other relevant Community policies (e.g. fight against terrorism including bio-terrorism, cross-border control, transport, and environment), and developing cooperation and synergies with the European Defence Agency.
- Establishing a governance structure responding to the needs of security research work in terms of contract, participation and funding.

²¹ this funding will not be covered in total by the Community budget
²² COM (2004) 590

6 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE SIX:

Cooperating with third countries and international organisations (international cooperation)

6.1 Health security

The Global Health Security Initiative (GHSI) was agreed in Ottawa on 7 November 2001 by the G7, Mexican Health Ministers and the Commissioner for Health and Consumer Protection and has similar goals to those of EU co-operation (collaboration on smallpox emergency plans and training, laboratory detection techniques, risk management and communication, chemical incident preparedness, patient isolation techniques). The WHO is fully associated in these activities.

An incident scale for risk communication and rules for response in various CBRN scenarios have been developed between the parties to the initiative and shared with all the EU Member States. Workshops have been held on smallpox, using the “training-the-trainers” approach. Other workshops on smallpox vaccines and patient isolation have been carried out. Inter-laboratory tests have been carried out on smallpox and anthrax. Groups have been set up on laboratory collaboration, risk communication and co-ordination, field investigation, radionuclear terrorist events and chemical terrorist events and influenza.

In September 2003 a smallpox plan evaluation exercise (Global Mercury) was conducted. Ministers and the Commissioner for Health and Consumer Protection meet regularly to review progress. At the last meeting of the GHSI in Berlin on 7 November the Commission was tasked with the establishment of a co-operation platform on bio-safety research. The Ministers and the Commissioner are due to meet in Paris on 10 December 2004.

6.2 Civil protection

On 19 May 2004, an Administrative Arrangement was signed by the Commission with the Russian Federation Ministry for Civil Defence, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters (EMERCOM of Russia) on cooperation between the Monitoring and Information Centre and the Operational Centre of EMERCOM of Russia in order to facilitate the rapid exchange of information in emergencies.

6.3 Research and development

The Commission cooperates with international bodies such as: International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Europol and International Technical Working Group (ITWG) to combat illicit trafficking of nuclear and radioactive materials. It has developed:

- administrative and organisational measures through the implementation of a “Model Action Plan”

- scientific/technical measures through detection systems, categorisation and training of law enforcement officers.

The Commission is also involved in European Safeguards Research and Development Association (ESARDA) networking, e.g. working group on verification technologies and methodologies, physical protection in the Containment Surveillance Working group.

7. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE SEVEN:

Ensuring an efficient overall use and coordination of the instruments used in implementing this programme (coordination and implementation)

The Commission and the Council have each within their respective areas of competence, ensured the efficient coordination of the relevant instruments and initiatives within the sectors relating to preventing and limiting the consequences of CBRN terrorism.

The Commission had already brought under one heading the various services and networks responsible for civil protection, health protection and research expertise. Since 2002, there has been an inter service group on civil protection to facilitate exchange and coordination in the area of CBRN terrorism.

In this context, the Commission has organised workshops and exercises in cooperation with the Community networks likely to be involved in dealing with emergencies.