

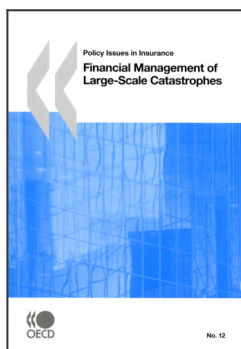
CONCLUSIONS

This is the major risk we face today: to keep trotting out the line that "everything is under control", "don't be pessimistic and so don't ask any questions", while demanding that the citizens give up the idea of "zero risk", while complaining constantly about the "unhealthy litigiousness" of our societies.

If we cannot mount strong, determined and open initiatives, we risk falling prey to the most punishing kind of bunker mentality. Threats and crises are not going to wait. And if we stumble from fiasco to fiasco, our energies and our confidence will collapse, reinforcing the fears of officials and the public alike and leading to a deadly downward spiral.

We must therefore learn to take new initiatives, through very concrete and practical approaches, and we have just indicated the operational routes that have already been found useful in the field. The first requirement, in most cases, is not to hold a press conference or issue a white paper but rather to engage effectively with stakeholders in precise initiatives for learning, for overcoming obstacles, for convincing, and for transforming denial into positive determination.

"Failure is not an option". On all fronts - intellectual, managerial, governance, conviction - we must now acquire the skills and the openness to address the new vulnerability issues. We must venture resolutely to these new frontiers, in order to understand them and to improve our skills, in terms of vision, philosophies and tools - in order to better master our destiny in these particularly turbulent times.



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