



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



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PRESSE 362

Implementation of the solidarity clause

The Council today adopted a decision on the rules and procedures for the implementation of the solidarity clause (article 222 TFEU).

The solidarity clause provides for the Union and its member states to act jointly in assisting another member state being the object of a terrorist attack or the victim of a natural or man-made disaster.

Invoking the solidarity clause is a prerogative of the member state affected. While relying on existing instruments and structures, the decision adopted today provides for a close cooperation of all relevant actors at member state and EU level who will work hand in hand for a rapid, effective and coherent response.

The Union will mobilise all the instruments at its disposal. The Commission and the High Representative, assisted by the European External Action Service, will in particular identify all Union instruments and capabilities that can best contribute to the response to the crisis, and take all the necessary measures under their competence. The decision also provides for an immediate activation of the Integrated Political Crisis Response arrangements (IPCR), a mechanism approved in June 2013 by the Council. This will allow a rapid involvement of the political authorities across the EU in order for the Council to ensure the strategic direction of the response and to take appropriate action to the benefit of the member state affected.

P R E S S

Rue de la Loi 175 B – 1048 BRUSSELS Tel.: +32 (0)2 281 6319 Fax: +32 (0)2 281 8026
press.office@consilium.europa.eu <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/press>

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