

Development of emergency management after the Friuli and Irpinia experiences

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The Italian legislative system contemplates the extraordinary commissary as the delegate of the Government to manage the interventions in case of special events. The commissary can operate derogating laws and assuming the coordination of all the public, civil and military, state administrations. The duty has a limited time duration and, according to European rules, should not be extended. This was the task I was entrusted after the 1976 earthquakes (twice) and after the Irpinia-Campania 1980 earthquake. The experiences have been very different for various reasons: dimensions of the events, conditions of the local administrations and services, transport and road conditions, national policy, economies of the areas. This fact and the short time elapsed between the two events can give an important occasion to discuss pros and cons of the laws, modes and instruments that have been applied and, above all, an unrepeatable chance to adopt new and more efficient strategies, designing them in "time of peace" without the urgency of finding in any case rapid solutions to many different and vital problems that affect the after-earthquake hours. Problems that in many cases are well known and whose solution should be considered and ruled in advance to keep them apart from the perils and uncertainties connected with the possibility of derogation.