



HELLENIC REPUBLIC  
MINISTRY OF INTERIOR &  
ADMINISTRATIVE RECONSTRUCTION  
GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR CIVIL  
PROTECTION

# The Union Civil Protection Mechanism

The EU system for coordination of assistance  
in case of emergencies

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# The Union Civil Protection Mechanism

## Short history

- Article 196 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union the highest legal recognition of the role of civil protection
- Decision 1313/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism
  - Council Decision 2001/792/EC, Euratom of 23 October 2001 establishing a Community mechanism to facilitate reinforced cooperation in civil protection assistance interventions
  - Council Decision 2007/779/EC, Euratom of 8 November 2007 establishing a Community Civil Protection Mechanism
  - Council Decision 2007/162/EC, Euratom of 5 March 2007 establishing a Civil Protection Financial Instrument



# The Union Civil Protection Mechanism

## Main characteristics and scope

- The main framework for cooperation and provision of assistance in case of emergencies both inside and outside EU
- When national capacities are overwhelmed by a disaster
- Central coordinating role of European Commission (DG ECHO)



# The Union Civil Protection Mechanism

## Main characteristics and scope

- Scope: all natural and man-made disasters including consequences of terrorist acts
- Protection primarily of people, but also the environment and property, including cultural heritage
- Participating States – EU 28 plus Norway, Iceland, Montenegro, FYROM, Serbia, Turkey
- Actions regarding prevention and preparedness
  - training, exercises, exchange of experts, lessons learnt, preparedness missions



# The Union Civil Protection Mechanism Actors

- European Commission/ DG ECHO/ B1 Unit/ European Emergency Response Coordination Center (Brussels)
- Participating States
- National 24/7 contact points appointed by the participating countries
- CECIS (Common Emergency Communication and Information System): the online platform of communication – restricted access



# The Union Civil Protection Mechanism Actors

- Modules: civil protection teams registered to CECIS by the participating countries to be employed if offered
- The European Emergency Response Capacity “voluntary pool” (new concept)
- Experts
- Other international organizations: United Nations, International Organization for Migration, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons



# The Union Civil Protection Mechanism Procedures

- Activation of the Mechanism – impending or occurred disaster
- Actions before possible activation (pre alerts, dissemination of information)
- Request for assistance through CECIS – templates
- Offer of assistance through CECIS and acceptance by the requesting state – templates



# The Union Civil Protection Mechanism Procedures

- Deployment of assistance to the affected country
- Kinds of assistance: modules, technical assistance support teams, experts etc
- Host Nation Support
- The financial framework for the provision of assistance
  - Standard assets
  - Assets in the voluntary pool





# The Union Civil Protection Mechanism

## Greece's participation

- The General Secretariat for Civil Protection is the single focal point for Greece for submission of requests for assistance
- The Unified Operations Coordination Center/ Civil Protection Operations Center (24/7 contact point)
- Greek modules: 9 modules
  - Hellenic Air Force (aerial forest fire fighting), Hellenic Fire Corps (medium search and rescue, ground forest fire fighting), EKAB (aerial evacuation, medical posts), Hellenic Atomic Energy Commission (CBRN investigation)



# The Union Civil Protection Mechanism

## Greece's participation II

- Activations of EUCP Mechanism from Greece (indicatively): 2007, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2016.
- Assistance provided by Greece through the Mechanism (indicatively): 2004 (Indonesia), 2005 (Portugal), 2009 (Albania), 2010 (Israel), 2011 (Cyprus)
- Exercises
- Trained experts



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Thank you for your attention!