



**EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 29 September 2010

## **Fifth EU Emergency and Crisis Coordination Arrangements Exercise**

The fifth EU-wide exercise to test the functioning of the EU's Emergency and Crisis Coordination Arrangements (CCA) was conducted successfully between 27 and 29 September 2010.

The joint exercise of the Presidency, the Council Secretariat, the Commission and Member States aimed at verifying the ability of the EU to quickly and efficiently respond to a large-scale crisis. The results confirmed that the arrangements are appropriate and demonstrated the added value of coordinated crisis response at EU level, as well as the capacity of the Council and the Commission to support Member States effectively. The lessons learned in particular with regard to information sharing and communication will allow for further improving the crisis coordination arrangements.

The crisis scenario simulated a bioterrorist attack during a European football championship organised by Poland and the Ukraine. It allowed for testing the coordination of crisis response in the areas of health, transport, border control, public order and civil protection.

ANNEX

Background

On 1 June 2006, the Council approved interim Crisis Coordination Arrangements in Brussels (CCA). The arrangements are part of the EU's crisis management mechanisms.

The CCA provide Member States' Permanent Representatives in Brussels with a platform for exchanging information and coordinating action, in the context of an emergency or crisis whose nature is deemed to be sufficiently serious (e.g. simultaneously affecting several Member States and the interests of the Union as a whole) to require an exceptional response at EU level.

The arrangements are triggered in the framework of the Council by the Member State holding the Presidency, assisted by the Council Secretariat and the Commission, in consultation with the directly affected Member States.

In setting up these arrangements, the Council invited the Council Secretariat, in full collaboration with the European Commission, to hold regular exercises to test the adequacy and efficiency of the CCA internal procedures.

# **P R E S S**

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