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From:	Presidency
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
No. prev. doc.:	13317/1/19 REV 1
Subject:	Report from Finland's Presidency on the main achievements at EU level in the field of civil protection

1. Delegations will find attached a Presidency Report on the main achievements at EU level in the field of civil protection.
2. COREPER is advised to invite the Council to take note of the report.

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

This report outlines the main achievements at the EU level in the field of civil protection during Finland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

The second half of 2019 was marked by further implementation<sup>1</sup> of the amended Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) Decision, including policy discussions in PROCIV on low probability risks with a high impact, as well as on the use of rescEU outside the Union.

The Council adopted the partial general approach regarding another legislative proposal<sup>2</sup> to amend the UCPM in view of the next multiannual financial framework (MFF) 2021-2027.

As a priority topic, the Presidency focused on resilience and cross-sectoral cooperation in responding to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) threats with hybrid elements, as well as promoting a forward-looking discussion on the protection of critical infrastructure.

In advance of the meeting of Contracting Parties to the Bonn Agreement for Co-operation in Dealing with Pollution of the North Sea by Oil and Other Harmful Substances, held in Bonn on 9-11 October, the Council adopted two Decisions setting out the EU position on the amendments to the Agreement, as well as the Ministerial Declaration and an Action Plan.

Finally, the UCPM was activated a number of times in response to natural and man-made disasters around the globe, both inside and outside the EU.

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<sup>1</sup> Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/570 of 8 April 2019 laying down rules for the implementation of Decision No 1313/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards rescEU capacities and amending Commission Implementing Decision 2014/762/EU, OJ L 99, 10.4.2019, p. 41;

Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/1310 of 31 July 2019 laying down rules on the operation of the European Civil Protection Pool and rescEU. OJ L 204, 2.8.2019, p. 94;

Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/1930 of 18 November 2019 amending Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/570 as regards rescEU capacities, OJ L 299, 20.11.2019, p. 55.

<sup>2</sup> Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Decision No 1313/2013/EU on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism (7271/19, COM(2019) 125 final).

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

Following discussion during the Romanian Presidency on the legislative proposal of 7 March 2019 to amend the Union Civil Protection Mechanism in view of the next MFF 2021-2027, on 19 November 2019 the Council adopted a partial general approach<sup>3</sup>.

The Commission's proposal increases the budget for the UCPM from EUR 574 million for 2014-2020 to EUR 1.4 billion for 2021-2027, in order to reinforce the collective capacity of the Member States and the EU to prevent, prepare for and respond to disasters by i.a. developing rescEU capacities, setting up a civil protection knowledge network, co-financing the cost of adapting, repairing, transporting and/or operating European Civil Protection Pool capacities.

The compromise text is based on the following principles:

- ensuring flexibility in the management of EU funding for actions under the UCPM, by deleting Annex I laying down percentages for allocation of the financial envelope, as proposed by the Commission;
- ensuring a predictable allocation of funds by expanding the possibility of using multi-annual work programmes and split budgetary commitments for the whole of Article 21 (prevention/preparedness actions);
- further reinforcement of the European Civil Protection Pool by allowing for EU co-financing of the operational costs of committed capacities when deployed outside the Union (Article 23);
- reinforcing the transparency and predictability of budgetary execution and projected future allocations (Article 25)
- allowing Member States to make use of the Galileo emergency service in order to warn the population in particular areas about natural disasters or other emergencies (Article 9).

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<sup>3</sup> 13792/19;  
All reference amounts are pending the conclusion of negotiations regarding the MFF 2021-2027.

Furthermore, in the light of the entry into force of the new EU Financial Regulation<sup>4</sup>, the compromise text updates the relevant references.

Finally, Article 27 related to the protection of the Union financial interests was amended in accordance with the standard provisions, as approved by Coreper<sup>5</sup>.

Negotiations with the European Parliament will start once the latter has adopted its position.

## **2. Resilience and cross-sectoral cooperation in responding to CBRN threats with hybrid elements**

Finland's Presidency priority in the field of civil protection was to promote discussion on resilience and cross-sectoral cooperation in responding to the variety of evolving threats and risks Europe is currently facing, with a particular focus on CBRN-related threats that can be further complicated by hybrid elements such as disinformation.

During Finland's Presidency, at their informal meeting in Helsinki in July 2019, Justice and Home Affairs Ministers took part in a scenario-based policy discussion on hybrid threats, the aim of which was to raise awareness of existing EU crisis response mechanisms and decision-making. Ministers contemplated policy options for the management of a major hybrid threat/CBRN event, including invocation of the EU's Solidarity Clause, taking into account the EU's response capacities - including the UCPM.

The Presidency workshop on *Resilience and cross-sectoral cooperation in responding to CBRN threats with hybrid elements* was held in Helsinki on 22-23 July 2019. Participants discussed CBRN threats and complicated combinations of threats, including extreme weather and hybrid threat activities. The Presidency invited representatives from the European Commission, NATO International Staff, the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and the Centre of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats to present their approach to resilience and CBRN preparedness.

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<sup>4</sup> Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p. 1).

<sup>5</sup> 5146/1/19 REV 1, 13523/19.

The participants were introduced to a serious gaming concept with the help of a crisis decision-making game ANYCaRE, facilitated by representatives from the Horizon2020 project ANYWHERE<sup>6</sup>.

As key insights from the workshop it was noted that complex incidents involving several simultaneous events, such as extreme weather combined with a CBRN incident with a hybrid twist, can potentially exhaust capacities at different levels (local/regional/national/European). A CBRN incident combined with extreme weather can also provide an opportunity for malicious hybrid activities.

Possible needs mentioned during the discussion were detection and decontamination capacities, the use of new technologies such as robotics and drones, and geographically distributed stockpiling of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Swift detection of hazardous material is crucial in order to prepare an efficient response and ensure the safety of first responders (as was also learned from the example of Salisbury). Mass decontamination of buildings, vehicles and personnel is important in the aftermath of an incident and may be a long process. Defining capacity gaps is, however, extremely difficult since it is hard to know what is available in different sectors. The development of CBRN capacities is also complicated by the lack of standards, not only at EU level but also at national level.

It was noted that hybrid threats are relevant to internal security authorities at every level, regardless of national arrangements. Situations involving hybrid influencing tend to go beyond formal divisions of responsibility. There can be no silos when it comes to hybrid. Civil protection authorities should be aware of the possibility of hybrid activities affecting their work. Differentiating between coincidental, separate incidents and coordinated hybrid influencing campaigns can be difficult.

The key outcomes of the workshop were presented and discussed in PROCIV on 12 September 2019. The importance of cross-sectoral cooperation was highlighted in the discussion. Countering CBRN and hybrid threats requires knowing the right counterparts, both nationally and at the European level.

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<sup>6</sup> Enhancing Emergency Management and Response to Extreme Weather and Climate Events.

Cross-sectoral cooperation and the interface of law enforcement/intelligence communities and civil protection in responding to CBRN incidents were also discussed in the joint meeting of the Terrorism Working Party (TWP) and PROCIV on 12 September 2019. The importance of well-functioning cross-sectoral cooperation and sharing of experiences and best practices was underlined in the discussion. One of the main challenges identified was dealing with confidential information. CBRN incidents require a broad and comprehensive approach and therefore bringing the law enforcement and civil protection communities together is important.

The joint meeting format of TWP and PROCIV can be a useful platform for sharing information also in the future.

Key insights from the workshop and the joint meeting were presented and discussed in the Directors-General meeting in Helsinki on 9-10 October 2019.

The Horizontal Working Party on Enhancing Resilience and Countering Hybrid Threats (HWP ERCHT) was briefed on the discussions related to the resilience and cross-sectoral cooperation theme on 25 October 2019 by the PROCIV chair.

### **3. Bonn Agreement for Co-operation in Dealing with Pollution of the North Sea by Oil and Other Harmful Substances**

Following discussions in PROCIV, on 7 October 2019 the Council adopted two Decisions:

- Council Decision (EU) 2019/1727 on the position to be adopted on behalf of the European Union at the Second Ministerial Meeting of the Bonn Agreement with regard to the Ministerial Declaration and the Bonn Agreement Strategic Action Plan (BASAP) 2019-2025 annexed thereto<sup>7</sup>;
- Council Decision authorising the opening of negotiations on behalf of the European Union at the Thirty-First Meeting of the Contracting Parties on the amendments to the Agreement for Co-operation in Dealing with Pollution of the North Sea by Oil and Other Harmful Substances (Bonn Agreement) with regard to the extension of the scope of application of the Bonn Agreement and with regard to the accession of the Kingdom of Spain to the Bonn Agreement<sup>8</sup>.

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<sup>7</sup> OJ L 263 of 16 October 2019, p. 9.

<sup>8</sup> 12187/19 + ADD 1.

The Bonn Agreement of 1989<sup>9</sup> aims to combat pollution in the North Sea Area and 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 eight of its Member States<sup>10</sup> 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.

At their thirty-first meeting, the Contracting Parties to the Agreement adopted a decision concerning the extension of its scope to also cover surveillance of ship-based air-pollution in respect of the requirements of Annex VI to the MARPOL Convention. This amendment aims at improving cooperation and coordination between the Contracting Parties in combating unlawful air emissions caused by shipping in order to limit the negative consequences of the combustion of marine fuels with high sulphur or nitrogen content for human health, biodiversity and the entire marine environment.

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.

Both amendments were adopted unanimously by the Contracting Parties during their thirty-first meeting, which took place from 9 to 11 October 2019.

On the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Bonn Agreement, on 11 October 2019 the Contracting Parties adopted a Ministerial Declaration which sets out a common vision of a Greater North Sea free from accidental, avoidable and deliberate pollution from shipping, offshore oil and gas operations and other maritime activities. Finally, the Contracting Parties also adopted the Bonn Agreement Strategic Action Plan (BASAP), annexed to the Ministerial Declaration, setting out ambitious strategic aims, operational objectives and actions for implementing them for the period 2019-2025.

The ratification process will be launched.

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<sup>9</sup> The first "Agreement for Cooperation in Dealing with Pollution of the North Sea by Oil" was signed in 1969 and was replaced in 1983 by a new Bonn Agreement covering "other harmful substances" as well as oil.

<sup>10</sup> Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Sweden, and the United Kingdom (status of ratifications on 10.4.2019).

#### 4. Critical infrastructure protection (CIP)

In the PROCIV meeting on 14 November 2019 delegations were invited to exchange views on the future direction of CIP at European level. The discussion was preceded by briefings on ongoing work of the Working Party on Enhancing Resilience and Countering Hybrid Threats and the main outcomes of the Conference on Critical Connections, Continuity and Supply (Brussels, 6 November 2019), aspects of public-private partnerships in CIP and transatlantic perspectives on CIP, including the EU-USA-Canada Expert Meeting on CIP (Helsinki, 29-30 October 2019).

The Commission representative presented the Commission's ongoing work on CIP. On 23 July 2019 the Commission issued an evaluation of Council Directive 2008/114/EC on the identification and designation of European Critical Infrastructures and the assessment of the need to improve their protection<sup>11</sup>. The evaluation concludes that while some elements of the Directive remain useful, others are of limited value today and could be revisited with the aim of better achieving the Directive's objectives. For instance, there are grounds for considering a move away from asset protection towards an approach that accounts for interdependencies across a range of different sectors. The evaluation also points to the need to review the current scope of the Directive and whether it should encompass additional sectors besides energy and transport.

The Working Party exchanged views on the future direction of CIP at European level. The following issues were raised in the discussion and in the submitted written comments<sup>12</sup>:

- whether future work on European CIP should involve an approach based on voluntary cooperation or a renewed regulatory framework;
- the scope of the ECI directive and possible need to broaden it to include other sectors, and links to the NIS directive;
- the need to take account of interdependencies beyond physical critical infrastructure (focus on the continuity of critical functions/services or business continuity) and the resilience of critical infrastructure;
- the possibility to identify certain infrastructures as 'pan-European' strategic infrastructure on which all the MS depend;
- the importance of the private sector and public-private partnerships in CIP;
- the need to enhance international cooperation on CIP, including transatlantic cooperation and cooperation in the immediate vicinity of the European Union;

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<sup>11</sup> 11577/19, 11491/19.

<sup>12</sup> WK 13724/2019.



- the need to strengthen the exchange of best practices and national experiences in cross-sectoral cooperation in CIP, including within the existing framework of the CIP Points of Contact network.

## 5. Perspectives on resilience, prevention and preparedness measures

The Working Party was briefed on ongoing cross-sectoral activities closely linked to resilience and to PROCIV's work and the Union Civil Protection Mechanism.

The UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and the European Centre of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats presented a 'stress test tool' idea, linking disaster risk reduction (DRR) capabilities to new threats not traditionally included in the DRR/Sendai framework (e.g. hybrid threats).

The UNECE presented the Industrial Accidents Convention and links to the UCPM legislation.

The Finnish Red Cross briefed delegations on the *Checklist on Law and Disaster Preparedness and Response* — a new tool for supporting legal preparedness and response to disasters.

## 6. Implementation of the revised Union Civil Protection Mechanism

### a) Operationalisation of rescEU

Building on the work initiated under the Romanian Presidency, the Commission and Member States continued to work on the three priority areas identified by the new UCPM legislation for the development of rescEU capacities.

The second meeting of the **Aerial Firefighting (AFF) task team** took place on 2-3 October 2019. The objectives of this meeting were to: 1) define the type, number and technical specifications of assets needed as rescEU capacities; 2) identify tentative geographical localisation; 3) draft a realistic timeline for the acquisition of these capacities; and 4) find an agreement on joint procurement modalities.

The conclusions were presented to the Civil Protection Committee on 24 October 2019. Member States welcomed the work done by the task team and agreed on the overall plan and the proposed way forward, notably on the development of a mixed fleet of around 22 to 26 light and medium amphibious aeroplanes as well as medium helicopters. These capacities would be spread over different hubs (still to determined) within 3 main regions (north, east, south) identified. The next steps will focus on the definition of the overall plan, seeking agreement on the final composition and locations of the rescEU fleet, as well as launching the necessary procedures for the procurement of these capacities over the coming years.

Regarding the **medical emergency task team**, a specific meeting on MEDEVAC was organised on 9-10 September 2019, focusing on the preparation of the annex to the implementing act covering the minimum quality requirements for these new capacities. A distinction was made between the scenario of highly infectious disease patients and the scenario with other disaster victims. For the Emergency Medical Team type 3 (EMT-3), minimum technical requirements were aligned on WHO standards. As with the outcome of the AFF task team meeting, this technical work was presented to the Civil Protection Committee on 24 October 2019. In that meeting, the related proposal for the Commission Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/570 on ‘rescEU medical capacities act’ was also presented, receiving a positive opinion by consensus on the same occasion. Following the entry into force of the implementing decision, two additional task team meetings took place in December 2019, focusing specifically on the EMT-3 (6 December), and on MEDEVAC (12 December).

As regards the **CBRN task team**, a first meeting on decontamination took place through Webex on 5 September 2019 to start shaping a common understanding of a possible decontamination capacity at EU level. A follow-up meeting took place in Brussels on 21-22 November 2019, which addressed decontamination, detection, surveillance and monitoring. Finally, it was agreed that the Commission would convene a specific task team meeting in early 2020 around the stockpiling of EBOLA countermeasures as a new potential capacity under rescEU.

## **b) Low probability risks with a high impact**

The concept of low probability risks with a high impact was first introduced in the revised UCPM legislation. Building on the work started during the Romanian Presidency, the Working Party had a strategic discussion on the implementation and operationalisation of the provisions regarding low probability risks with a high impact included in the amended UCPM decision. The objectives of the PROCIV meeting on 9 December were to set criteria and identify categories of risks that can be considered low probability with a high impact and to reflect on the type of capacities that are likely to address such categories of risks.

Several issues were raised in the discussion, including:

- finding a balance between the strategic objectives of preparing for Lo-Hi risks and feasible operational decision-making;
- national risk assessments as an important basis for the implementation work;
- whether the work should focus on the capacities already identified for development under rescEU or whether other priority capacities should also be identified as Lo-Hi;
- transparency of budgetary planning.

As an outcome of the discussion, the Presidency concluded that further implementation work should be based on a combined approach, where capacities could be defined as Lo-Hi taking into account scenarios based, for example, on the categories of Lo-Hi risks identified during the Romanian Presidency workshop, with the aim of finding a simple and efficient solution that is operationally feasible. Strategic and transparent budgetary planning was considered essential.

PROCIV invites the Commission to take into account the outcome of this discussion when preparing the legal provisions governing low probability risks with a high impact and the corresponding capacities for managing them.

### **c) Use of rescEU outside the Union**

Deployment of rescEU capacities outside the EU and the application of Article 12(10) and Article 35 (for the rescEU transition phase) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU were discussed. The Commission introduced the implementation of the revised UCPM after one year and clarified the aforementioned applicable provisions for deploying rescEU assets outside the EU.

Emphasis was placed on the importance of using clear criteria and the overall transparency of the decision-making process in case of deployment of rescEU outside the EU.

### **d) Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network**

In relation to the establishment of the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network (Article 13 of the UCPM), the Commission started a consultation process with the Member States and Participating States. As part of this process, the Commission organised a workshop on the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network Governance, which took place in Brussels on 4 October 2019. The meeting gathered 38 experts nominated by the Member States and Participating States with the aim of discussing and agreeing on a proposal for the structure of the Network. The outcome of the workshop was a preliminary structure of the Network that built on existing structures and that was flexible to adapt to changing needs. The proposal was presented in the National Training Coordinators meeting, which took place in Finland in October. The results of the workshop will be discussed in the framework of the Civil Protection Committee in the coming months for final approval.

During their 43rd Meeting, which took place on 9-10 October 2019 in Helsinki, Directors-General for Civil Protection were debriefed on the main outcomes of the different strands of work mentioned above. The meeting also served as an occasion to have a thematic discussion on resilience and cross-sectoral cooperation, as well as on regional cooperation in the area of civil protection. Finally, the meeting also offered the opportunity for Directors-General to address the potential impact of the Matzak ruling for their national emergency services.

## 7. Emergency Medical Corps (EMC)

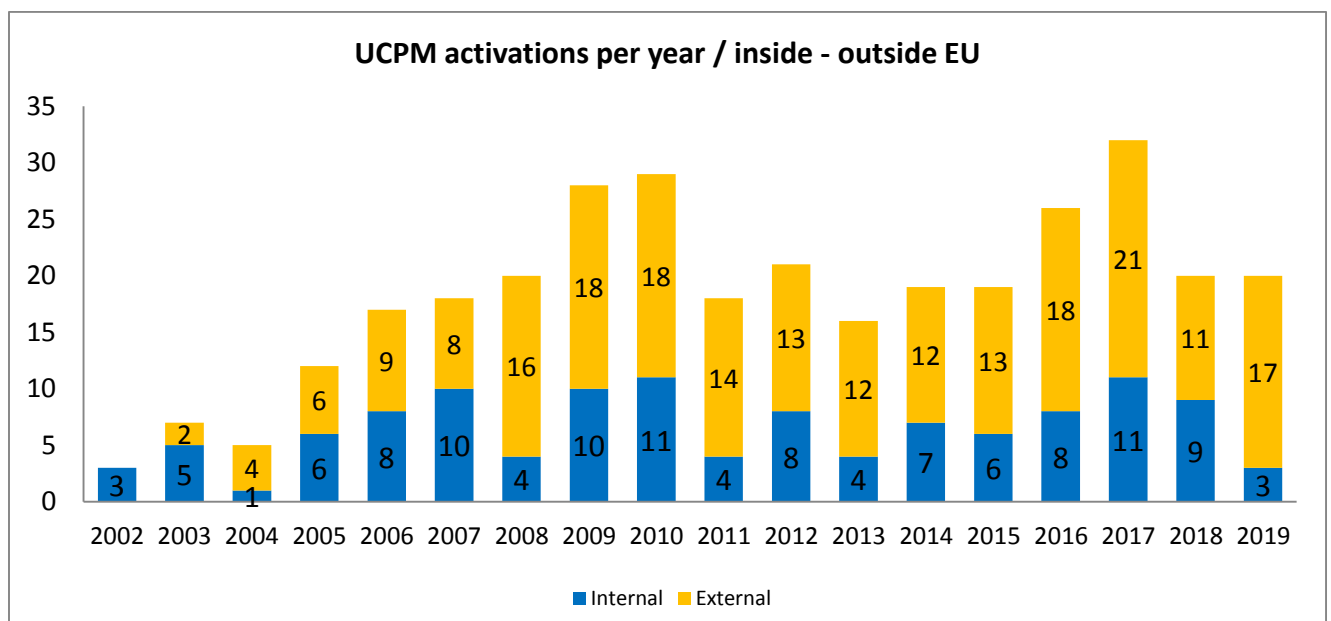
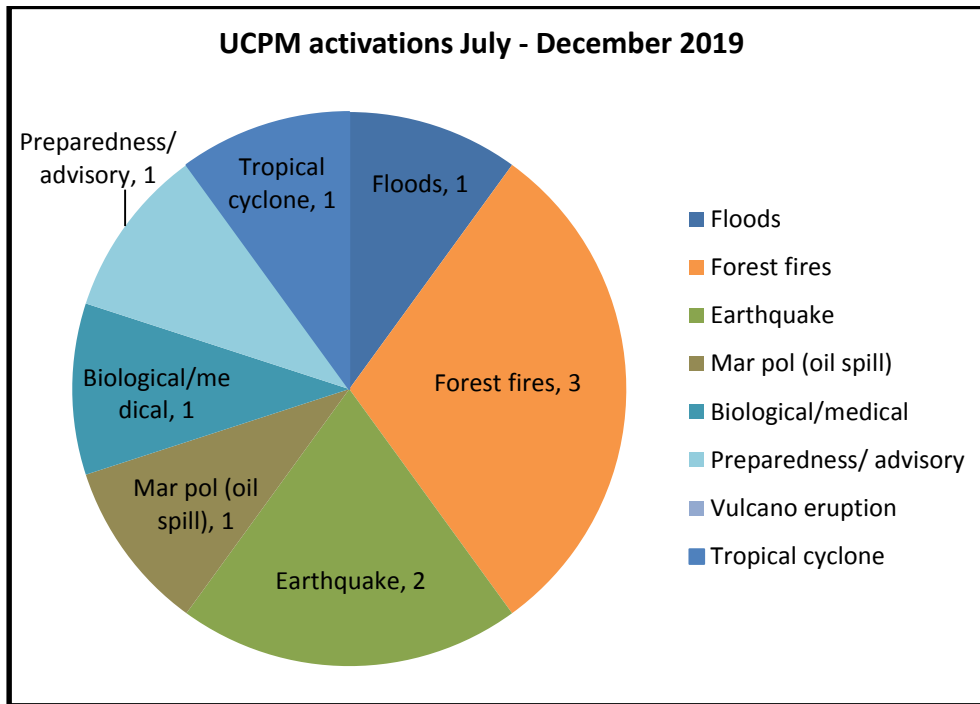
On 12-13 November 2019, the Commission hosted a meeting on the European Medical Corps in Brussels, bringing together 51 participants from 20 Member States and UCPM Participating States, with representatives from both civil protection and health sectors, as well as staff from the WHO and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC).

The purpose of the meeting was to present the state of play of the EMC as part of the European Civil Protection Pool, since its launch in February 2016 in the wake of Ebola outbreak in West Africa. This allowed discussions on progress in the different work streams the EMC covers, namely, a European response plan for mass burns casualty incidents, medical evacuations, and the deployment of specific medical expertise and response capacities in health emergencies (e.g. mobile laboratories and emergency medical teams/EMTs). The meeting notably allowed some lessons to be drawn from the deployment of four European EMTs under the UCPM in Mozambique in March-April 2019, and a study was presented on medical evacuation means currently available among UCPM members.

## 8. Response to emergencies

Since the beginning of July 2019, the EU Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) has been activated **10** times (eight requests for assistance outside the EU and two inside the EU).

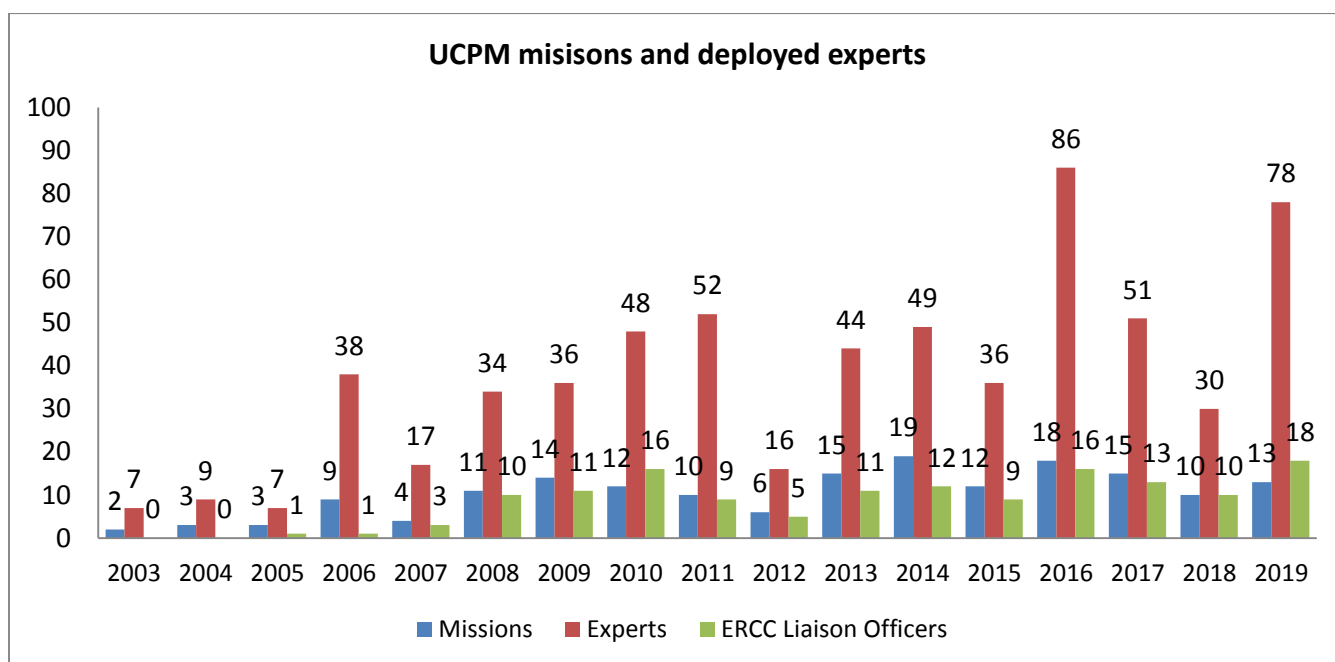
Overall, in 2019, the UCPM has been activated **20** times (17 requests for assistance outside the EU and three inside the EU).



The following events / emergencies resulted in activations of the UCPM since July 2019:

- Forest Fires: **Greece** (13 August), **Bolivia** (29 August), **Lebanon** (15 October)
- Tropical cyclone: **Bahamas** – tropical cyclone Dorian (4 September)
- Earthquake: **Albania** (24 September) **Albania** (26 November)
- Floods: **Djibouti** (25 November)
- Epidemics: **Samoa** (26 November)
- Oil spill: **Finland** (3 November)
- Preparedness / advisory: **Mauritius** (10 July) – request made by UN Environment/OCHA Joint Unit.

Since July 2019, there have been nine European Union Civil Protection (EUCP) missions, with 36 experts and 11 ERCC liaison officers deployed. Overall in 2019, there have been 13 European Union Civil Protection (EUCP) missions, with 78 experts and 18 ERCC liaison officers deployed.



The Copernicus Emergency Management Service (EMS) was activated in response to **39** requests for satellite mapping, producing more than **390 satellite maps**.

## **UCPM activations inside the EU**

### **a. Greece – Forest fires – August 2019**

A forest fire broke out in the municipality of Dirfys on the island of Evia in central Greece in the early hours of 13 August. More than 200 people were evacuated, the Greek Civil Protection declared a state of emergency for the area on the same day. In the afternoon of 13 August, Greece requested 4 modules of Aerial Forest Fire Fighting using Planes (AFFF-P) consisting of 8 CL-415 Canadair type planes in total.

→ EU Response:

- Following the request for assistance, rescEU assets were mobilised to tackle the fires. 3 firefighting planes from “rescEU transition” were dispatched to the affected regions.
- 2 Italian Canadairs started operating on 14 August, a Spanish Canadair joined on 15 August.
- The RescEU aerial assets assisted in the aerial firefighting operations over 3 days, performing 172 water drops (approximately 1,032 tonnes) during 39 flying hours.

### **b. Finland – Oil Spill – November 2019**

On 3 November, Finland detected an oil spill in the Gulf of Finland. The first estimation suggested that the slick is 16 to 32 cubic meters.

Finland requested satellite imagery of the oil spill and an aircraft for reconnaissance. However, the oil spill dissipated and the emergency was closed by the Finnish MP authority, Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE), the same day.



## **UCPM activations outside the EU**

### **a. Mauritius – preparedness mission – July 2019**

The UCPM was activated on 10 July following a request for assistance from UN Environment/OCHA Joint Unit.

→ EU Response:

- An environmental expert from the Netherlands was deployed between 19 and 30 August as part of a large team of experts led by the Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI).

### **b. Bolivia – forest fires – August 2019**

Over 6 million hectares have been burned in Bolivia since 1 January 2019. This is a larger number of hectares than the previous 10 year average.

On 29 August, the Bolivian Ministry of Foreign Affairs contacted the EU Delegation in La Paz with a list of requirements to support fire suppression operations.

→ EU Response:

- France sent a 40-person ground forest firefighting team, supported by a 6-person assessment team, together with a drone module composed of four drones and a four-person team.
- France, Belgium, Austria, Sweden and Spain also offered in-kind assistance including fire suppression tools and camp facilities for first responders.

### **c. Bahamas – tropical cyclone Dorian – September 2019**

Tropical Cyclone DORIAN hit the Abaco and Grand Bahama islands of the Bahamas as a Category 5 hurricane on 1 September. On 4 September, the ERCC received a request for assistance from the Government of the Bahamas. In addition, following damage sustained to two oil refineries, the UN Environment/OCHA Joint Unit requested two EU oil spill experts to be associated to an assessment mission.

→ EU response:

- Luxembourg: Satellite communication module – emergency.lu
- The Netherlands: Two navy vessels with significant logistical and technical capacity, including underwater surveillance capabilities, two helicopters, trucks and relief goods, accompanied by 550 Dutch, 50 French and 50 German marines
- Two oil spill experts (ES and IT) and two ERCC Liaison officers.

### **d. Albania – earthquake – September 2019**

Two earthquakes hit the county of Durrës in Albania on 21 September 2019.

On 24 September the Albanian Government submitted a request for assistance.

→ EU Response:

- 13 Member/Participating States<sup>13</sup> delivered in-kind assistance including basic relief items, shelter, first aid, medical equipment, as well as hygiene, sanitation and other non-food items.
- An EU Civil Protection Team of eight experts from The Netherlands, Italy, Germany, Greece, Finland, the United Kingdom, and Norway deployed to Albania between 26 September and 11 October.

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<sup>13</sup> Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Montenegro, Norway, Slovakia and Slovenia

**e. Lebanon – forest fires – October 2019**

On 15 October, Lebanon requested assistance through the ERCC for aerial firefighting capacities.

→ EU Response:

- RescEU firefighting planes from Italy and Greece (2 Canadair aircraft each)
- Cyprus – 2 aircraft initially deployed on a bilateral basis.

**f. Djibouti – floods – November 2019**

Heavy rains affected Djibouti since late November, triggering flash floods across the country. On 25 November, the Government of Djibouti requested assistance through the ERCC focusing on in-kind assistance such as pumps, hygiene kits, water purification tablets, family tents, non-food items, mattresses and tarpaulins.

→ EU Response:

- France, Austria and Italy have offered in-kind assistance in the form of water purification tablets, hygiene kits, tents, tarpaulins, mattresses and blankets, jerry cans, medicines and an inflatable boat with engine.

#### **g. Albania – earthquake – November 2019**

A strong earthquake of 6.4 M struck at a shallow depth of 20 km, north-east of the city of Durrës on 26 November night. On the same day, the ERCC received a request for assistance from the Albanian authorities for three medium urban search and rescue (MUSAR) teams. On 28 November, Albania issued a new request to the ERCC for in-kind assistance and structural engineering teams.

→ EU Response as of 11 December:

- 15 Member/Participating States offered experts, teams or in-kind assistance through the UCPM.
- Three MUSAR teams from Greece, Italy and Romania (Italian and Romanian teams registered in the European Civil Protection Pool).
- Five structural engineering teams from Italy, Greece, Croatia, Cyprus and France.
- Slovakia, Austria, Belgium, Romania, Sweden, Germany and the United Kingdom offered beds, blankets, hygiene parcels, generators, tents, sleeping bags and mattresses.
- Two EU Civil Protection Teams were deployed with a rotation of six and ten experts. Each team was accompanied by two ERCC liaison officers and two technical experts from the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC).
- In addition Bulgaria, Hungary, Czech Republic, France, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Turkey deployed teams and/or in kind assistance on bilateral basis.

#### **h. Samoa – epidemics – November 2019**

Samoa has been facing a difficult measles outbreak, particularly affecting the very young population, many of whom have not been vaccinated. On 26 November, WHO sent a request for assistance for Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs) to support the Ministry of Health.

The UCPM was activated on 28 November requesting two EMTs.

→ EU Response:

- France deployed an EMT with 10 paediatricians and specialised nurses from French Polynesia.
- Norway deployed a 20 person EMT that is part of the European Civil Protection Pool and includes 16 medical and 4 support staff.