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

Delegations will find in annex a report from the Slovenian Presidency 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 Slovenian 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 Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

The main priority of Slovenia as the Member State holding the Presidency of the Council of the EU was to contribute to building a stronger and more resilient European Union. In this regard, intensive work continued in the second half of 2021 despite the fact that no physical meetings were held due to the pandemic-related restrictions. Eleven (11) informal meetings of the members of the Civil Protection Working Party (PROCIV), including its formation with the participation of relevant experts that continued negotiations on the proposal for a Directive on the resilience of critical entities, will have been held as videoconferences by the end of the year.

The Slovenian Presidency focused on improving the EU's ability to anticipate and deal effectively with emergencies as well as on building resilience to natural and man-made disasters. In the field of civil protection, the Presidency contribution to that end started after the adoption of Regulation [2021/836](#) amending the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) Decision on 20 May 2021, which introduced the Union Disaster Resilience Goals in the area of civil protection. These goals should contribute to strengthening resilience to natural and man-made disasters and improve the effectiveness of the EU's response to large-scale disasters.

The Presidency enabled discussion on designing a common approach for the development of the Union disaster resilience goals in the area of civil protection at the virtual workshop held on 7 and 8 July 2021. The workshop outcomes were presented by the Presidency and welcomed by national delegates at the virtual PROCIV meeting on 14 September and by Directors-General for civil protection at their meeting held physically on 12 and 13 October in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Work also continued on the setting up the rescEU capacities. RescEU capacities were further defined and developed, in particular, CBRN, Detection, Surveillance and Monitoring, mobile labs, shelter, as well as transport and logistics capacities.

On 10 November 2021, the Commission adopted an Implementing Decision [2021/1956](#) on the establishment and organisation of the Knowledge Network. The launch of the Knowledge Network is scheduled to take place on 7 December.

Between 1 January and 29 November 2021, the UCPM has been activated 107 times– an absolute record in the history of UCPM for this time of the year. During the course of the Slovenian Presidency, the UCPM was activated in response to the pandemic as well as other disasters including forest fires, earthquakes, floods, repatriations from Afghanistan, refugee influx, marine pollution, a fuel tank explosion, a volcanic eruption and medicine shortage.

1. Implementation of the revised Union Civil Protection Mechanism

a) Towards Disaster Resilience Goals

In accordance with Article 6(5) of the revised UCPM legislation the Commission, together with Member States, shall establish and develop Union disaster resilience goals in the area of civil protection that are “[...]non-binding objectives established in the area of civil protection to support prevention and preparedness actions for the purposes of improving the capacity of the Union and its Member States to withstand the effects of a disaster which causes or is capable of causing transboundary effects.”

On 7 and 8 July 2021, the Presidency organised a virtual expert workshop entitled ‘Towards Disaster Resilience Goals: setting the scene, enabling discussion and designing a common approach for the development of the Union disaster resilience goals in the area of civil protection.’ The workshop gathered 116 experts from 27 Member States, two Participating States, one Candidate Country, representatives from the European Commission (DG ECHO, DG HOME and Joint Research Centre), the General Secretariat of the Council of the EU, UNDRR, NATO and the Red Cross.

The workshop was structured around three themes, so that participants had the opportunity to discuss the relevant issues on the agenda:

- disaster resilience goals (hereinafter DRGs) and their relation to other resilience frameworks, with a focus on the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the NATO baseline requirements for civil preparedness,
- relationship and close links between civil protection and critical services,
- designing and developing DRGs, which could help Member States withstand future natural and man-made disasters.

By way of main outcomes, the workshop concluded:

- The development and implementation of the DRGs would noticeably enhance the disaster resilience of the EU and the Member States.
- The DRGs, as well as an overall, cross-sectoral approach to resilience, must account for the resilience of key infrastructures and critical services, in particular those supporting emergency operations in disasters.
- The DRGs should take into consideration cross-sectoral multi-hazards and, when needed, a risk-specific approach.

- Science, including through the imminent establishment of the UCPM Knowledge Network, should play a key role in the planning of prevention, preparedness and response measures as well as for the development of the DRGs.

The workshop outcomes were presented by the Presidency and welcomed by delegates at the PROCIV virtual meeting on 14 September and by Directors-General for civil protection at their meeting held physically on 12 and 13 October in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

b) Further operationalisation of rescEU

Work continued on the implementation of the UCPM Decision, in particular, on setting up the rescEU capacities.

In the field of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) incidents, further rescEU capacities are being developed. Notably, the Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/1886 that defines stockpiling capacities in the area of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear incidents as rescEU capacities was adopted on 27 October 2021.¹

Preparatory technical work with Member States' experts continues on the capacities of **Detection, Surveillance and Monitoring** and **mobile labs**, with the aim of having said capacities defined as rescEU in early 2022.

As regards **shelter** capacities, technical work with Member States' experts is finalised and the first draft of quality requirements was discussed in the Civil Protection Committee on 21 October 2021. Member States stressed the need for a multifunctional and flexible approach that would offer solutions for different scenarios. They emphasised the need for a psychical reserve for quick deployment, as well as a virtual reserve for later response phases or replenishment of psychical reserves. The geographical distribution of shelter capacities was identified as a key aspect for rapid activation. The aim is to have shelter capacities defined as rescEU at the beginning of 2022.

In the area of **transport and logistics**, technical work with Member States' experts continues, with the aim of having such capacities defined as rescEU in 2022.

¹ Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/1886 of 27 October 2021 amending Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/570 as regards stockpiling rescEU capacities in the area of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear incidents, OJ L 386, 29.10.2021, p. 35–38.

c) **Knowledge network**

On 10 November 2021, the Commission adopted Implementing Decision 2021/1956 on the establishment and organisation of the Knowledge Network. The implementing act sets out the governance structure of the Knowledge Network, which consists of two advisory bodies:

- the Board;
- the Pillars' working groups.

The Board is the strategic forum of the Knowledge Network, which provides strategic orientation to the Commission and has advisory oversight functions over the activities of the Knowledge Network. The members of the Board will consist of a representative of the Commission and a representative of each of the Member States, with representatives of the Participating States of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism being granted the role of observers. The Board will be chaired by the Commission, with the Member State holding the preceding rotating presidency of the Council of the European Union acting as an assisting co-chair.

The Pillars' working groups will steer the work of the two Pillars of the Knowledge Network: the Capacity Development pillar and the Science pillar. The Capacity Development pillar aims to bring together, promote and strengthen capacity development initiatives of relevance to civil protection and disaster management stakeholders. The Science pillar aims to bring together academia, practitioners, and decision-makers for multi-disciplinary, cross-sectoral and cross-border cooperation to apply scientific knowledge to disaster risk management.

The Knowledge Network will have a secretariat provided by the Commission. It will support the work of the bodies of the Knowledge Network to ensure their coordination, coherence and information sharing.

The adoption of the implementing act paves the way for the launch of the Knowledge Network on 7 December, during the Knowledge Network Day. On this occasion, the constitutive meeting of the Board will also take place.

d) Revised UCPM budget

- Transfer of Economic Recovery Instrument funding to HERA

The recent establishment of the *Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority* (HERA), created on 1 October 2021, resulted into a reduction of EUR 1,266 billion from the Next Generation EU (NGEU) funds previously allocated to the UCPM². This is why, under the current Multi-Annual Work Programme, the annual allocation of the NGEU funds for 2022 and 2023 amounts to EUR 50,8 million, whilst for 2021 the envelope remains unchanged. The relevant Commission's services are closely associated in shaping the new authority and thereby supporting the establishment of a Union better prepared to respond to future cross-border threats to health.

2. Western Balkans

Cooperation with the Western Balkans has been a long-standing priority for the EU. Western Balkans partners already take part in various activities and tools available under the UCPM such as prevention and preparedness projects, trainings, exercises, peer reviews, exchange of experts, and advisory missions. All these activities have been constantly contributing to resilience building, benefitting both the region itself and the EU as a whole. Moreover, Participating States from the Western Balkans take part in the Civil Protection Committee meetings and various working groups and have therefore the possibility to contribute to the civil protection policy at EU level.

² Proposal for a COUNCIL REGULATION on a framework of measures for ensuring the supply of crisis relevant medical countermeasures in the event of a public health emergency at Union level

In 2021, numerous exchanges on different levels took place on strengthening civil protection cooperation with the Western Balkans. During the Slovenian Presidency, regional partners that do not participate in the UCPM were invited to take part in the Presidency workshop on disaster resilience goals that took place on the 7 and 8 July 2021. At the PROCIV meeting of 14 September 2021, the Commission gave a presentation on future civil protection and disaster risk management cooperation between the Western Balkans and the EU³. The Commission informed delegations about the state of play and presented the strategy for strengthened cooperation with the Western Balkans. In this context, a possible further expansion of the UCPM was mentioned. The Commission also presented the regional programme and underlined the added value of the UCPM in the region. The latest discussion was held on 12 October 2021 at the meeting of the Directors-General for civil protection, during which it was agreed that reinforcing national and regional capacities, strengthening the European Civil Protection Pool and paving the way for the Western Balkans to join the UCPM is one of the priorities of cooperation with the region. PROCIV was determined the relevant forum to further discuss this matter in the coming months, in view of possible international agreements based on Article 218 TFEU⁴.

3. Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the resilience of critical entities⁵

Work continued on the proposal for a Directive on the resilience of critical entities (CER Directive) in a specific formation of the Working Party on Civil Protection, dedicated to the Critical Entities Resilience Directive. A separate Presidency progress report on work on the CER Directive was issued (ST 14353/20210).

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

On 5 February 2021, the Council⁶ adopted **Decision (EU) 2021/176** on the conclusion of the amendments to the Agreement for cooperation 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 the Agreement and the accession to the Agreement of the Kingdom of Spain.

³ WK 10294/2021

⁴ Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union

⁵ 14262/20 + ADD 1.

⁶ CM 1601/21.

The amendment on the extension of the scope of the Bonn Agreement to include cooperation on surveillance of air emissions from ships is currently in the ratification process. As of September 2021, Denmark, the European Union, Germany, the Netherlands and Norway had already sent their notifications of approval of the decision.

The amendment on the accession of Spain to the Agreement including the new boundaries to cover the Bay of Biscay in Bonn Agreement's geographical scope has to be ratified only by Spain. It is expected to be finalised by the end of 2021.

5. Response to emergencies

Between 1 July and 29 November 2021, the UCPM was activated 64 times (28 requests for assistance within the EU and 36 outside the EU⁷). In addition, the European Commission's Copernicus Emergency Management Service was activated 34 times, producing 434 maps.

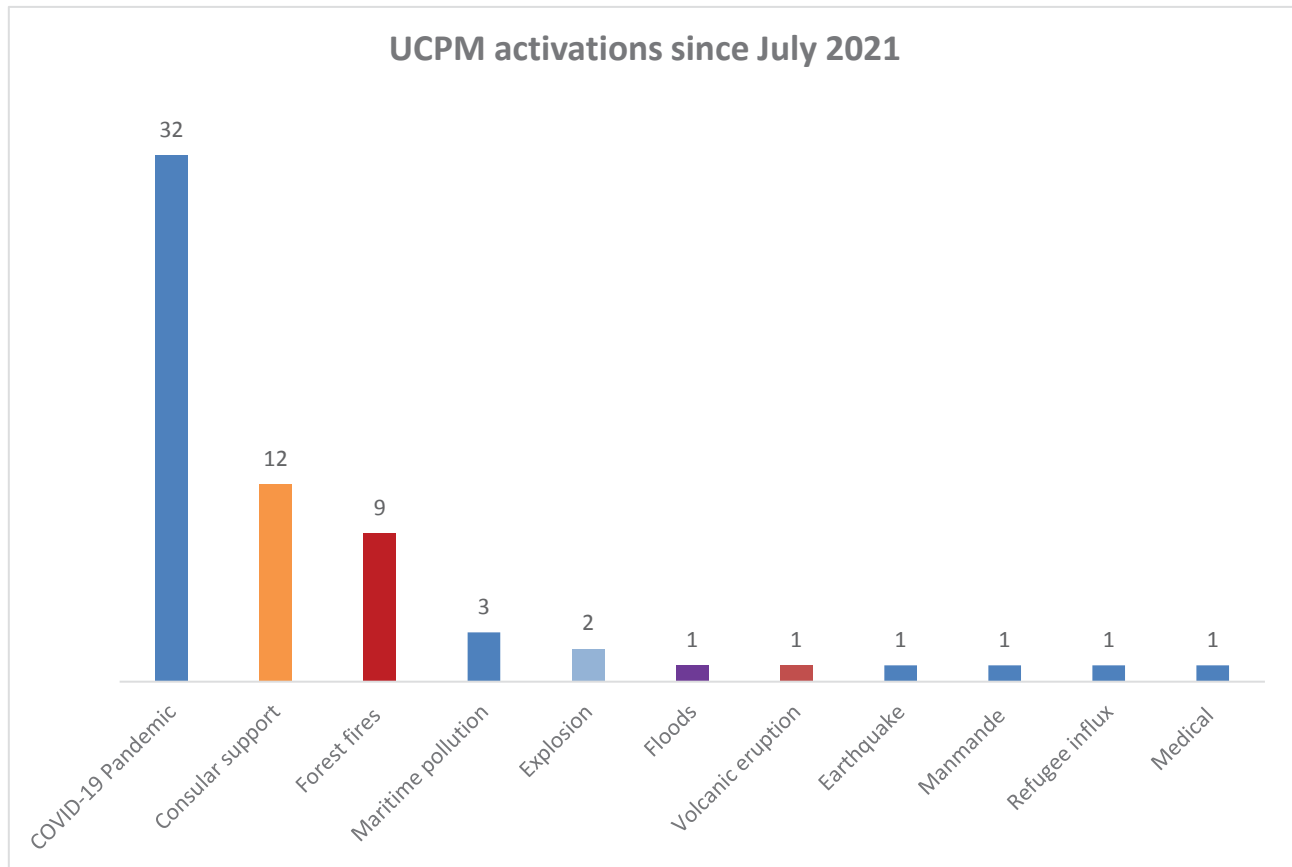


Table data as of 29.11.2021

Requests for assistance through the UCPM within the EU were related to shortages of medical personnel, medical equipment, personal protective equipment and vaccines in the fight against COVID-19, refugee influx, forest fires, floods, repatriation of EU citizens from conflict-zones or COVID-19 hotspots where commercial flights were not available.

Outside the EU, apart from COVID-19 related activations, UCPM assistance was provided in response to forest fires in Algeria, the earthquake in Haiti, fuel tank explosions in Lebanon and Sierra Leone and a volcanic eruption in the DRC.

⁷ Requests received from the UCPM Participating States are counted as within the EU.

Overall, as of 29 November 2021, the UCPM has been activated 107 times in 2021 – which is an absolute record in the history of UCPM for this time of the year.

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

6. Lessons Learnt from Covid-19: conducting UCPM field exercise in pandemic environment

The Slovenian Presidency continued the work of the German and Portuguese Presidencies on drawing lessons-learnt from the Covid-19 pandemic. **The purpose of this exercise has been to reflect on, and apply, precautionary measures emerging from the Covid-19 pandemic during UCPM training, in particular, during international field exercises.** The Administration of the Republic of Slovenia for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief, together with consortium partners from Slovenia, Croatia, Italy and Germany, implemented the project “Civil Protection Practical Exercise – SIQUAKE2020”. The exercise took place in Ljubljana between 4 and 8 October 2021, and was organised to test the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism in the event of a large earthquake in central Slovenia, where civil protection teams from Slovenia, Croatia, Austria, Italy and Hungary trained together, mastering skills that can save lives when a real disaster strikes. It was the first blended UCPM exercise, which was running in-person for all operational forces and in a virtual setting for observers.

Several Covid-19 measures were taken into account when planning and conducting the exercise. All national and international participants were required to take precautionary measures (i.e. wearing a mask, keeping safe distance, monitoring possible symptoms, ensuring space for quarantine) to prevent the spread of Covid-19 infections. In addition, obligatory AG rapid testing had been put in place for all national and international participants, regardless of their RVT status, on the first and last day, to ensure traceability in case of an infection.

7. Other events

a) **Disaster Risk Management Knowledge Centre Annual Seminar: Towards the science pillar of the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network**

The 5th annual scientific seminar on Disaster Risk Management Knowledge Centre (DRKMC) was organised by Joint Research Centre in cooperation with Slovenian Presidency, and took place on 17 and 18 November 2021 in a virtual setting. The annual seminar was an opportunity to launch a more intensive dialogue between civil protection authorities and the scientific community as well as to start stronger collaboration in creating the Knowledge Network, based on the new civil protection legislation⁸. The pivotal role of science is acknowledged in Article 3(e), which calls for an increase in “the availability and use of scientific knowledge on disasters”. The role of scientific knowledge is further emphasised through Article 13 establishing the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network. During the session “*Science for Union disaster resilience goals*”, the participants agreed that science has a key role to play in better understanding and communicating disaster risks and the importance of resilience. Scientists and researchers should be closely involved in disaster resilience activities. An important step towards strengthening the role of science and knowledge in the field of civil protection is the launch of the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network. This should contribute to strengthening cooperation and developing relations between the scientific, political and operational spheres of civil protection systems at European and national levels and strengthen cross-sectoral cooperation. It is also expected to play an important role in developing, achieving and monitoring the Union disaster resilience goals.

⁸ Regulation (EU) 2021/836 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 amending Decision No 1313/2013/EU on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism

b) **European Forum *for* Disaster Risk Reduction**

The European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction (EFDRR) establishes a European regional platform structure to address regional disaster risk challenges. The EFDRR took place from 24 to 26 November 2021 in Matosinhos, Portugal as a hybrid event. The triennial EFDRR served as a forum for different stakeholders to equally take responsibility and make actionable commitments to reduce disaster risk. The conference enabled governments and multi-stakeholders to exchange experiences on successful practices and innovative approaches to prevent, reduce and manage disaster risk. During three days, participants shared good practices and knowledge on disaster risk-informed policies, programmes and investments, assessed the implementation of the Sendai Framework for DRR, established a common understanding of the common challenges and immediate threats in Europe and adopted the 2021-2030 EFDRR Roadmap. With the adoption of the 2021-2030 EFDRR Roadmap, the governments from across the region pledged preventative measures to increase resilience to hazards including disease outbreaks, climate change and threats to critical infrastructure.

ANNEX 1 to the ANNEX

1. COVID-19 pandemic

Overview of COVID-19 Activations in 2021

So far, in 2021, the ERCC has received 66 requests through the UCPM for personal protective or medical equipment, diagnostic tests, medical teams, medicines and vaccines. 58 of the requests have been responded to, partially or in full.

Currently, there are 42 open requests including from four EU Member States (the Netherlands, Romania, Latvia, Bulgaria), two UCPM Participating States (Montenegro, North Macedonia), 35 third countries (Albania, Armenia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Costa Rica, Egypt, Georgia, Ghana, Haiti, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Lebanon, Libya, Moldova, Mongolia, Namibia, Nepal, the Philippines, Rwanda, Sudan, Suriname, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Yemen) and one international organisation (UNICEF).

- a) **EU and UCPM Participating States – 4 Activations from 1 July to 29 November 2021**
 - i) **Romania – COVID-19 – (05/10/2021)**

Request for assistance: The request from Romania concerned personal protective or medical equipment, diagnostic tests, medical teams, medicines and vaccines.

Response: Romania received 328 oxygen concentrators, 83 ventilators, 55 medical monitors, 1,000 pulse oximeters, 600,000 antigen tests, 115,420 COVID-19 medicines, 200,000 PPE items and 3.12 million syringes from Poland, France, Slovakia, Serbia, Denmark, Germany, Austria and Italy. 550 oxygen concentrators were provided from the rescEU medical stockpile hosted by the Netherlands. Poland deployed a medical team of 13 doctors and 33 nurses. Denmark deployed a medical team of 8 ICU specialists.

ii) Latvia – COVID-19 – (26/10/2021)

Request for assistance: The request from Latvia concerned personal protective or medical equipment, diagnostic tests, medical teams, medicines and vaccines.

Response: Latvia received 235 ventilators, 18 ambulance ventilators, 18 vital function monitor stations, 400 syringe pump sets, 3 x-ray units, 800,000 surgical masks, 110 mechanical upper airway suction devices, 65 patient vital function monitor, 50 high performance suction devices and 210,240 doses of vaccine from Germany, Czech Republic, Lithuania, France, Poland, Austria and Finland. Additionally, 80 ventilators, 22 ultrasound units, 240 patients monitors (on loan for 6 months) and 200 syringe infusion pumps, 50 volumetric pumps and were provided from the rescEU medical stockpiles hosted by the Netherlands, Hungary and Sweden.

iii) Serbia – COVID-19 – (29/10/2021)

Request for assistance: The request from Serbia concerned vaccines.

Response: Poland provided 200,400 vaccine doses to Serbia. Serbia closed the request on 3 November.

iv) Bulgaria – COVID-19 – (09/11/2021)

Request for assistance: The request from Bulgaria concerned oxygen concentrators, patient monitors, beds, ventilators, oxygen, medical personnel, nasal cannula equipment.

On 17 November given the dynamic epidemic situation in the country, Bulgaria asked for a temporary postponement of its the request assistance.

b) UCPM activations outside the EU – 28 Activations from 1 July to 29 November 2021

Requests for assistance: The ERCC received 28 requests through the UCPM for personal protective or medical equipment, diagnostic tests, medical teams, medicines and vaccines. 23 of these requests have been responded to, partially or in full.

Response: Requests from Cabo Verde, Albania, Burkina Faso, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kenya, Indonesia, Libya, Vietnam, Uganda, Kyrgyz Republic, Bangladesh, Egypt, Iran, Guatemala, Jamaica, Georgia, the Philippines, Uzbekistan, Rwanda, Costa Rica, Laos, Tajikistan and Ghana were responded to by Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Spain, Croatia, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Romania and Slovakia.

2. Forest Fires – 9 Activations

Requests for assistance: The ERCC received nine requests through the UCPM from Cyprus (3 July), Italy (25 July for Sardinia), Turkey (1 August), Italy (1 August for central/south of the country), Albania (2 August), North Macedonia (3 August), Greece (3 August), Algeria (11 August) and Austria (29 October).

Response: In total, 16 Member States (Slovenia, Bulgaria, Austria, Romania, France, Netherlands, Czechia, Greece, Croatia, Spain, Poland, Sweden, Slovakia, Cyprus, Greece and Germany) offered and deployed teams in response to request for support related to forest fires. Additionally, Denmark also offered in-kind assistance to North Macedonia. More than 1500 first responders, 350 vehicles, 25 planes and 6 helicopters were deployed across Europe to assist the requesting countries. Half of all aerial assets deployed this season were part of the rescEU or ECPP capacities. By the end of October, the Emergency Mapping Service provided by Copernicus was activated 33 times for fire related emergencies, producing 194 maps.

3. Consular support

Afghanistan – 9 Activations

Requests for assistance: Seven EU Member States (France, Finland, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Belgium and The Netherlands) activated the UCPM between 16 August and 15 September for the repatriation of EU citizens and non-EU citizens facing security threats.

Response: The seven countries that activated the UCPM executed 97 transport operations with 13,393 passengers. This included flights via safe haven hubs outside of Afghanistan and further to EU territory. Passengers on these flights included EU citizens and Afghan nationals at risk or under EU duty of care. Germany operated 40 flights, France 38, Sweden 6, Finland 6, Denmark 4, Belgium 2 and The Netherlands operated 1 flight.

Ethiopia – 1 Activation

Requests for assistance: France activated the UCPM on 23 November for the repatriation of EU citizens from Ethiopia due to armed conflict.

Response: France chartered a flight on 29 November from Addis Ababa, bringing back to Europe 144 passengers from France, other EU countries and non-EU countries.

South Africa – 1 Activation

Requests for assistance: Romania activated the UCPM on 28 November for the repatriation of EU citizens from South Africa following new COVID-19 travel restrictions to Europe.

Response: Romania chartered a flight on 29 November from Johannesburg to bring back EU citizens.

Mozambique – 1 Activation

Requests for assistance: Spain activated the UCPM on 29 November for the repatriation of EU citizens from Mozambique due to the emergence of the new Omicron variant of SARS-COV-2.

4. Maritime incidents – 3 Activations

Requests for assistance: The ERCC received three requests through the UCPM from Greece (28 August due to sinking of cargo ship), Cyprus (30 August due to oil leaking from a power plant in Syria) and Bulgaria (20 September due to sunken ship) for support in the assessment and management of oil spill pollution in their waters.

Response: The European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) responded to the requests providing satellite imagery and analysis of any detected oil spill in the specified territories. EMSA also provided barges to support the Bulgarian operation to refloat the sunken ship and tow it to port.

5. Explosion – 2 Activations

Request for assistance: The ERCC received **two requests** through the UCPM from Lebanon (18 August), and from the World Health Organisation for Sierra Leone (6 November).

Response: Greece responded to the request from Lebanon with medical equipment, PPE, food, hygienic items and water processing systems. Three EU Member States (Austria, Belgium and Italy) and one Participating State (Norway) responded to the request from Sierra Leone. Austria offered PPE, Belgium offered PPE and medical material, Norway offered kits for surgery and Italy offered a burns assessment medical team for a period of three weeks. An ERCC Liaison Offer was deployed to facilitate the coordination of EU assistance.

6. Floods – 1 Activation

Request for assistance: The ERCC received one request through the UCPM from Belgium (14 July) for rescue helicopters and flood rescue teams.

Response: 2 helicopters, 32 boats, over 150 rescue personnel and 23 vehicles were deployed through the UCPM by France, Italy, Austria and the Netherlands. Further offers of support came from the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Germany, though were not needed in the end.

7. Refugee influx – 1 Activation

Request for assistance: The ERCC received one request through the UCPM from Lithuania (15 July) for support in accommodating migrants crossing the border from Belarus.

Response: 19 EU Member States (Poland, Greece, Croatia, Sweden, Estonia, Finland, Slovenia, Austria, Latvia, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Denmark, France, The Netherlands, Luxembourg, Germany, Portugal, Malta and Italy) and one Participating State (Norway) have delivered assistance with 286 housing units and tents, 11,400 meals, 2,280 furniture items including lighting and cooling/heating systems, 36,478 bedding items including beds, pillows and blankets, 2 sanitary blocks with toilets and showers, hygiene packages and water tanks.

8. Earthquake – 1 Activation

Request for assistance: The ERCC received one request through the UCPM from Haiti following a devastating 7.2-magnitude earthquake that hit the south-west. Priority needs were health, WASH, logistics, medical equipment and medicines, tents, tarpaulins, blankets, non-food items.

Response: Eight countries (Spain, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Slovenia) provided assistance (capacities, experts or in-kind assistance) in response to the request for assistance. The Commission mobilised EUR 3 million in emergency humanitarian funding to address the most urgent needs of the affected population. The ERCC deployed an EU Civil Protection Team (EUCPT) with over 30 experts deployed in three rotations. The Dutch Navy deployed a vessel under the UCPM to provide logistical support and medevac capabilities to the deployed modules during the initial phase of the disaster. A Norwegian Emergency Medical Team (EMT) treated over 2,600 patients during a month of operations. A French water purification module produced 1.6 million litres of clean water and distributed 119,620 one-litre bags during their deployment from 22 August – 29 September. Spain established and donated water treatment plants and a module from Luxembourg established satellite communications for the deployed capacities. Three Humanitarian Air Bridge (HAB) flights delivered over 175 tonnes of assistance from humanitarian partners, in addition to Slovenia's in-kind assistance.

9. Volcanic eruption – 1 Activation

Request for assistance: The ERCC received one request through the UCPM from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (26 August) for shelter items and medicines following a volcanic eruption in May.

Response: Greece responded with shelter items including tents, camp beds, blankets and pillows.

10. Fuel shortage – 1 Activation

Request for assistance: The ERCC received one request through the UCPM from Moldova (29 October) for a critical gas shortage that threatened a major risk in ensuring the functionality of the medical, social and economic sector. Moldova closed the request on 3 November having secured supply, thus no international assistance was needed.

11. Medicine shortage – 1 Activation

Request for assistance: The ERCC received one request through the UCPM from Brazil (11 November) for 55,000 pills of the antibiotic "Doxycycline Hydrochloride". No offers have been received as yet.
