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Subject: Report from the Czech Presidency on the main achievements at EU level
in the field of civil protection

Delegations will find in Annex a report from the Czech Presidency on the main achievements at EU level in the field of civil protection and the resilience of critical entities.

COREPER is invited to take note of the report.

**Report from the Czech Presidency
on the main achievements at EU level in the field of civil protection**

This report outlines the main achievements, at EU level, in the field of civil protection and the resilience of critical entities during the Czech Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

The Presidency focused on the current issue of prevention, preparedness and response to long-term emergencies. The discussion on this topic was launched at an expert workshop held in Pilsen on 20-21 July 2022. The outcomes of the workshop were presented on 5 October at the 49th meeting of Directors General for Civil Protection in Prague and then submitted in the form of a workshop report at the Working Party on Civil Protection (PROCIV) on 18 October.

In the second half of the year, nine meetings of the members of the PROCIV working party were held in Brussels, including the specific formation of the Working Party on Civil Protection dedicated to the Directive on the resilience of critical entities (CER Directive).

During the Czech Presidency, two informal technical trilogues were held in the framework of the CER Directive negotiations. On 21 September, the text of the CER Directive was confirmed by COREPER. On 22 November, the European Parliament adopted its position at first reading on the Directive, followed by adoption by the Council on 8 December.

On 8 December, the Justice and Home Affairs Council also adopted the Council Recommendation on the Resilience of Critical Infrastructure.

Work also continued on setting up the rescEU capacities. The Commission has adopted Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) and adopted a multiannual work programme for 2021-2025.

During the Czech Presidency, the Commission signed the agreement integrating Bosnia and Herzegovina and Albania within the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM).

Between 1 July and 28 November 2022, the UCPM was activated 35 times (17 requests for assistance within the EU and 18 outside the EU). The response to emergencies within the EU was related to forest fires, monkeypox and population displacement following the war in Ukraine.

UCPM requests outside the EU include the war in Ukraine and its consequences in Moldova, as well as COVID-19, cholera and ebola outbreaks and other health emergencies, forest fires, tropical cyclones, floods and other types of emergencies.

1. Prevention, Preparedness and Response to Long-Term Emergencies

In its priorities, the Presidency reflected on lessons learned during such emergencies as the forest fires in Portugal and Greece, the COVID-19 pandemic, the tornado in Czechia, the blackout in Slovenia or the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine. The severity and frequency of long-term emergencies is on the rise and their consequences pay no regard to national borders. The Presidency therefore brought forward discussions on how to strengthen prevention, preparedness and response to long-term emergencies and on how to explore ways in which to bolster the resilience of Member States through an efficient use of the UCPM as part of an integrated approach to the management of long-term emergencies. The Presidency also highlighted the importance of prepared citizens and their role in the successful management of long-term emergencies and national resilience.

1.1. Presidency workshop

The Presidency organised a civil protection workshop “Prevention, preparedness and response to long-term emergencies” to develop civil protection’s community understanding of long-term emergencies. 65 participants from the Member states, one participating country and representatives of the European Commission gathered in Pilsen for the Presidency workshop that was held on 20 and 21 July 2022.

Given the increasing frequency of long-term emergencies, the Presidency wanted to analyse and assess, in close cooperation with other Member States, what could be the suitable definition and time framework for the duration of long-term emergencies. The Presidency sought to explore the types of emergencies that could be assessed as long-term and to identify criteria distinguishing a normal crisis from a long-term emergency. This led to the identification of potential differences between emergency and consequence management, emergency recovery and reconstruction in the case of long-term emergencies.

The Workshop discussions within the first working group resulted in the conclusion that population preparedness policy is invaluable in response management and in limiting the magnitude of impacts. An increased level of self-sufficiency within the population enables emergency

authorities to provide rapid and effective assistance where it is most needed. Someone who is well informed and prepared can take action and help others.

The second working group focused on three types of response capacities that are typically needed for long-term climate change-related emergencies - emergency shelter, emergency energy supply, and water availability (drinkable, technical and fire water). Participants agreed that a more detailed analysis across all Member states, including a mapping of current shelter capacities, would be helpful for future developments of these capacities. The added value of the new rescEU energy supply capacity was recognised. In addition, it was acknowledged that emergency energy supplies (e.g. generators) alone are not enough, but require additional experts and staff. The availability of different types of water is crucial especially in relation to climate change in Europe, which will probably endure more frequent and longer droughts and face a lack of natural sources of water.

The third working group concluded that the option to establish a special Operational Management Board at the EU level should be explored. This board would act as a strategic adviser and make the distribution and prioritisation of resources more effective. The mandate and responsibility of the board would need to be carefully defined for it to have a clear benefit. It would be necessary to avoid overlaps with existing coordination structures.

Member States called for simplification and increased flexibility in the response to long-term emergencies with high impact. They expressed the need to reduce the administrative burden and the timelines for decision-making to enable the required amount and different types of assistance to be channelled as effectively as possible where it is needed most. Long-term emergencies are more likely to require rapid coordination as regards national procurement actions, an easier use of joint procurement arrangements at European level and potentially also the option of direct procurement through the European Commission.

2. Critical Entities Resilience Directive

The Czech Presidency was fully committed to increasing the resilience of critical infrastructure at Union level, not least in the light of the current risk landscape, which includes the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, the COVID pandemic, climate change, hybrid threats and international terrorism. The Czech Presidency welcomed the political agreement on the Directive on the resilience of critical entities (CER) achieved by the French Presidency. It immediately committed to finalising the work on that legislative document in order to conclude the negotiations with the

European Parliament (EP) by September, so that final adoption of the CER Directive could still take place during the Czech Presidency.

After the political agreement reached by the French Presidency, during the informal technical meeting of 1 September, provisional agreement was found with the EP on the full text of the CER Directive. The Presidency then presented the final text to the Member States in the PROCIV-CER Working Party meeting of 14 September.

On 21 September the CER Directive was agreed by COREPER, subject to legal linguistic revision. On 22 November, the EP adopted its position at first reading on the Directive, followed by Council adoption on 8 December. The new rules will harmonise the definition of critical infrastructure and improve consistency between the Member States.

3. Council Recommendation on a Union wide coordinated approach to strengthen the resilience of critical infrastructure

Following the Nord Stream pipelines sabotage, on 18 October the Commission adopted a proposal for a Council Recommendation on a coordinated approach by the Union to strengthen the resilience of critical infrastructure. The proposal contains a range of measures that can be taken in the short term to enhance preparedness, response and international cooperation.

In its conclusions from 20 and 21 October, the European Council called on the Member States to take urgent and effective measures, and to cooperate with each other, the Commission and other relevant actors, with a view to enhancing the resilience of critical infrastructure. The Presidency quickly engaged with all relevant actors and began negotiations on the proposal for a Council recommendation in the PROCIV-CER working party. The presidency convened meetings in quick succession, on 24 October and on 11, 18 and 28 November with a view to securing agreement as quickly as possible. Agreement on the text was reached at the working party meeting on 28 November. This agreement was confirmed by Coreper on 7 December and the Council then adopted the Recommendation on 8 December.

4. Implementation of the UCPM

4.1. Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network

- a) Annual meeting of the National Training Coordinators

The National Training Coordinators (NTCs) met face-to-face for their annual meeting in Prague, Czech Republic, on 21–22 September. NTCs are the point of contact in UCPM Member and Participating States for civil protection and disaster risk management personnel to identify their training needs and access the right training opportunities. As part of this, they identify the participants to be trained through the UCPM training programme. The meeting was organised by the Czech Presidency of the EU, in collaboration with the European Commission, and focused on preparing for the new UCPM training and exercises programme, which will be launched at the beginning of 2023. The NTCs explored the different training pathways, courses and activities of the UCPM training and exercises programme in order to ensure that they were best placed to explain them to training candidates in their respective countries.

b) Knowledge Network study visit

The first edition of the Knowledge Network study visit, ‘Youth in civil protection and disaster risk management’ took place in Brussels on 11 and 12 October. The event was dedicated to the emerging generation of people working in civil protection and disaster risk management. Among the participants were professional and volunteer firefighters, students, medical volunteers, civil protection officers, desk officers, advisers, a marine biologist, IT experts and military and police officers. In all, 47 participants representing 25 UCPM Member and Participating states were there, along with the Commission’s trainees dealing with civil protection. The study visit gave the emerging generation of the UCPM community an opportunity to connect with others so as to network, learn and share experience. The programme included sessions on the UCPM, training and exercises, early warning systems, workshops on inclusion and diversity and science, and a visit and simulation exercise at the European Response Coordination Centre (ERCC).

c) 4th meeting of the Knowledge Network Board

The fourth meeting of the Knowledge Network Board took place in Paris on 23 November 2022. The meeting was co-chaired by the Commission and France (as the previous Council Presidency). It brought together representatives of 30 Member and Participating States of the Mechanism. For the first time, a representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina joined the Board meeting. The Commission presented an overview of activities implemented by the Knowledge Network in 2022 and selected activities to be pursued in 2023. A discussion was also launched on the engagement of Enlargement and Neighbourhood countries in the activities of the Knowledge Network.

The Knowledge Network Board meeting took place back-to-back with the 6th Annual Seminar of the Disaster Risk Management Knowledge Centre (DRMKC), co-organised with the Commission (DG ECHO and JRC) (22-23 November). DRMKC is a cornerstone of scientific activities of the Knowledge Network, and the seminar was an opportunity to share the achievements of the Network's science pillar in addressing challenges in risk management. The event gathered 120+ participants (both in person and online) and focused the discussions on four topics:

- 1) Existing gaps and how the scientific community can enhance operational preparedness and response,
- 2) Process of feeding scientific needs of the disaster risk management (DRM) community into science advice and research agendas,
- 3) Operationalisation of DRM scientific knowledge,
- 4) Challenges in communication between different actors of the science-policy-operations interface.

4.2. Towards Disaster Resilience Goals

After one year of technical discussions, the Commission launched a procedure leading to the adoption of the Disaster Resilience Goals (DRGs). The DRGs will be adopted in the form of a Commission Recommendation, as set out in the UCPM Decision.

Given that the DRGs are of technical nature and address civil protection authorities, the Commission considered that a Communication would accompany the Recommendation. The Communication will set out the policy context of the goals, increase their visibility and facilitate outreach beyond civil protection, and will also launch flagship initiatives to support the implementation of the DRGs. The Commission plans to adopt the Communication and Recommendation on DRGs on 21 December 2022.

5. Wildfire prevention and preparedness in the context of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism

5.1. The Wildfire Prevention Action Plan

The 2022 wildfire season confirmed an upward trend in intense wildfires, with more wildfire events and more forest land burnt than in previous years. Both 2021 and 2022 also saw a high number of

Member State requests under the UCPM for assistance with wildfires. With climate change, this increase in wildfire intensity is expected to continue in the future and the need to safeguard our forests from wildfires will grow.

Member States have repeatedly expressed the desire to intensify efforts to prevent wildfires, in addition to ensuring improved response and preparedness. This was brought to the fore, for instance, at the informal ministerial meeting on reinforcing wildfire preparedness and response in Brussels in September 2022 (see point b) below). To facilitate these efforts and help better manage forests and landscapes, reduce the occurrence of fires in the first place and limit their impacts, the Commission has put forward a new action plan for wildfire prevention. This plan will make full use of the tools under the UCPM, including the DRGs planned to be adopted by the end of 2022. It will complement the preparedness efforts under rescEU and will build on other EU initiatives, such as the new EU Forest Strategy for 2030¹.

The proposed **ten actions** are organised around three themes, which will help safeguard our forests from wildfires: i) improved **capacity** to prevent wildfires, ii) improved **knowledge** on wildfires so as to facilitate prevention, and iii) increased **financing** for wildfire prevention actions. The plan will be taken forward through reinforced dialogue and cooperation with the Member States on these actions.

I	Improved capacity to prevent wildfires
1	Strengthen capacity building through targeted peer reviews on wildfire prevention and preparedness (UCPM Article 6.1.e).
2	Develop disaster scenarios, including wildfires, (Article 10) and develop specific wild fire prevention disaster resilience goals (UCPM Article 6.5).
3	Establish a good practice guide on wildfire prevention, with national civil protection and forest management experts building on other EU policies (e.g. EU Forest strategy 2030, Biodiversity strategy, Adaptation strategy actions) and existing guidance and recommendations (UCPM 5.1.a).
4	Define good practices on raising wildfire risk awareness to enhance prevention, followed by the development of a good practice guide, further development of

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52021DC0572>.

	disaster risk awareness, public information and education designed to further enhance citizen protection, preparedness and prevention (UCPM Article 5.1.i)
5	Ensure the development of new wildfire risk awareness and communication actions at EU level (UCPM Article 3.1.d).
6	Launch a dialogue process with Member States on wildfire disaster prevention with recurrent UCPM activations for wildfires (UCPM Article 6.4).
II	Improved knowledge on wildfires for increased prevention
7	Model the economic and geographic impact of future wildfires so as to better understand and plan for the future financial needs in terms of response and prevention (World Bank study, Phase 2.0)
8	Improve the assessment and mapping of wildfire risk, taking into account a multi-hazard approach and climate change scenarios (UCPM 5.1.b and d), and encourage improved collection of data on past disaster events (UCPM Article 6.1.e).
III.	Increased financing of wildfire prevention actions
9	Encourage the use of UCPM prevention and preparedness funding instruments for national, cross-border or pan-European projects to support wildfire prevention and improve the uptake of good practices (UCPM Article 21.1.a and Article 5).
10	Encourage further use of EU funds for investment in wildfire prevention and analyse the current uptake of EU funds for disaster risk management (UCPM.5.1.h)

5.2. Informal Ministerial Meeting on Reinforcing Wildfire Preparedness and Response

The European Commissioner for Crisis Management, Janez Lenarčič, in close cooperation with the CZ Presidency of the Council, convened an Informal Ministerial Meeting on Reinforcing Wildfire Preparedness and Response in Brussels on 5 September 2022. Ministers, State Secretaries and Directors-General for Civil Protection of the EU Member States and Participating States² to the

² Norway, Iceland, Serbia, Turkey, North Macedonia.

UCPM discussed rapid coordinated European action, within the framework of the UCPM, to better protect the Union and its citizens from fires in 2023 and beyond.

The meeting confirmed the shared understanding of all EU Member States and Participating States that climate change is rapidly altering wildfire risk in Europe. The occurrence of large forest fires in Central and Northern Europe, witnessed this year in Czechia, Slovenia and Germany, and complementing a trend of previous years that also saw, for instance, fire emergencies in Austria and Sweden, has raised particular concern among the leaders. The pre-positioning of firefighters, for the first time operationalised this summer in a European pilot project in Greece, was identified as a good practice to not only share aerial capacities in the EU, but also to exchange expertise, share knowledge and pre-plan the mobilisation of ground teams from countries less affected by fires to those in need of assistance.

The Commission therefore proposed four specific action points:

1. Accelerate the establishment of the new permanent rescEU fleet of aerial firefighting capacities by exploring an advanced procurement of helicopters;
2. Expand the existing seasonal European safety net of firefighting airplanes by financing the inclusion of additional helicopters and light aircraft in particular in Central and Northern Europe, as of summer 2023;
3. Reinforce the seasonal pre-positioning of ground teams to wildfires hot spots; and
4. Operationalise a plan of action for fire prevention and preparedness.

These actions are subject to additional EU budgetary resources being made available.

5.3. Budgetary reinforcement

During the CZ Presidency period, the Commission proposed to reallocate €170 million from the EU budget to reinforce its rescEU aerial assets, starting from the summer of 2023. The rescEU transitional fleet would therefore have a total of 22 planes and four helicopters. As from 2025, the fleet would be further reinforced through an accelerated procurement of planes and helicopters. The required budgetary reinforcement was approved by the European Parliament on 23 November.

6. Expansion of the UCPM (BiH, ALB)

The participation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Albania in the UCPM represents a positive political signal to both countries, supporting them on their path towards a possible future EU membership, as well as ensuring a further consolidation of the territorial coherence of the UCPM. The integration of eligible third countries into the UCPM across Europe has been a long-standing Union priority with currently Norway, Iceland, Türkiye, Serbia, North Macedonia and Montenegro already taking part as participating states in the UCPM.

Bosnia and Herzegovina applied for participation in the UCPM as early as 2014 and again in June 2020. The country significantly improved its civil protection system and showed a clear commitment in the area of disaster management. On 6 September 2022, the Commission signed the agreement with Bosnia and Herzegovina on the latter's joining the UCPM as a full member, which Bosnia and Herzegovina is set to be as of 1 January 2023.

Albania officially applied for participation in the UCPM in June 2022. Albania has also made clear progress in building the capacity of its civil protection system and has conducted an inclusive re-organisation of its national civil protection system. The Commission signed the agreement with Albania on the latter's joining the UCPM as a full member, which Albania is set to be as of 1 January 2023.

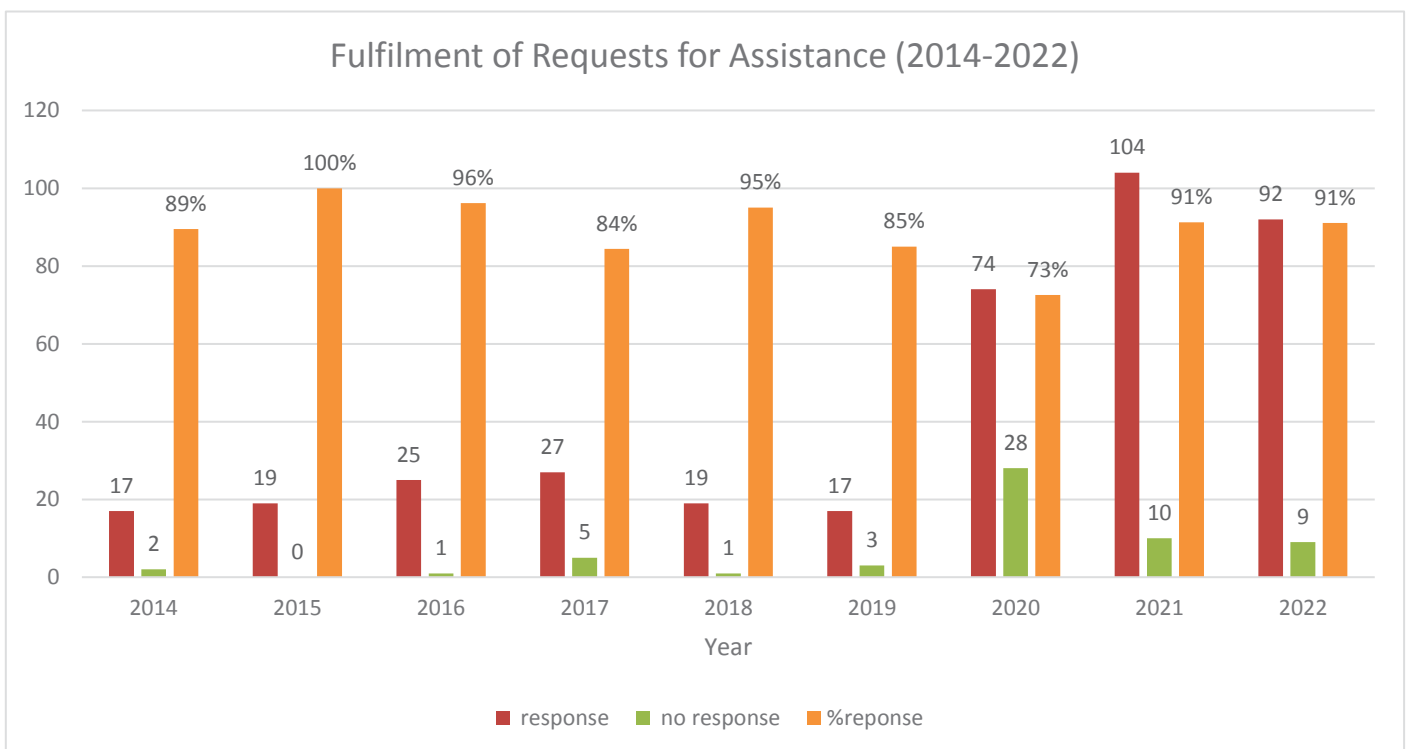
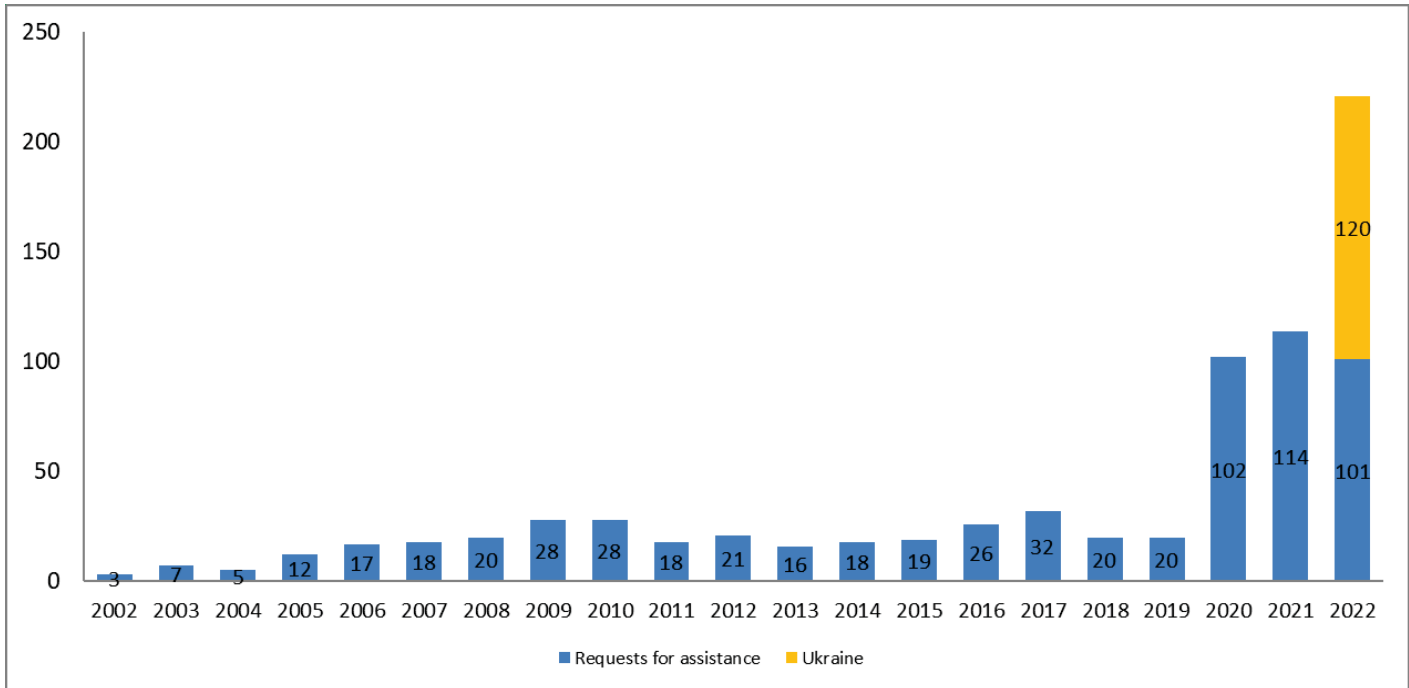
On 18 November, the Council approved the mechanisms ensuring the participation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Albania in the UCPM and confirmed the date of 1 January 2023 as the date on which their participation becomes effective.³

With the inclusion of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Albania in the UCPM, a significant step forward has been taken to ensure a coherent approach to civil protection not only in the Western Balkans, but also Europe-wide.

³ 14502/22.

7. Response to emergencies

This year, up to 12 December 2022, the UCPM was activated **101⁴ times (30 activations inside the EU and 71 outside the EU) with 91% of the disasters/ crises having offers of support provided by UCPM Member States (MS) and Participating States (PS).**



⁴ While the activation from Ukraine related to the war was counted only once, this includes also 120 updated requests for assistance.

Between 1 July and 12 December 2022, the UCPM was activated 41 times (18 requests for assistance within the EU and 23 outside the EU).

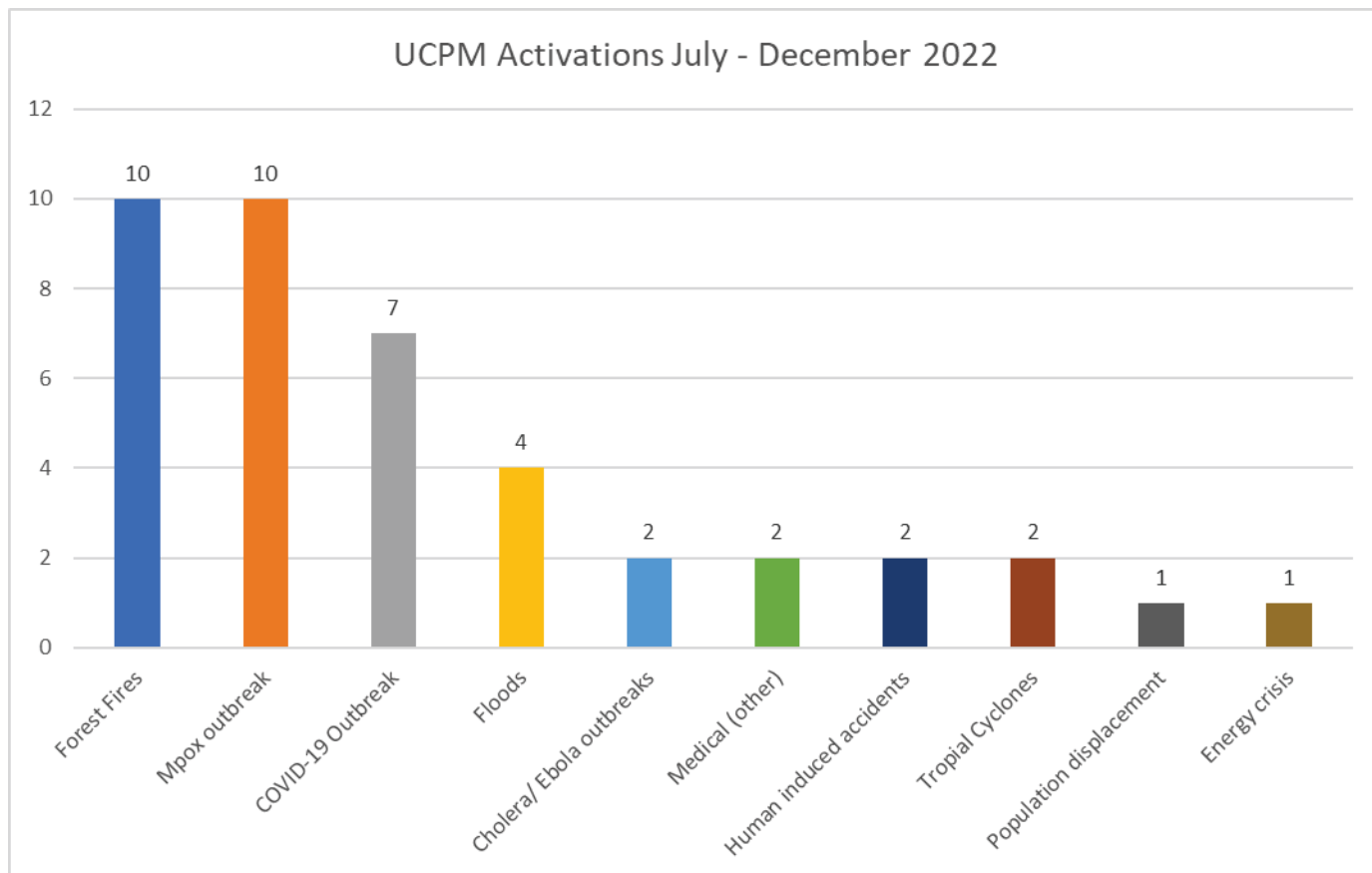


Chart based on data collection of 12 December 2022.

In addition, the Commission’s Copernicus Emergency Management Service was activated 62 times, producing close to 400 maps, covering the following type of events:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| Forest fire, wild fire | Wind storm | Earthquake |
| Industrial accident | Other | Flood |
| Humanitarian | Wildfire | Mass movement |
| Storm | Volcanic activity | Drought |
| Infestation | Extreme temperature | Epidemic |
| Transportation accident | | |

18 UCPM requests for assistance within the EU related to forest fires, mpox as well as population displacement following the war in Ukraine. 23 UCPM requests outside the EU include the war in Ukraine and its consequences in Moldova, as well as COVID-19 and other health emergencies, forest fires, tropical cyclones, floods and other types of emergencies.

A more detailed description of UCPM activations is set out below:

a) **Russia's war on Ukraine**

Since the beginning of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, 120 requests for assistance were submitted in the sectors of health, shelter, food and non-food items, heavy machinery and equipment, energy, agriculture, CBRN, personal protection, transportation and logistics. 43 updates were sent during the reporting period, with a focus on energy items and generators.

To date, all EU MS have responded along with four UCPM Participating states (Norway, Türkiye, North Macedonia and Iceland). More than 76,000 tonnes of various items have already been offered and delivered to Ukraine, the majority of which have been delivered through the EU hubs located in Poland, Slovakia and Romania.

The ERCC mobilised assistance from the rescEU medical stockpile hosted by Germany, Denmark, Greece, Hungary, the Netherlands, Romania and Sweden, as well from the rescEU CBRN stockpile hosted by Germany. In addition, the ERCC organised the rescEU mobilisation from the private sector, hosted by Belgium, consisting of CBRN medical countermeasures, medicines, and personal protective equipment (PPE).

In order to address the high level of needs for winter shelter, the ERCC mobilised 1,650 relief housing units (RHU) from the rescEU shelter reserve hosted by Sweden. This shelter reserve includes heaters and insulation.

In view of the critical state of the energy infrastructure in Ukraine, the ERCC has been coordinating support to Ukraine's energy sector, more than 61,900 energy repair items have been offered to Ukraine, as well as 800 transformers and over 750 generators.

Four countries neighbouring Ukraine - Slovakia, Poland, Czechia and Moldova - have also activated the UCPM, requesting support with migration management flow. During the reporting period, Poland closed their request for assistance while Lithuania activated the UCPM on 17 October and requested shelter items. In addition, Moldova requested supplementary generators on 11 November on account of the energy crisis, to which France responded with 12 generators.

Several EU Civil Protection Teams (EUCPT) were deployed in the context of this emergency. Overall, the UCPM deployed 61 experts and 19 liaison officers to Poland, Slovakia, Romania and Moldova, with some experts being deployed multiple times. Currently, a EUCPT team and ERCC

liaison officer are present in Poland to support the operations in the EU MedEvac Hub, opened on 9 September to support the medical evacuation of patients from Ukraine.

Since 11 March, the ERCC has received more than 1,900 requests for medical evacuations. To date, more than 1,600 Ukrainian patients have been evacuated for medical treatment in Slovenia, Belgium, Czechia, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Spain, France, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Finland, Sweden and Norway.

b) COVID-19 Pandemic

The UCPM continues to support countries around the world throughout 2022 by providing COVID-19 vaccines, antigen tests, medicines and personal protective equipment (PPE).

So far in 2022, over 11 million vaccine doses have been delivered through the UCPM. In addition, and since the beginning of the pandemic, the total number of vaccines delivered through the UCPM has reached over 40 million doses. During the reporting period, the ERCC received new requests for COVID-19 related assistance from seven countries: El Salvador, Honduras, Montenegro, Rwanda, Tunisia, Namibia, and Antigua and Barbuda. These were responded to by France, Croatia, Denmark and Latvia.

c) Other health emergencies

1. Mpox

In the light of the number of mpox cases in Europe and due to the shortage of antivirals used for its treatment (Tecovirimat), eight Member States (AT, DE, EL, ES, IE, SE, RO and PL) and a third country (Lichtenstein) activated UCPM requesting treatment courses against mpox.

As the requests for treatment courses were unmet by spontaneous offers, the ERCC mobilised the rescEU medical stockpile hosted by Germany between 3 October and 2 November. A total of 684 treatment courses were delivered, which fully met the needs of seven countries.

As of 12 December, two more deployments from the rescEU medical stockpile are being prepared with 102 treatment courses to Germany and 6 treatment courses to Lichtenstein.

As per Lichtenstein's geographical position, the latter mobilisation was done in accordance with Article 12(10) of Decision 1313/2013/EU as a spread of mpox could affect neighbouring EU countries.

2. Ebola – Uganda

On 11 November, the WHO requested assistance through the UCPM for the deployment of equipment and personnel to support the setup of an Ebola Treatment Unit. Sweden responded to this request on behalf of the International Humanitarian Partnership.

3. Cholera – Lebanon

Following a cholera outbreak, Lebanon activated the UCPM on 13 October, requesting vaccines, rapid tests, water testing kits, hygiene kits and medicines. Italy responded by offering cholera stationary and logistic modules, water purification unit, latrines, and hygiene kits.

4. Medical related activations – Brazil, The Gambia

On 25 October, Brazil requested support owing to a shortage of medicines in the country. To date, no offers have been made. On 29 September, WHO requested an Emergency Medical Team on behalf the Gambian authorities, following an increase in cases of Acute Kidney Injury among children in the country. No offers have been made and the emergency was closed in agreement with WHO.

d) Emergencies induced by natural and weather-related phenomena

1. Forest fire season

During the 2022 forest fire season, the UCPM was activated 11 times for forest fires in Europe, with 1 activation in June for Albania. 10 activations took place during the reporting period in 6 different countries: six times in July by Portugal (9 July), France (14 July), Slovenia (17 July), Czechia (26 July) and Albania (13 and 27 July), and three times in August by Slovenia (9 August), France (9 August), Portugal (19 August), Germany (4 September).

In total, 10 EU Member States and one Participating State deployed capacities via UCPM (AT, DE, EL, ES, HR, IT, PL, RO, RS, SE and SK). This included 33 deployments of firefighting planes (through the ECPP and rescEU) as well as 8 deployments of helicopters. In addition, 6 ground firefighting teams were deployed from Austria, Germany, Croatia, Poland (2) and Romania.

2. Pakistan – Floods in Sindh Province

On 29 August, Pakistan requested assistance through the UCPM following the heavy monsoon rainfall and floods that has affected the country since mid-June 2022.

Nine MS (MT, DE, SI, BE, FR, EL, AT, DK, SE) and 1 PS (Norway) offered assistance in the form of water purification modules in addition to staff, bailey bridges, medicines and other requested items. An EU Civil Protection Team was deployed to facilitate the coordination of UCPM assistance.

In addition, on 3 September, following the request from the United Nations Environment Programme/Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Joint Environmental Unit (UNEP/OCHA JEU), a Swedish environmental expert was deployed and integrated into the OCHA structure to support the government-led response.

3. Other floods – Honduras, The Gambia, Chad

On 30 September, Honduras requested UCPM support in the context of flooding and landslides caused by heavy rains throughout 2022. Spain responded by offering PPE, hygiene items, medical supplies and other equipment.

Following flash floods in The Gambia at the end of July, the ERCC received a request on 12 August from the UNEP/OCHA JEU for one environmental expert to join the UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team. The expert from Sweden was deployed for three weeks and followed the environmental, water, sanitation and hygiene response of the mission.

Following heavy rains that lead to exceptional river floods in N'Djamena, Chad, the ERCC received a request for water purification unit on 7 December. France responded to this request.

4. Tropical Cyclones - TC IAN, Cuba and Hurricane LISA, Belize

On 11 October, Cuba requested UCPM support following the landfall of Tropical Cyclone IAN. Spain and Germany responded by offering jerry cans, hygiene kits, tarpaulins, sheets for roofing kitchen sets, and gloves.

Following the landfall of Hurricane LISA in Belize, a request for assistance has been received on 29 November. To date, no offers have been made.

e) Technological and human-induced disasters – Cuba, Somalia

On 6 August, Cuba requested UCPM support following an explosion of oil storage tanks in the city of Matanzas. Italy and Spain responded by offering medical supplies and medicines.

Following the explosion that occurred on 29 October in Mogadishu, Somalia requested UCPM support on 1 December. Germany offered ventilators and pulse oximeters.

f) **Preparedness and prevention mission – Cuba**

Following a request from UNDP on behalf of Cuba, eleven experts from Spain, together with two experts from Finland and an ERCC liaison officer formed part of an advisory mission between October and November 2022. The main objective was to share experiences and strengthen skills and expertise in the field of search and rescue operations related to the collapse of buildings in Havana.

Participants from the Cuban National Civil Defence Head Quarters, the Cuban National Fire Department and the National Society of the Cuban Red Cross participated in the training sessions and in the final exercise. To ensure the smooth deployment of the advisory mission, two shorter missions took place in June and September 2022.