

**12 th Ministerial Session of the European and Mediterranean Major Hazards
Agreement (EUR-OPA)
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Short Intervention on **Vulnerability Reduction of Structures**

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Thank you Mr Chairman,

Let me address you on behalf of our Ministry of Infrastructure, Transport and Networks and especially Earthquake Planning and Protection .

I would also thank the Russian Authorities for the perfect organization of this Event.

Dear Colleagues of the Open Partial Agreement ,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is well known that Seismic Risk is the result of the multiplication of seismic Hazard by vulnerability. As the Seismic Hazard of an Area cannot be changed, the reduction of Seismic Risk of a structure is mainly a matter of minimizing or even eliminating its vulnerability. Thus our target is prevention before an earthquake event.

In our Country Greece and especially the Competent Agencies E.P.P.O. (Earthquake Planning and Protection Organization) as well as the European Center on Prevention and Forecasting of Earthquakes confront the reduction of Vulnerability of Structures by taking measures in two parallel levels :

First level

- **The Reduction of the Vulnerability in Existing structures**, which are the most vulnerable, copes with two kinds of actions :
 - **Short – Term Measures**, as Removal of Hazards, Prompt Interventions, Fire – extinction stations etc and
 - **Long – Term Measures**, Dealing with Preseismic Control of Public Buildings and Public Welfare Institutions (eg Structures of Great Importance as Schools, Hospitals, Bridges, lifelines, Monuments etc) and also with the Intervention Codes. I have to underline that concerning the Preseismic Controls of the Private Structures are responsibility of the Owners. State is elaborating ways of giving them financial motivations in correlation with policies focusing in low energy consumption homes.
A common Decree for the implementation of the above is going to be issued by the Ministry of Infrastructure Ministry Transport and Networks .

Second level

- **The Reduction of the Vulnerability in New Structures**, is dealing with the Composition of New and Stricter Codes .

By the end of December 2010, the existing Greek National codes will be substituted by the Eurocodes accompanied by their National Annexes (Special Regulations adapted to Greek local Conditions) as well as Background Reports.

Thank for your attention