

THE MONITORING AND INFORMATION CENTRE (MIC)

CIVIL PROTECTION MECHANISM IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

European Commission

DG Environment

Civil Protection Unit



COMMUNITY CIVIL PROTECTION MECHANISM: BASIC FACTS

- **Legal Basis:** Council Decision of 23 October 2001
- **General role:** The Mechanism can be called upon to facilitate and support civil protection assistance in the event of a major disaster inside or outside the EU
- **Scope:** Any major natural or man-made disaster, including CBRN or other terrorist attacks



30 PARTICIPATING STATES



25 EU MS
+
Bulgaria,
Romania,
Iceland,
Liechtenstein,
Norway

30 participants
representing
appr. 488 Mio
inhabitants



THE MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMUNITY MECHANISM

- to enhance preparedness:
 - Database
 - Training programme
 - Exercises
- to support and facilitate civil protection assistance interventions in the event of a major disaster:
 - Monitoring and Information Centre (MIC)
 - Common Emergency Communication and Information System (CECIS)



THE MAIN COMPONENTS OF THE SYSTEM

- Monitoring and Information Centre (MIC)
- Exercises
- Training
- Other components:
 - Civil Protection Action Programme
 - Marine Pollution Action Programme



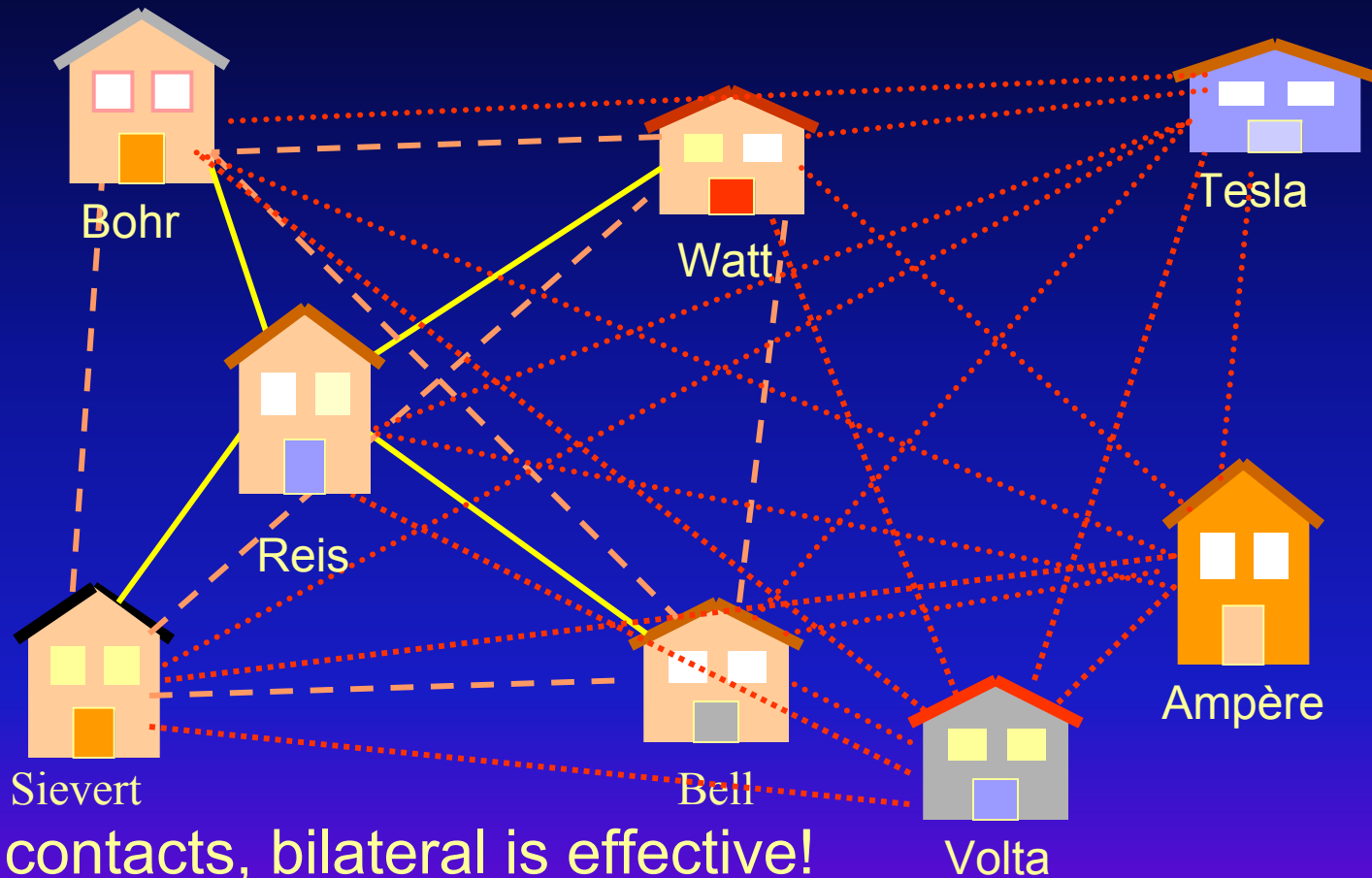
THE MONITORING AND INFORMATION CENTRE (MIC)

- operational (24/7) point of contact within the Commission;
 - entry point for assistance requests;
 - dispatching expert teams within a few hours;
 - providing, where appropriate, technical support;
 - collecting and distributing validated information;
 - providing access to other EC services, such as ECURIE and BICHAT.
- The MIC is a one-stop shop for civil protection assistance**



Bilateral or Centralised Solution?

Compare with developing phone system:



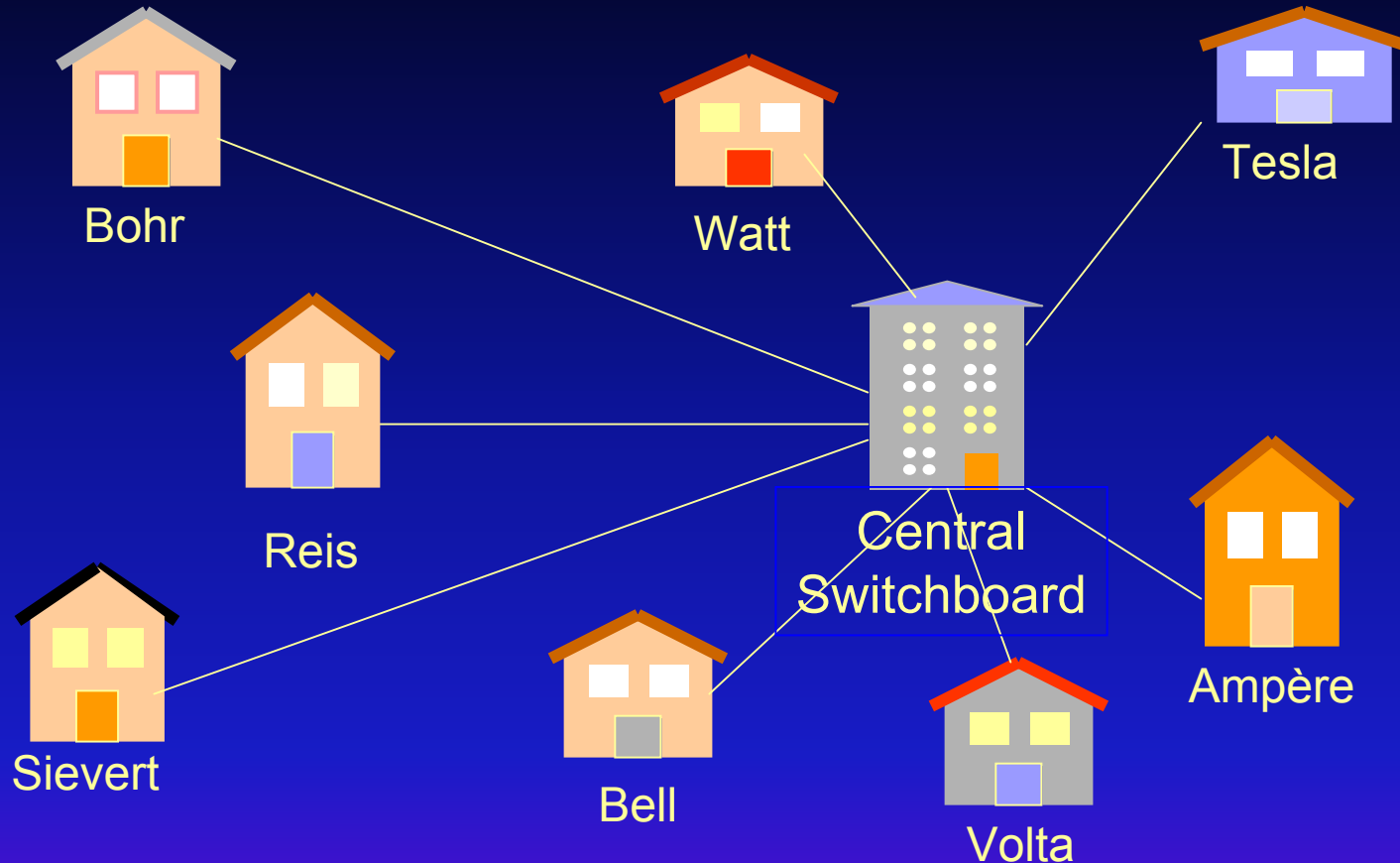
For few contacts, bilateral is effective!

With many contacts, this becomes chaotic!



Bilateral or Centralised Solution?

Compare with developed phone system:

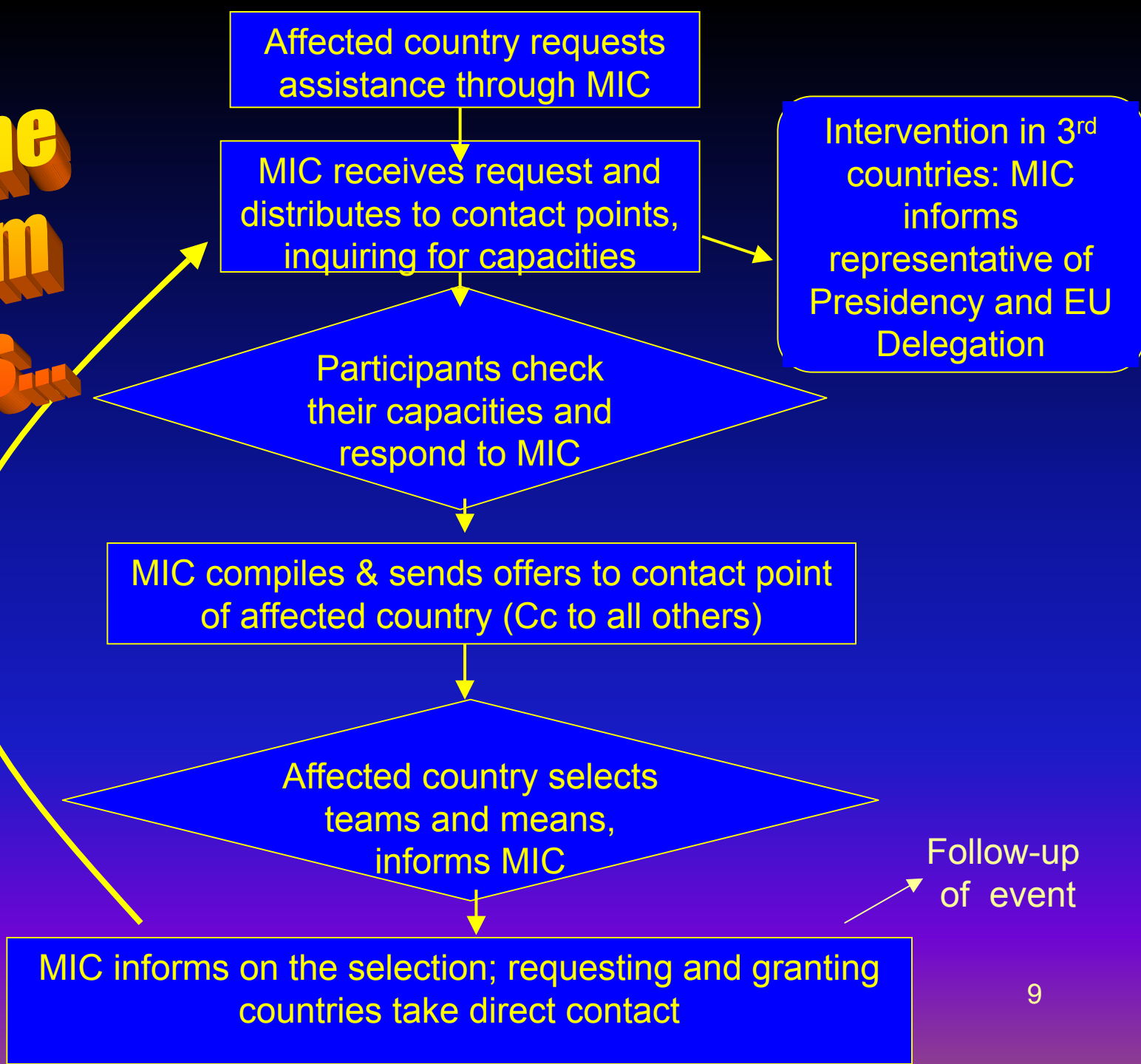


For many partners, centralised solution is more effective, MIC acts as central switchboard!



How the system works...

update



THREE TYPES OF INTERVENTIONS

1. Civil protection interventions within the EU
2. Civil protection interventions outside the EU
3. Civil protection interventions as part of a « crisis management operation »



SOME OF THE EMERGENCIES HANDLED BY THE MIC

INSIDE


- Floods in Central Europe
- Prestige accident
- Forest fires France, Portugal
- Floods Southern France

OUTSIDE

- Earthquake Algeria
- Earthquake Iran
- Earthquake Morocco
- Tsunami South Asia
- Katrina Hurricane, USA



Complementarity between civil protection (DGT ENV) and other external emergency assistance in the Commission

	ECHO (humanitarian aid)	ENV (civil protection)
Geographical scope	outside EU	mainly inside EU
Implementation partners	NGO, UN, Red Cross	Member States' Civil Protection authorities
Kind of support	financial	in-kind (pumps, SAR..)
Duration of operation	typically 12-18 months, in some countries ECHO might stay for years	several days, max. 2-3 weeks
Types of crisis	80% conflicts, 20% natural disasters	mainly natural disasters or technological accidents, no conflicts
 Budget	+/- 500 million € p.a.	+/- 10 million € p.a.

DATA BASE ON EXPERTS AND TEAMS

- Intervention teams and other support identified by participating states
- Experts selected for assessment or coordination teams
- To be completed to also contain response capacities like equipment and means (Commission Communication of 2004-03-25)



CECIS (in Planning / Implementation)

Common Emergency Communication and Information System

Objectives: to facilitate the duties of MIC and Partners' Contact Points for alert and dissemination of information; ability to handle classified (restricted) information

- Based on web-technology, but using secured and reliable lines (TESTA)
- cost of installation covered by Commission
- open for additions and updates
- multilingual interface



THE TRAINING PROGRAMME (1)

The Commission has developed a comprehensive training programme, including:

- Training courses**
- Simulation exercises**
- Exchange of experts**



THE TRAINING PROGRAMME (2)

Objectives for exercises:

- To verify and improve procedures
- To provide a learning opportunity
- To enhance operational cooperation

Objectives for courses:

- To provide training for personnel
- To improve the coordination of assistance
- To ensure compatibility and complementarity
- To enhance the competence of experts.



INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION (1)

- The Commission and UN OCHA have conducted a structural dialogue, which has resulted in an exchange of letters (October 2004) establishing the basic principles for cooperation and co-ordination when the EC and UN simultaneously provide assistance to a country affected by a disaster.



INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION (2)

- On 19 May 2004, an administrative arrangement with EMERCOM was signed by Director-General of DG Environment and Deputy Minister of Emercom of Russia. It aims mainly at regular exchanges of information. Two EMERCOM officials will be seconded to the MIC in October 2005 for some weeks.



PROSPECTS FOR THE FUTURE (1)

- Better preparation of civil protection interventions
- Reinforcing the analytical and assessment capacity of the MIC
- Enhancing coordination
- Improving the assistance to EU citizens



PROSPECTS FOR THE FUTURE (2)

- Civil Protection Fund
- Modules for rapid deployment
- Enhancing monitoring and analytical capacity of MIC
- Transportation facilities
- Implementation of CECIS

