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

Delegations will find attached a Presidency Report on the main achievements at EU level in the field of civil protection.

COREPER is invited to take note of the report.

**Report from the German 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 during the German Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

Intensive work continued in the second half of 2020 despite the fact that all the physical meetings planned by the Presidency and by the Commission in Brussels and in Germany had to be cancelled due to the pandemic-related restrictions. Eight informal meetings of the members of the Civil Protection Working Party (PROCIV) were held as a video conference.

Agreement was reached on a Council mandate on the revision of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) Decision and negotiations started with the European Parliament. The Council also approved the draft Decision on the conclusion of the amendments to the Bonn Agreement related to marine pollution and requested the European Parliament's consent.

The Presidency has identified the first lessons from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, with the aim of contributing to the establishment of the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network. The results of two online surveys designed by the Presidency and answered by the Member and Participating States were discussed at a virtual expert workshop held on 9 and 10 November. The aim of the workshop was to contribute to the development of the Knowledge Network by jointly developing recommendations.

These recommendations were further discussed and supported by Directors-General for civil protection at their video conference meeting held on 24 November.

Work also continued on the setting-up of the rescEU reserve, with a particular focus on the medical stockpiling capacity.

Finally, the UCPM was activated a number of times in response to the pandemic as well as other disasters including the Beirut explosion and the fire in the refugee camp in Greece.

1. Proposals for a Decision amending Decision No 1313/2013/EU on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism

Discussions on the proposal of 2 June 2020 to amend the UCPM Decision¹, which started in PROCIV under the Croatian Presidency, continued throughout the German Presidency.

Acknowledging the need to quickly conclude negotiations on those provisions of the proposal that relate to the financial envelope for the period 2021–2027 and thus enable the UCPM funding beyond 2020, the Presidency, supported by all Member States, decided to prioritise the financial provisions of the proposal ('financial package'). Following discussions at several informal meetings of PROCIV members held between July and September 2020, on **7 October Coreper approved a partial mandate** on the financial package, accompanied by a Council statement².

In parallel, discussions continued and successfully concluded in PROCIV on the remaining parts of the proposal ('policy package'). On **30 November Coreper approved the full mandate** for negotiations with the European Parliament³. The first political trilogue was held on 10 December.

The Council fully supports the Commission's proposals related to:

- the possibility to use emergency services under the Space Programme to warn the population in areas affected by disasters;
- the possibility for affected countries to request assistance through the UCPM consisting only of transport and logistical resources;
- full financing from the EU budget of rescEU capacities procured both by the Member States and directly by the Union;
- full financing from the EU budget of transport of rescEU capacities both within the EU and from third countries to the EU;
- the deletion of Annex I, the possible use of multi-annual work programmes and split budgetary commitments for all the prevention and preparedness actions, and a budgetary carry-over to the following year;
- co-financing from the EU budget of operational costs of capacities committed to the European Civil Protection Pool when deployed outside the EU.

¹ 8330/20.

² 11042/20 + ADD 1.

³ 13334/20; 13538/20.

The following main changes to the proposal have been agreed by the Council:

- the reference to loss data collection has been removed;
- the procedure of defining and developing disaster resilience goals, proposed by way of delegated acts, has been replaced by a more informal process, where the Commission, together with the Member States, should define and develop resilience goals, limited to the area of civil protection; the reporting by the Commission is already covered by the current legislation;
- maintaining the role of civil protection authorities as the main interlocutors of the ERCC;
- limiting the possibility for the Union to directly procure rescEU capacities to the area of transport and logistics; in addition, in duly justified cases of urgency, the Union could also directly procure material means and, if necessary, enable support services if defined as rescEU capacities; the necessary type and quantity of such capacities would need to be determined in implementing acts adopted in accordance with the urgency procedure;
- no pre-positioning of rescEU capacities outside the EU;
- maintaining the current limitation for rescEU deployments outside the EU to disasters which could significantly affect Member States or their citizens;
- extending to ‘assisting’ Member States the possible Union financial support for transport of assistance needed in environmental disasters, in which the ‘polluter pays’ principle applies;
- no possibility of budgetary implementation in indirect management;
- in addition to the Commission proposal, amending the provision related to the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network, with the aim of more accurately reflecting the purpose and structure of the Network and of making the text less detailed.

Following the political guidance provided by the [European Council](#) on 21 July 2020, some horizontal provisions related to the Multiannual Financial Framework and to the recovery package have also been included in the Council mandate.

On 16 September 2020, the European Parliament adopted its mandate, with 88 amendments to the proposal⁴. Despite the Presidency’s continuous invitations to start negotiations as soon as the financial package was approved, the European Parliament has chosen to wait until the Council has approved its full mandate.

⁴ P9_TA(2020)0218.

The European Court of Auditors adopted its opinion on 28 September 2020⁵. The Committee of the Regions adopted its opinion on 14 October 2020⁶. The European Economic and Social Committee adopted its opinion on 29 October 2020⁷.

2. Implementation of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism

Work continued on the implementation of the current UCPM Decision, as amended in March 2019, in particular on continuing the setting-up of the rescEU reserve.

In face of the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, priority was given to further development of the **rescEU medical stockpile**. In response to a first invitation addressed by the Commission to Member and Participating States, four grant agreements were signed with Denmark, Greece, Hungary and Sweden. All four Member States are currently procuring medical and personal protection equipment. The second round of proposals is being evaluated with a view to signing further grant agreements by the end of December. The total budget for the rescEU medical stockpile will exceed the originally earmarked EUR 370 million⁸. The following assistance has so far been provided: 600 000 FFP2 masks, 20 000 FFP3 masks, 50 000 body protection items; in addition, 30 ventilators are on a six-month loan to the Czech Republic. Before the end of 2020, more items will be added to the medical stock.

The developments of MEDEVAC and EMT-3 capacities have slowed down slightly as Member and Participating States have been responding to the COVID-19 emergency. Nevertheless, Norway has signed a grant agreement to develop **MEDEVAC** for patients suffering from highly infectious diseases. This capacity will be developed by the end of 2021.

A consortium of nine Member States is currently discussing the concept of the establishment of an **EMT-3**⁹ capacity, which is a very complex process.

⁵ 11447/20.

⁶ 12064/20.

⁷ 12722/20.

⁸ As of the end of November, the rescEU medical stockpile, hosted by some Member States, consisted of 3.4 million FFP2 masks, 1 million FFP3 masks, 50 000 eye protection items, almost 700 000 body protection items, 400 000 shoe covers, 3.4 million pairs of gloves and 270 ventilators.

⁹ Emergency medical team type 3.

With respect to the 2020 forest fire season, none of the **rescEU planes or helicopters** had to be deployed in Europe. Six Member States took part in the 2020 rescEU transition. Two Member States signed the first grant agreements under rescEU proper: Sweden, for two planes on lease, for a period of four years, and France, for the procurement of two amphibious planes. The 2020 budget implemented for rescEU transition and rescEU proper is around EUR 494 million.

Preparatory technical work continued on **CBRN rescEU capacities**, with support from Member States' experts. In the area of CBRN decontamination, the legislative work was discussed in the Civil Protection Committee in December and could be published in early 2021 with a view to then starting the development phase. Technical work in the areas of detection, surveillance and monitoring as well as stockpiling will follow in 2021.

3. First lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network ('Knowledge Network')

According to Article 13 of the UCPM Decision, the Knowledge Network should be established by the Commission as *'a network of relevant civil protection and disaster management actors, including centres of excellence, universities and researchers'*, focusing on training, exercises, lessons learned and knowledge dissemination, with an online platform as an essential tool. As mentioned above, the Presidency has proposed including an amendment of this provision in the ongoing revision of the UCPM Decision, in order to more accurately reflect the purpose and structure of the Network.

On 9 and 10 November 2020 the Presidency held an expert workshop on 'Drawing lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic for the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network'.

The meeting gathered experts from 32 Member States and UCPM Participating States, the Commission and UNDRR.

While the Knowledge Network's governance structure is under discussion in the Civil Protection Committee and the recently set up Preparatory Working Group (with the aim of adopting an implementing act on its establishment and organisation), the Presidency workshop focused on the Knowledge Network's possible functions and benefits from the perspective of the Member and Participating States.

In preparation of the workshop, two online surveys were launched by the Presidency in August and September, following a three-step approach:

- identification and prioritisation of critical infrastructure affected by the COVID-19 pandemic (survey 1);
- assessing the role and needs of civil protection authorities in support of that critical infrastructure (survey 1); and
- identifying potential for adjustments of the UCPM with a particular focus on the Knowledge Network as a processing unit for aggregating knowledge and sharing information and lessons learned (survey 2).

The results of the two surveys, which were each answered by nearly all Member and Participating States, were summarised in an input paper and shared with participants ahead of the workshop.

Divided into six thematic sessions, experts agreed on a number of recommendations, which should guide the future shaping of the Knowledge Network. According to these recommendations, the Knowledge Network should:

- serve as a processing unit within the UCPM where existing knowledge is linked and processed systematically;
- collect, analyse and enhance knowledge and provide well-structured processes serving the needs of Members States, Participating States and the Commission;
- serve as an enabler within the mechanism and a connecting force bringing together relevant actors under an all-hazard approach;
- contribute to transparent and evidence-based decision making;
- foster innovative and integrated approaches to risk and crisis management;
- help deepen cooperation between science and civil protection;
- foster a culture of multi-hazard and multi-disciplinary approaches;
- connect the Mechanism to other relevant policy areas and aid cross-sectoral and cross-governmental cooperation;
- contribute to building trust and mutual understanding of processes, systems, stakeholders etc., as a prerequisite for efficient cooperation;
- make knowledge easily accessible in an intuitive way and provide new networking opportunities.

The recommendations were presented by the Presidency and supported by Directors-General for Civil Protection at their virtual meeting on 24 November. The implementation of the recommendations will be discussed in the recently established Preparatory Working Group on the Knowledge Network.

In line with the trio programme, the further development of the Knowledge Network will also be taken forward by the incoming Portuguese Presidency. The launch of the Network is indicatively planned for the end of next year.

4. Bonn Agreement for cooperation in dealing with pollution of the North Sea by oil and other harmful substances

Following the adoption by the Contracting Parties of amendments to the Agreement during their meeting on 9-11 October 2019, on 28 August 2020 the Commission submitted to the Council a proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion of the amendments to the Agreement with regard to the extension of its material scope and the accession of Spain¹⁰.

After **approval of the draft Council Decision** by Coreper on 28 October¹¹, on 3 November the Council, by a written procedure, decided to **request the consent of the European Parliament**¹².

The Bonn Agreement of 1989 aims to combat pollution in the North Sea area and to safeguard coastal areas from maritime disasters and chronic pollution from ships and offshore installations. The EU is a Contracting Party to the Agreement, together with seven of its Member States¹³, the UK and Norway. The Agreement provides that Contracting Parties carry out surveillance as an aid to detecting and combating pollution and to preventing violations of anti-pollution regulations.

The amendments extend the scope to cover surveillance of ship-based air-pollution in respect of the requirements of Annex VI to the MARPOL Convention.

¹⁰ 10352/20 + ADD 1 + ADD 2.

¹¹ 12165/20.

¹² 11487/20, 11490/20, 11493/20.

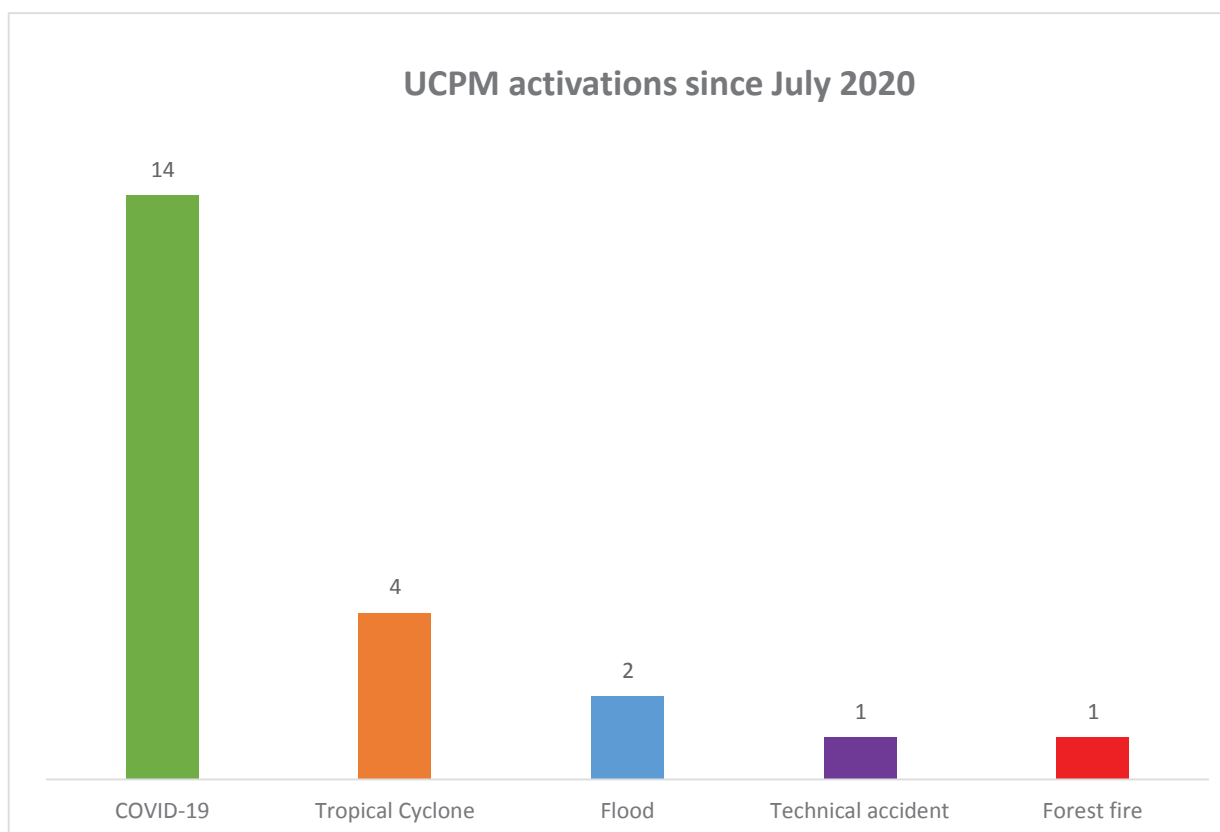
¹³ Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Sweden.

Following the Contracting Parties' decision in 2018 to invite Spain to join the Agreement, another amendment was necessary to specify the Atlantic boundary of the North Sea area (adding the Bay of Biscay), while revising the boundaries of various zones where responsibility for the surveillance and assessment of incidents is assigned to members.

The Council Decision will be adopted once the European Parliament has delivered its consent.

5. Response to emergencies

Since the beginning of July 2020, the UCPM has been activated 22 times (four requests for assistance within the EU and 18 outside the EU¹⁴), of which only eight were not related to COVID-19. In addition, the European Commission's Copernicus Emergency Management Service was activated 40 times, producing 216 maps.



¹⁴ Requests received from the UCPM Participating States and the UK are counted as within the EU.

Requests for assistance through the UCPM within the EU were related to shortages of medical personnel, medical equipment and personal protective equipment in face of the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the fire in the refugee camp in Greece.

Outside the EU, apart from COVID-related UCPM activations, assistance was provided in response to the explosion in the Port of Beirut, floods in Sudan and Niger, forest fires in Bolivia, and tropical cyclones in Honduras, Panama, Guatemala and Columbia.

A description of the UCPM activations is set out in Annex 1 provided by the Commission.

a) UCPM activations inside the EU

1. **UPDATE: Greece – migration and COVID-19 situation in the Aegean Islands
- update of the request from April (12/09/2020)**

Situation: Back in April 2020, with the threat of COVID-19, there was an urgent need for decongestion of the camp structures on the Aegean islands, in combination with safeguarding hygiene requirements. Greece opened the emergency in CECIS requesting assistance through the Mechanism.

Updated request for assistance: On 12 September, following the fire at the Moria Reception and Identification Centre, Greece updated the ongoing emergency with a new list of needed items focused mainly on shelter, hygiene and non-food items.

Response: Overall, 14 countries sent assistance through the UCPM with offers from AT, CZ, CY, DE, DK, FI, FR, HU, NL, PL, SK, SE, SI and the UK. LV, RO and SK made further offers, however as certain needs were already met, the items were no longer required. Over 171,000 shelter items, mobile toilets, toiletries, sanitation facilities, solar lanterns, and other non-food items were delivered via the UCPM. On 19 November, Greece decided to close the emergency as the needs of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum had been met by offers from the EU Member States and UCPM Participating States.

2. **Dutch Caribbean Islands – COVID-19 (28/09/2020)**

Situation: The situation caused by the Covid-19 “second wave” infections worsened very rapidly on the three autonomous Dutch Caribbean islands (Curacao, Aruba and Sint Maarten) which are part of The Kingdom of The Netherlands. Due to the increasing number of infected cases, the need of PPE, medical equipment, disinfectants and medication in general was increasing and the available stocks on the islands were not sufficient while reserves ran out quickly.

Request for assistance: The request for assistance consisted of critical medical equipment in support to the Covid-19 response.

Response: On 9 October, NL offered hospital trolleys and ventilators systems. On 20 October, the NL offered surgical masks, gloves, FFP2 masks, isolation coats. On 26 October, isolation coats long sleeves and on 2 November FFP2 masks, gloves, FFP3 masks, coats, protection glasses and facial protection masks.

3. Czech Republic – COVID-19 (18/10/2020)

Situation: According to the national authorities, the Czech Republic was facing a serious situation related to Covid-19 pandemic. Since the beginning of September 2020, the number of cases was rapidly increasing. On 5 October, the government of the Czech Republic announced the State of Emergency.

Request for assistance: On 18 October, Czech authorities requested via CECIS 150 Ventilators, 1000 High flow nasal oxygen therapy devices.

On 30 October CZ informed all UCPM MS/PS of the potential need for small medical teams (10 teams – 5 pax each – 1 doctor + 4 nurses).

Response: 30 ventilators from the rescEU medical stockpile hosted by RO were allocated to the Czech Republic on 20 October and delivered on 24 October. The planned deployment timeframe is 3 months. AT offered 15 invasive treatment ventilators on 22 October and 30 non-invasive treatment ventilators (High flow nasal oxygen therapy) on 23 October. Assistance was delivered on 26 October. On 23 October, NL offered 105 ventilators, delivered on 19 November.

The activation was closed on 20 November.

4. France – COVID-19 (27/10/2020)

Situation: With a worsening COVID-19 situation in France, French authorities opened a request for assistance in CECIS on 27 October.

Request for assistance: France requested UCPM MS/PS to support with 2 million pair of gloves. A supplementary request was issued on 3 November for additional 1 million pair of gloves.

On 9 Nov, France requested a supplementary 1 million pairs of gloves.

Response: NR offered the needed quantity of 3 million pairs of gloves on 27 October and on 5 November. First batch arrived on 5 November. The second transport was organised by NR and gloves arrived on 12 November.

CZ offered 500,000 pairs of gloves. The gloves arrived in FR on 20 November.

Additionally, the ERCC mobilised 500,000 pairs of gloves from the rescEU medical stockpile hosted by EL which were delivered to FR on 18 November.

5. Denmark – COVID-19 (05/11/2020)

Situation: The Danish health authorities had confirmed an outbreak of a mutated coronavirus in mink animals that spreads to humans and potentially threatens the effectiveness of future vaccines. The process of culling infected farms has been escalated to include all mink farms in Denmark and became a top priority as time is essential to prevent further spread of this new mutated string.

Request for assistance: Denmark issued an urgent request for in-kind assistance of 6,000 CE certified type III protections suits and/or contact to suppliers of the needed equipment.

Response: AT and FI analysed the possibility of offering the requested quantities in accordance, and provided contacts of possible providers for the suits.

The next day, on 6 November, DK informed that the suits were procured locally and the emergency was closed in CECIS.

b) UCPM activations outside the EU

1. WFP - COVID-19 support for Burkina Faso and Cameroon 03/07/2020

Situation: In the light of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic Burkina Faso and Cameroon were experiencing, WFP decided to request support to the UCPM to address urgent needs.

Request for assistance: On 3 July, WFP confirmed ERCC that their operations in Burkina Faso and Cameroon were in urgent need of support. The request for assistance consisted of tents and tents structure in support to WFP hubs in Burkina Faso and Cameroon.

Response: On 3 July, SE offered 40 tents for Burkina Faso and 36 tents for Cameroon. The tents were delivered on 29 July.

The emergency was closed in CECIS on 23 September based on confirmation from WFP that the needs were met.

2. Kenya – COVID-19 (09/07/2020)

Situation: In light of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the government of Kenya requested assistance to support their ongoing actions to flatten the epidemic peak in the country.

Request for assistance: On 26 March the Government of the Republic of Kenya requested medical support for its population. The Ministry of Health has prioritised the following items as most urgent: Personal protective equipment, ventilators, cardiac monitors with blood pressure, pulse rate and oxygen saturation, temperature scanners.

On 20 October, Kenya sent an updated list of items needed.

Response: Beginning July 2020, SK offered 20,000 FFP2 masks, 22 pair footwear, 15 sets of clothing, 50,000 COVID PCR tests, PCR detection systems and disinfectants. The assistance was transported to Kenya as of 24 July.

3. Kyrgyz Republic – COVID-19 (20/07/2020)

Situation: In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the ERCC received a request for international assistance from the Kyrgyz Republic.

Request for assistance: On 20 July, the Kyrgyz Republic requested assistance via the UCPM consisting of pharmaceutical products and medicines in support of the response to COVID-19 in the country.

Response: There were no offers via UCPM.
The activation was closed on 10 November.

4. Bangladesh – COVID-19 (22/07/2020)

Situation: In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the ERCC has received a request for international assistance from Bangladesh.

Request for assistance: On 23 June, Bangladesh MoFA sent a requested for assistance to ECHO via EU Delegation Dhaka, consisting of emergency medical equipment.

Response: FR offered 20.000 surgical masks, 10,000 FFP2 masks, 4,000 disposable gloves, 2,000 gowns, 500 visors, 1 oxygen kit. The offer was accepted on 23 July. Due to the involvement of FR in the Lebanon emergency, the delivery of the items was postponed.

5. El Salvador – COVID-19 (22/07/2020)

Situation: In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, on 2 April the ERCC has received a request for international assistance from El Salvador.

Request for assistance: El Salvador issued a request for international assistance, which was sent to ECHO via EU Delegation in San Salvador and ECHO Rapid Response Coordinator for Americas and Caribbean, consisting of medical supplies, medicines, hygiene and PPE. On 19 June, El Salvador sent an update of the request for assistance via EU Delegation San Salvador, doctors and nurses specialised in intensive care and respiratory diseases.

Response: On 22 July, FR offered 20.000 surgical masks, 10,000 FFP2 masks, 4,000 disposable gloves, 2,000 gowns, 500 visors, 1 oxygen kit. The offer was accepted on 23 July. Due to the involvement of FR in Lebanon emergency, the delivery of the items was organised by FR as of 11 November, arriving in El Salvador on 17 November.

6. Ecuador – COVID-19 (22/07/2020)

Situation: In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the ERCC has received on 24 March a request for international assistance from Ecuador.

Request for assistance: The request was consisting of medical equipment and PPE's. On 21 April, Ecuador sent to ERCC an updated request for assistance with request for similar medical materials, medicines and PPE's.

Response: FR offered 20.000 surgical masks, 10,000 FFP2 masks, 4,000 disposable gloves, 2,000 gowns, 500 visors, 1 oxygen kit. Due to the involvement of FR in the Lebanon emergency, the delivery of the items was postponed. The offers are pending acceptance for some time due to clarifications requested by Ecuador.

7. Azerbaijan – COVID-19 (29/07/2020)

Situation: Due to the situation in the country related to COVID-19, a request for assistance was issued to support the national efforts.

Request for assistance: On 10 July, Azerbaijan issued a request for assistance sent via EU Delegation in Baku to support the national efforts responding to COVID-19. The request contained the need for medicines and epidemiologist/doctors/ nurses and contact tracing experts.

Response: On 30 July, IT offered a medical expert team to support Azerbaijan health authorities with advice and expertise transfer. The team was composed of 6 persons with experience in COVID-19 management: 2 emergency doctors; 1 infectious diseases expert; 1 anaesthesiologist and 2 nurses. The team was deployed in August.

The activation was closed on 9 October.

8. Lebanon – Explosions (04/08/2020)

Situation: On 4 August, a series of explosions damaged parts of the Port of Beirut and the city itself. Over 200 people were killed due to the explosion and more than 6,500 suffered injuries.

The Lebanese Army took over the coordination of the rescue operations from the Lebanese Civil Defence. The Lebanese Red Cross was in charge to maintain a database with active NGO's in the country.

WHO highlighted the critical need to maintain and expand the capacities to tackle COVID-19. During the following weeks after the blasts, Lebanon faced an increased number of COVID-19 cases.

Request for assistance: On 4 August, the Lebanese Government issued an initial request for assistance to the UCPM for teams specialised in Urban Search and Rescue (USAR), Chemical-Biological-Radiological-Nuclear (CBRN) detection and firefighting. Personal protective equipment (PPE) for chemical incidents and for health workers, medicines and medical equipment were also requested. The original request was further updated on 6, 7, 11, 17 and 20 August to include shelter and food items, as well as various medicines, medical equipment, COVID-19 specialised medical teams and construction materials.

Response: According to VOSOCC, 27 international teams (USAR, medical, telecom, IT and hazardous substances) had been deployed to Lebanon to support the rescue operations and support to affected population.

Via the UCPM 20 Member/Participating States offered teams and in-kind assistance in response to the Lebanese request for assistance. 300 personnel from the EU joined the response and in-kind assistance from the EU, was channelled to 26 hospitals.

Deployed teams: MUSAR from CZ, FR, DE, GR, PL; HUSAR from NL; CBRN from IT; Medical assistance from FR. In-kind assistance: AT, BE, BG, HR, CY, DK, FI, FR, IT, NO, RO, SK, ES, SE, TR.

A EUCPT of nine CP experts (CZ, DE, DK, FI, FR, NL, RO, SE, SI) supported by a six pax TAST from FI and two ERCC LO's was deployed to Beirut between 6 and 17 August to support the coordination of the assistance.

The ECHO Field Lebanon Team was reinforced with seven humanitarian experts for shelter, WASH, health, logistics, information and communication. The team worked closely with the Lebanese national authorities and international partners.

Three ECHO Humanitarian Air Bridge (HAB) flights supported the delivery of assistance:

12 August: Lyon - Beirut with 17 tonnes of assistance from UNICEF and Médecines du Monde; Maastricht - Beirut with 12 tonnes of assistance from Spain, PPEs from University of Antwerp, and other humanitarian actors.

12 September: Munich - Beirut with 24 tonnes of in-kind assistance including assistance from PT (medicines, PPE's, medical equipment, WASH) and DE (ambulances, firefighting equipment). On board of the plane was also EU CSSR for Crisis Management Janez Lenarčič.

Financial support: EC announced an initial figure of 333 million with an addition of 30 million pledged on 9 August 2020. Total EC contribution 64.1 million to support the addressing of immediate needs of people affected by explosions.

EMS Copernicus was triggered on 5 August and produced three detailed maps.

The activation was closed on 17 October.

9. Brazil – COVID-19 (26/08/2020)

Situation: Due to the COVID-19 situation in the country, the ERCC received a request for assistance from Brazil via EU Delegation Brasilia on 14 August.

Request for assistance: On 14 August Brazil requested assistance form UCPM via ERCC. The request focused on medicines.

Response: On 28 August, PT offered assistance to Brazil consisting of 15400 units of Atropine. Assistance is still at the Brazilian embassy in Lisbon, pending a certificate of donation from the PT MoH.

10. Kosovo¹⁵ – COVID-19 (01/09/2020)

Situation: In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the ERCC has received a request for international assistance from Kosovo Ministry of Health.

Request for assistance: On 24 April Kosovo requested assistance consisting of PPE, ventilators and medical items.

Response: On 1 September, SI offered 10,000 surgical masks and disinfectants to Kosovo. The assistance was delivered 12 September.

11. Sudan – Floods (11/09/2020)

Situation: Sudan and other countries in SAHEL region have been severely affected by a long period of torrential rains. On 5 September the state of emergency was declared by Government of Sudan due to widespread floods in 9 states of the country. According to UN OCHA, 121 people died as a result and more than 860,000 houses, 560 schools and thousands of health facilities damaged, affecting essential services. More than 75% of farms have been flooded and tools, equipment, machinery and livestock lost.

Request for assistance: ERCC has received a request for assistance issued by the Embassy of the Republic of Sudan in Belgium.

Response: ES, FR and IT offered assistance in response to the request from the Government of Sudan. On 16 September ES offered tents, jerry cans, tarpaulins. On 21 September, FR offered tents, kitchen sets, sleeping mats, tarpaulins, water purification tablets; and Italy tents, jerry cans, squatting plates for latrine, blankets, kitchen sets, and mosquito nets.

On 1 November, AT offered 500 jerry cans, 1000 mosquito nets, and 500 kitchen sets. The offer was accepted on 3 November, and transport arranged by AT later in November.

On 11 September, the Commission announced EUR 4.1 million in emergency humanitarian funding to respond to the floods in East Africa, with EUR 1 million allocated to Sudan.

¹⁵ This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

12. Bolivia – Forest fires (17/09/2020)

Situation: In 2020, Bolivia along with other South America Countries (Paraguay, Peru, Brazil, Ecuador) faced again a severe season for forest fires.

According to the Joint Research Centre's Global Wildfire Information System (GWIS), 10,000 fires have burnt over 4.5 million hectares in Bolivia since the beginning of the year, representing approximately 4% of the country's area, with 50% occurring in natural reserves. Despite September's increase and the large area burnt in absolute numbers, the burnt area in 2020 (4.5 million ha) is still less than in the same period of 2019 (6.7 million ha) and is in line with the average annual burnt area since 2001.

Request for assistance: On 16 September, the ERCC received a request for assistance from the Bolivian authorities through the EU Delegation, for equipment such as fire trucks, transport means, fire-fighting equipment and fire retardant. The list of requested items was communicated to UCPM Member and Participating States. Upon further consultation and clarification with the Government of Bolivia and the EU Delegation on the logistical arrangements, the case was upgraded to a formal request for assistance on 24 September

Response: So far, there were no offers received via UCPM.

13. Niger – Floods (18/09/2020)

Situation: As of August, Niger was affected by serious floods. 40,000 houses were damaged, thousands of hectares agricultural land were flooded, and more than 400,000 were affected by the floods. As reported by the Government, 72 people died. As of 4 September, Niger declared state of emergency in the affected regions.

Request for assistance: the ERCC received a request for assistance on 18 September issued by Niger government for the recent floods. The request for assistance focuses on items like tents, non-food items (mosquito nets, blankets, jerry cans, soap, etc.), latrines, water tanks, bladders and mobile station for water pumping and treatment. On 26 September, the ERCC received an updated list of needs with additional operational information.

Response: On 6 October, ES offered assistance via UCPM consisting of tarpaulins, mosquito nets and blankets. The items were delivered to Niger as of 9 October 2020.

On 1 November, AT offered 1000 jerry cans, 1000 mosquito nets, 1000 hygiene parcels IFRC standards. Offer was accepted on 2 November and transported by AT later in November.

Italy offered assistance (tents and other shelter materials) on bilateral basis.

The EU announced EUR 2.35 million in emergency humanitarian assistance to respond to the devastating floods in West and Central Africa, out of which EUR 1 million has been allocated to Niger. This EU funding will provide emergency shelter for displaced people to meet their immediate needs including food and medicine. The funding will also be used for water, hygiene and sanitation assistance aimed at preventing the outbreak of water-borne diseases such as cholera.

Based on the request from the International Charter for Space and Major Disasters, on 3 October, the ERCC activated the EMS Copernicus, in order to provide additional mapping support by complementing the existing Charter activation.

14. Honduras – Tropical Cyclone ETA/IOTA (07/11/2020)

Situation: Honduras was facing devastating effects of hurricane ETA-20 that brought heavy rain in the eastern, central and northern areas, causing floods and landslides.

As of 18 November, Honduras and Guatemala were also affected by the passage of tropical cyclone (TC) IOTA. More than 38 people have died during floods and landslides caused by Iota, and nearly half million people – including 189,000 children - have been affected by this latest storm, only in Guatemala and Honduras.

Request for assistance: On 7 November the ERCC received a request for assistance via Echo field office Panama issued by Government of Honduras (addressed to the EU Delegation). The request focuses on shelter, hygiene, wash items and food.

Response: On 16 November, FR offered 4,000 blankets, 400 toolkits, 1,000 sleeping mats, 216 family sized tents, 100 ropes of 100 metres. The assistance was delivered on 24 November.

On 11 November, EMS Copernicus was triggered for production of sat maps on the consequences of TC ETA. Another Copernicus activation was opened on 17 November to assess the consequences of TC IOTA in Honduras, Colombia and Nicaragua.

15. Panama – Tropical Cyclones ETA (08/11/2020)

Situation: Panama was affected as well by the consequences of the TC ETA-20. As of 4 November, the Panamanian National Civil Protection System (SINAPROC) reports that rains related to TC ETA-20 have damaged some 213 homes in western and central Panama communities.

Request for assistance: On 8 November the ERCC received a request for assistance, via ECHO field office Panama, issued by the Panama Government and addressed to the EU Delegation in this country. The request focuses on early warning systems, surveillance drones, and heavy machinery for intervention, flood rescue equipment, communications radios, and less on immediate relief items.

Response: On 11 November, ES offered 1,300 jerry cans, 700 mosquito nets, 300 kitchen kits and 505 blankets. The assistance was delivered on the same day from the ES hub in Panama.

16. Guatemala – Tropical Cyclones ETA and IOTA (08/11/2020)

Situation: Guatemala was affected by heavy rains and floods caused by TC ETA and also TC IOTA. According to the Government of Guatemala, over 300 000 people were affected, including 42 fatalities. Guatemala also suffered great material damage on roads, bridges, buildings, including schools.

Request for assistance: On 11 November, the ERCC received a request for assistance issued by the Government of Guatemala in response to the emergency caused by TC ETA. The request focuses on shelter, hygiene and WASH items.

Response: On 18 November, FR offered 504 family size kitchen sets, 960 blankets, 1400 jerry cans and 500 cleaning kits. The assistance arrived on 25 November.

17. Colombia – Tropical Cyclone IOTA (22/11/2020)

Situation: Colombia was seriously affected by the consequences of TC IOTA-20. The most affected areas are the Archipelago of San Andrés, Providencia and Santa Catalina in the Caribbean Sea.

Request for assistance: On 22 November, the ERCC received a request for assistance issued by Colombia and addressed to the EU Delegation in the country. The request includes food, kitchen sets, hygiene kits, WASH items, other non-food items and construction material.

Response: EMS Copernicus was triggered on 17 November to produce satellite maps on the most affected areas from Central America due to the passage of TC IOTA.

NOTE on the use of emergency humanitarian funding as response to TC ETA and TC IOTA: On 24 November, the EC provided a supplementary EUR 1.65 million to Central America (Honduras, Nicaragua and Guatemala) and Colombia in support to the affected population by the consequences of TC IOTA (floods, damage, landslides). This amount is in addition to EUR 1.55 million allocated on 11 November for Honduras, Nicaragua and Guatemala immediately after the passage of TC ETA.

18. Kyrgyz Republic (2nd activation) – COVID-19 (22/11/2020)

Situation: In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the ERCC received a second request for international assistance from Kyrgyz Republic Mission to EU.

Request for assistance: On 22 November Kyrgyz Republic requested assistance via the UCPM consisting of pharmaceutical products - medicines and personal protective equipment in support of the response to COVID-19 in the country.

Response: So far, there are no offers via UCPM.
