

## **CBRN Centre of Excellence in Eastern and Central Africa First Round Table Meeting of the National Focal Points**

**Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI)  
Nairobi, Kenya**

**13 November 2012**

The first round-table meeting of the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) Centres of Excellence (CoE) initiative in the Eastern and Central Africa region will be held in Nairobi on 13 September 2012 within the premises of the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI). This technical event organized by UNICRI and hosted by the Government of the Republic of Kenya, aims at strengthening the cooperation amongst the Eastern and Central Africa countries, the EU stakeholders, the United Nations and the international organizations creating new productive cooperation with other international relevant bodies.

Participants include representatives of the Eastern and Central Africa countries, EU Institutions and the United Nations.

The meeting will provide an overview of the CBRN CoE Initiative, discuss the roles of the partner countries and the possible role of the CBRN Centres of Excellence in supporting bilateral and multilateral cooperation, present the methodology for needs assessment and take stock of the progress made thus far in the region.

It is expected that at the end of the conference, each actor will have a better understanding of the EU initiative, will know how to be informed on regular basis and how to coordinate and cooperate with the CBRN Centres of Excellence.

This event will prepare, at technical level, the success of the implementation of the activities and projects to reinforce partner countries' CBRN policies.

## Background

The creation of the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) Centres of Excellence (CoE) aims at implementing a coordinated strategy for CBRN risk mitigation at the international, regional and national levels. The origin of the risk can be criminal (proliferation, theft, sabotage and illicit trafficking), accidental (industrial catastrophes, in particular chemical or nuclear, waste treatment and transport) or natural (pandemics but also mitigation of impact of natural hazards on CBRN materials and facilities (earthquake, fire, flood, etc.)). The CBRN CoE initiative supports the reinforcement of the institutional capacity needed to fight against this risk.

The rationale of the initiative is to promote at regional level, in sensitive parts of the globe, a culture of safety and security in chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) domains. This is in the obvious interest of the regions themselves but also in the interest of building a stronger EU security architecture.

The CBRN CoE is sponsored by the European Union through the EU Instrument for Stability (IfS - Regulation (EC) No 1717/2006) and it is implemented jointly by the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI).

Today, more than fifty countries in six regions of the world are starting to exchange best practices and confidence building measures among themselves with the support from the UN, the G8 Global partnership and many other strategic partners.

The CoE addresses regional CBRN needs in collaboration with the interested countries through specific tailored projects.

## More information:

Website of the CBRN Centres of Excellence – An initiative of the European Union  
<http://www.cbrn-coe.eu>

Website of DG Development and Cooperation – EuropeAid – Instrument for Stability  
[http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/how/finance/ifs\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/how/finance/ifs_en.htm)

## Contacts:

Alma Pintol, CBRN CoE Regional Coordinator for Eastern and Central Africa, UNICRI  
[pintol@unicri.it](mailto:pintol@unicri.it)

Michael Thornton, CBRN CoE Project Coordinator, European Commission Joint Research Centre (JRC)  
[michael.thornton@jrc.ec.europa.eu](mailto:michael.thornton@jrc.ec.europa.eu)



Eddie Maier, EuropeAid Development and Cooperation Directorate-General - Instrument for Stability  
[Eddie.maier@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Eddie.maier@ec.europa.eu)

Bruno Dupré, Policy Coordinator on CBRN issues, European External Action Service  
[Bruno.DUPRE@eeas.europa.eu](mailto:Bruno.DUPRE@eeas.europa.eu)

Delegation of the European Union to Kenya  
[Delegation-Kenya@eeas.europa.eu](mailto:Delegation-Kenya@eeas.europa.eu)