existing in other areas of the Union. For that reason and taking into account the socio-economic situation of some of these territories compared with the rest of the European Union and the additional cost involved in achieving safety levels similar to those elsewhere in the Union, measures ensuring adequate assistance should be provided.

2. It is necessary to encourage the execution of joint projects between outermost, isolated, insular, remote and sparsely populated regions, geared to the identification of common risks, exchange of information and procedures for a more uniform approach to risk assessment; all this is required in order to draw up and implement integrated strategies and actions to provide each territory with appropriate early-warning systems, and appropriate land use planning on the basis of the different risks.

3. Planning for emergencies should provide for and take into account those issues arising from existing risks, the demographic, socio-economic and geographical characteristics of the territory, and the particular socio-economic vulnerability to disaster of the outermost, isolated, insular, remote and sparsely populated regions.

4. Recognition is given to the fundamental importance of communications in emergency management, both within the region (sometimes problematic because of its geographic features and terrain) and with other parts of the country and other neighbouring regions. There is a need for redundant and reliable voice, data and image communications, which allow for effective coordination of interventions in any situation.

5. Emphasis is laid on the advisability of having specialised intervention teams in those Member States with outermost, isolated, insular, remote or sparsely populated areas, and on the fact that effective implementation of the mechanism to facilitate reinforced cooperation in civil protection assistance interventions allows the rest of the European Union to make a contribution to solidarity.

6. Given the special importance of the tourism sector on the economy in some of these territories, it is important to conduct information campaigns on self-protection measures for visitors. These campaigns could be coordinated at Community level.

7. The Member States are invited to take better advantage of the use of existing Community programmes, in particular Interreg III, to develop measures that are complementary to those of the Community Action Programme in the field of Civil Protection.

8. The Member States concerned are invited as far as possible to report on the follow-up to this Resolution to the Commission, who will report further to the Committee for the action Programme and for the Mechanism in the field of Civil Protection.

9. This Resolution does not prejudge specific measures that may be taken in favour of outermost regions as defined in Article 299 paragraph 2 of the Treaty.

Information regarding the entry into force of the Treaty of Nice amending the Treaty on European Union, the Treaties establishing the European Communities and certain related Acts, signed at Nice on 26 February 2001

(2003/C 24/04)

The Treaty on European Union, signed at Nice on 26 February 2001 (1), will enter into force on 1 February 2003 in accordance with Article 12(2) thereof, the last Instrument of ratification having been deposited on 18 December 2002.

(1) OJ C 80, 10.3.2001, p. 1.