Dear participants, dear friends

Even I’m not physically present today (as previous commitments prevented me to be in Athens), on behalf of the Major Hazards Agreement of the Council of Europe I wish to warmly welcome you to the workshop on “Implementation of the EC8 – p. 3:2005: assessment and interventions on buildings in earthquake prone areas”.

As many of you already know, the Agreement has since its creation back in 1987 (already 26 years ago!) supported the work on cultural heritage protection against major hazards, in particular through the activities developed by its associated centres in Ravello, Lisbon, Skopje and of course the ECPFE centre who hosts the present workshop.

That workshop, who gathers together experts from Greece, Romania and Bulgaria, is a proof of the potential of international cooperation to search common solutions to similar challenges and reflects the wish of the Agreement of an increased synergy between its specialized centres. I’m sure that the outcome of the workshop will be fruitful and will contribute significantly to the final result of the associated coordinated project.

I also take advantage of that occasion to pay a due tribute to Professor Luis Mendes Victor who unfortunately passed away recently and who was, as director of the European Centre for Urban Risks (CERU) in Lisbon, one of the pillars of the work on that field of cultural heritage and disasters.

Best wishes for your work whose conclusions I personally look forward with great interest.