



The Ministry of the Russian Federation for Civil Defence, Emergencies and Elimination
of Consequences of Natural Disasters

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**Interview of the Head of the International Activities Department EMERCOM of
Russia Yuriy Brazhnikov**



The specialists EMERCOM of Russia conducted rescue operation at the Tu-153M plane crash site near Smolensk in the shortest possible time. This is not the only example of cooperation of the EMERCOM of Russia with their colleagues from other countries. The Head of the International Activities Department EMERCOM of Russia Yuriy Brazhnikov told the interviewers of RIA Novosti about the top-priorities of the international activities EMERCOM of Russia this year, about the forthcoming joint humanitarian operations, mine neutralization in Serbia, the forthcoming forest fire distinguishing operations in the South of Europe and other things.

What top-priorities of the international activities were chosen by EMERCOM of Russia this year?

For the nearest two-three years the top-priority is the high-technology cooperation with the closest neighbours—the CIS states. We are chairing these years in this organization and everything is not that easy here.

Natural disasters similar to the latest earthquake in Haiti require fast and coordinated activities of the whole global community. EMERCOM of Russia suggested the development of the UNO structure which would provide adequate response to such cases. What stage is this project at?

The Haiti catastrophe aroused a very serious attention to the projects aimed at the development of international response systems. The consequences of that catastrophe will be examined from the management and response point of view, conclusions will be made. Anyway, Russian suggestions that were made earlier accumulate both Russian and International experience.

Has Russia got any suggestions on the development of the existing mechanisms of international aid?

Yes, it does. This is, for example, transfer to the Emergency Centers. The regional aspect of these centers is very important, as it is easier to find common grounds in the regions than at the International level.

What joint projects are scheduled this year with International Humanitarian Organizations, including the World Food Program UNO (WFP UNO) and the World Health Organization (WHO)?

EMERCOM of Russia and the Ministry of Health and Social Development signed agreements with the WHO. If, for example, the WHO is interested in Russian tents, these tents are provided to them and the organization can use them.

What about the Russian initiative in creating the European Emergency

