

No. 82, 12 June 2008

## SECTION I

General provisions.

### Article 1

The aim of civil protection.

This Act covers coordinated civil protection measures intended to tackle the consequences of emergency situations that may threaten the life and health of the general public, the environment and/or property.

The aim of civil protection is to prepare, organise and implement measures aimed at preventing and, to the extent possible, limiting physical injury or damage to the health of the public and damage to the environment and property, whether this results from natural catastrophes or from human actions, epidemics, military action or other causes, and to provide emergency relief and assistance due to any injury or damage that may occur or has occurred.

### Article 2

Supervision of civil protection.

The state shall be responsible for civil protection throughout Iceland, on land, in the air and at sea. The local authorities shall be responsible for civil protection at the local level in conjunction with central government in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

## SECTION II

Policy on civil protection and security.

### Article 3

Role of the Civil Protection and Security Council.

Government policy on civil protection and security shall be drawn up by the Civil Protection and Security Council for periods of three years at a time. The Government's policy on civil protection and security shall present an account of the current situation and prospects in civil protection and security in Iceland, discuss points of emphasis in the structure of civil protection and security matters, preventive action, necessary coordination of the contents of response plans and the functions of public bodies in that context (cf. Section VI of this Act), stock levels necessary to ensure the survival of the nation in times of peril, reconstruction

following catastrophes and other measures the council considers necessary to achieve the aim of this Act.

The administration of the Civil Protection and Security Council, and the preparation of its meetings, shall be in the hands of the Minister of Justice.

#### Article 4

Appointment of the Civil Protection and Security Council.

The following shall have seats on the Civil Protection and Security Council: the Prime Minister, who shall also be chairman of the council, the Minister of Justice and Ecclesiastical Affairs, the Minister of Transport and Telecommunications, the Minister for the Environment, the Minister of Health, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Industry. In addition, the Prime Minister may co-opt up to two ministers to sit on the council at any time in connection with specific matters.

The following shall also have seats on the Civil Protection and Security Council:

1. The Permanent Secretary at the Office of the Prime Minister.

2. The Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Justice and Ecclesiastical Affairs, the National Commissioner of Police and the Director of the Icelandic Coast Guard.

3. The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications, the Director of the Icelandic Civil Aviation Administration, the Director of the Post and Telecommunications Administration and the Director of the National Roads Administration.

4. The Permanent Secretary at the Ministry for the Environment, the Director of the Icelandic Meteorological Office, the Director of the Iceland Fire Authority and the Director of the Environmental Agency.

5. The Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Health, the Director-General of Public Health, the Epidemiological Officer and the Director of the National Radiological Protection Authority.

6. The Permanent Secretary of State at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

7. The Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Industry, the Director of the National Energy Authority and

the Director of Landsnet.

8. A representative of ICE-SAR (Slysavarnafélagið Landsbjörg).

9. A representative of the Icelandic Red Cross.

10. A representative of the coordinated emergency telephone answering system.

In addition, the Prime Minister shall appoint two representatives to the council in accordance with nominations by the Union of Local Authorities in Iceland.

### SECTION III

Civil protection structure at the national level.

#### Article 5

Supreme authority.

The Minister of Justice is the supreme authority in the field of civil protection in Iceland. He shall issue regulations on civil protection alert levels, after receiving proposals from the National Commissioner of Police and following consultation with the Civil Protection and Security Council. The National Commissioner of Police shall handle civil protection issues on behalf of the Minister of Justice. The