



GENERAL SECRETARIAT
FOR CIVIL PROTECTION

Union Civil Protection Mechanism 2001-2014



«Since 2010, [...] we have been given the possibility to improve our actions further, to augment their coherence and to exploit synergies [...]. We are working on developing contingency plans for European response, creating a voluntary pool of Participating Member-States assets available for immediate deployment, enhancing the preparedness of our assets and coordination at European level» (*European Commission, “The EU Civil Protection Mechanism – 10 years of European cooperation in disaster management”, Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2012*).

Kristalina Georgieva,

Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response



GENERAL SECRETARIAT
FOR CIVIL PROTECTION

Union Civil Protection Mechanism 2001-2014

What is the European Union?

Created in the aftermath of the Second World War, the EU – initially focusing on economic cooperation – is nowadays a unique economic and political partnership between 28 European countries, in all areas from development aid to environmental policy.

http://europa.eu/about-eu/eu-history/index_en.htm

What does it do?

In a Europe without frontiers, the EU aims to bring lasting growth and welfare, peace and stability.

http://europa.eu/about-eu/eu-history/2010-today/index_en.htm

Who labors towards this end?

The EU's institutions, bodies and agencies.

http://europa.eu/about-eu/institutions-bodies/index_en.htm



GENERAL SECRETARIAT
FOR CIVIL PROTECTION

Union Civil Protection Mechanism 2001-2014

What is the “Presidency”?

Each EU member-state undertakes the presidency of the Council of the EU in turn, for a 6-month period. It becomes the "face and voice" of the EU.

Its principal tasks are to:

1. organize and chair all meetings of the European Council, the Council of the European Union, its preparatory committees and working groups,
2. represent the Council in its dealings with other EU institutions, and
3. represent the EU in international forums, organizations and in interactions with countries outside the EU.



GENERAL SECRETARIAT
FOR CIVIL PROTECTION

Union Civil Protection Mechanism 2001-2014

What are the principal EU instruments?

<i>European Parliament</i>	
Members	<i>Member-states' representatives, elected every 5 years</i>
Role	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><i>1. co-legislates (along with the Council of the EU)</i><i>2. co-determines/ approves the general budget (along with the Council of the EU)</i><i>3. appoints the members of the European Commission</i>
Location	<i>Strasbourg, Luxemburg, Brussels</i>



GENERAL SECRETARIAT
FOR CIVIL PROTECTION

Union Civil Protection Mechanism 2001-2014

<i>European Council</i>	
Members	<i>The “heads” of the member-states’ governments and the president of the European Commission</i>
Role	<i>Sets policy-making priorities and objectives for the EU</i>
Location	<i>Brussels</i>

<i>Council of the European Union</i>	
Members	<i>National ministers. The agenda for their meetings is prepared by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (COREPER)</i>
Role	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><i>1. co-legislates</i><i>2. co-approves annual budget</i><i>3. develops and coordinates economic, foreign and defense policies</i><i>4. signs international agreements</i>
Location	<i>Brussels</i>



GENERAL SECRETARIAT
FOR CIVIL PROTECTION

Union Civil Protection Mechanism 2001-2014

European Commission

Members	<i>28 Commissioners, one from each EU member-state, appointed by the European Parliament for a 5-year term</i>
Role	<i>Undertakes executive role: 1. implements EU policies 2. ensures compliance of the member-states with the EU law 3. administers budget 4. submits proposals for new laws It comprises 33 departments best known as Directorates General (DG) – amongst which the Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO) – and 11 Services that deal with general administrative issues or specific mandates</i>
Location	<i>Brussels</i>

Court of Justice for the European Union

Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>One judge per EU member-state</i>• <i>9 advocates-general, appointed after EU member-state governments' agreement, for a 6-year term</i>
Role	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>interprets the EU laws</i>• <i>settles legal disputes between EU governments and EU institutions, companies, organizations and individuals</i>
Location	<i>Luxemburg</i>



GENERAL SECRETARIAT
FOR CIVIL PROTECTION

Union Civil Protection Mechanism 2001-2014

<i>European Court of Auditors</i>	
Members	<i>One member per EU member-state, for a 6-year term</i>
Role	<i>Financial auditor for the proper monitoring of the revenue and the expenditure of the EU institutions</i>
Location	<i>Luxemburg</i>

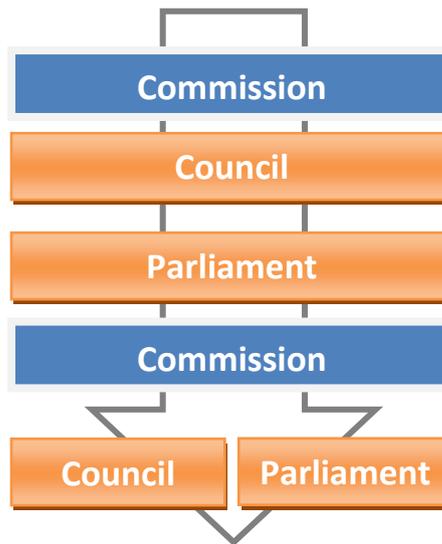
<i>European Central Bank</i>	
Members	<i>Independent</i>
Role	<i>Monetary executive of the EU:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>implements economic and monetary policy</i><i>ensures price stability in the euro-zone</i>
Location	<i>Frankfurt</i>



GENERAL SECRETARIAT
FOR CIVIL PROTECTION

Union Civil Protection Mechanism 2001-2014

**What is the process of the decision-making
in the EU?**





GENERAL SECRETARIAT
FOR CIVIL PROTECTION

Union Civil Protection Mechanism 2001-2014

In the event of a natural or man-made disaster ...

...“He who fails to plan, plans to fail” – Anonymous

**What is the administrative
“cell” of the Civil
Protection in the EU?**

A Humanitarian Office, set up in 1992, turned into a Directorate General (DG) for Humanitarian Aid, in 2004, before integrating Civil Protection (DG ECHO), in 2010. DG ECHO currently administers international cooperation, humanitarian aid and crisis response within and outside Europe.
(http://ec.europa.eu/echo/about/presentation_en.htm)

**What are the main civil
protection structures?**

1. The **Civil Protection Committee** (CPC). It is a Committee that consists of representatives from the member-states and chaired by a representative from the Commission so as to assist the Commission with regard to the implementation of the Action Program in the field of Civil Protection.



GENERAL SECRETARIAT
FOR CIVIL PROTECTION

Union Civil Protection Mechanism 2001-2014

What is the “Union Civil Protection Mechanism”?

2. The **Council Working Party on Civil Protection** (PROCIV) works with preparedness issues aimed at developing the EU’s capacity to prevent and manage disasters. The Working Party also deals with issues related to preparedness for critical infrastructure and chemical, radiological, biological and nuclear substances (CBRN).

The Union Civil Protection Mechanism, or UCPM, was created to support member-states in their efforts to prevent, prepare for and respond to natural or man-made disasters either within or outside of the EU. It aims at strengthening the cooperation on and coordination of civil protection actions on an EU and member-state level.

http://ec.europa.eu/echo/policies/disaster_response/mechanism_en.htm

How did it all come together?

The Civil Protection Mechanism was first established by the **Council Decision 2001/792/EC**, in order to facilitate reinforced cooperation in civil protection assistance interventions. This was recast by **Council Decision 2007/779/EC**, which established an EU Civil Protection Mechanism. The "**Financial Instrument**" of the Mechanism was ensured by the **Council Decision**



GENERAL SECRETARIAT
FOR CIVIL PROTECTION

Union Civil Protection Mechanism 2001-2014

How does the Union Mechanism work?

2007/162/EC. Funds are disposed towards, first, improving the effectiveness of the response in case of major disasters and, second, enhancing prevention and preparedness in emergency situations.

After 10 years of implementation, increasing activations and a successful string of and emergency responses within and outside the EU, a necessity for better cooperation and levels of protection in domestic, European and international levels emerged.

From January 1st 2014, a new, improved Union Civil Protection Mechanism is in force (Decision 1313/2013/EU). The Article 196 of the **Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union** constitutes the primary legal basis for the Union Mechanism.

The most important features of the Union Mechanism:

1. The Emergency Response Coordination Center (previously **Monitoring and Information Center** – MIC)
2. The **Common Emergency and Information System** (CECIS)
3. The “**Modules**”
4. The **Training and Exercise Program**



GENERAL SECRETARIAT
FOR CIVIL PROTECTION

Union Civil Protection Mechanism 2001-2014

The **ERCC** is the “operational heart” of the Union Mechanism, run by the DG ECHO of the European Commission on a 24/7 basis. The Union Mechanism is activated by a *request for assistance* that is submitted through the Common Emergency Communication and Information System – CECIS – by any affected country within or outside the EU. Following the initial activation, the ERCC notifies the participating states that are in position to offer assistance. If the affected state decides to accept the assistance provided, the ERCC coordinates the process. Moreover, it accumulates and evaluates pertinent to the mobilization emergency information.

The **CECIS** is a reliable web-based alert and notification application created to facilitate emergency communication amongst the emergency participants. It provides an integrated platform for: sending and receiving alerts as well as details with regard to the assistance required; making offers for assistance; monitoring the development of an ongoing emergency, as depicted in an online logbook.



GENERAL SECRETARIAT
FOR CIVIL PROTECTION

Union Civil Protection Mechanism 2001-2014

Assistance is provided via the civil protection “**modules**”. “Modules” are operational units set up from national resources under the Union Mechanism, bearing highly specialized equipment, in order to perform tasks such as search and rescue, high capacity pumping, or (aerial) forest fire-fighting. As such, they have the capability to rapidly contribute in the immediate post-disaster phase. They can be used for interventions both within and outside the EU. They have to be: available at short notice (max. 12 hours); self-sufficient, autonomous and able to work independently; interoperable and perform tasks according to international standard operating procedures (SOP).

(http://ec.europa.eu/echo/policies/disaster_response/modules_en.htm, see index)

In order for the Union Mechanism to function effectively, **training** and **exercise** are considered indispensable. Towards this end, the program that was initially launched in 2004, has now been updated so as to improve coordination and cooperation, and achieve compatibility and interoperability amongst the assistance missions. It also enhances the skills of experts involved in civil protection operations through the sharing of best practices. Nowadays, almost 2.000 experts in different fields are involved in an experts' exchange



GENERAL SECRETARIAT
FOR CIVIL PROTECTION

Union Civil Protection Mechanism 2001-2014

What are the main stipulations of the Union Mechanism?

system that has been designed for these specialists to achieve familiarization with the processes, procedures and techniques used in their fields in different member-states.

“The Union Civil Protection Mechanism (the “Union Mechanism”) shall aim to strengthen the cooperation between the Union and the Member States and to facilitate coordination in the field of civil protection in order to improve the effectiveness of systems for preventing, preparing for and responding to natural and man-made disasters.

The Union Mechanism shall cover primarily people, but also the environment and property, including cultural heritage, against all types of natural and man-made disasters, including the consequences of acts of terrorism, technological, radiological or environmental disasters, marine pollution and acute health emergencies, occurring inside or outside the Union. In the case of the consequences of acts of terrorism or radiological disasters, the Union Mechanism may cover only preparedness and response actions.



GENERAL SECRETARIAT
FOR CIVIL PROTECTION

Union Civil Protection Mechanism 2001-2014

The Union Mechanism shall promote solidarity between the Member States through practical cooperation and coordination, without prejudice to the Member State's primary responsibility to protect people, the environment, and property including cultural heritage, on their territory against disasters and to provide their disaster-management systems with sufficient capabilities to enable them to cope adequately and in a consistent manner with disasters of a nature and magnitude that can reasonably be expected and prepared for" (DECISION 1313/2013/EU, art1).

What are the main objectives of the Union Mechanism?

1. The strengthening of ERCC, which functions as the operational “hub” of the Union Mechanism, “ensures 24/7 operational capacity, and serves the member-states and the Commission in pursuit of the objectives of the Union Mechanism” (DECISION 1313/2013/EU, art.7).
2. The upgrading of preparedness and prevention through risk assessments, disaster management planning, and the mapping of disaster risks. The objective is to improve the knowledge based on disaster risks and to facilitate the sharing of this knowledge (DECISION 1313/2013/EU, art.5).



GENERAL SECRETARIAT
FOR CIVIL PROTECTION

Union Civil Protection Mechanism 2001-2014

3. The development of the European Emergency Response Capacity (EERC) which is based upon the pre-committed response capacities by the member-states for speed-mobilization in case of immediate deployment in emergency situations. These pre-committed resources of expert teams and highly specialized equipment comprise the “voluntary pool” system (DECISION 1313/2013/EU, art.8).
4. The streaming and reinforcement of transport arrangements that is the speed-procedures for pooling, handling and transportation from the “voluntary pool” to ease the logistics and to reduce the time of response (DECISION 1313/2013/EU, art.18).

How is it all funded?

368.428.000 EUROS, in current prices, have been reserved to meet the needs of the Union Mechanism for the period 2014-2020. The annual budget is approved by the EU Parliament and the Council of the EU in all fields: prevention (eg. research), preparedness (eg. training) and effective response (equipment and transportation).



Union Civil Protection Mechanism 2001-2014

INDEX

List of abbreviations for the EU Modules

1	HCP	High Capacity Pumping	10	MEVAC	Medical Aerial Evacuation of Disaster Victims
2	WP	Water Purification	11	ETS	Emergency Temporary Shelter
3	MUSAR	Medium Urban Search and Rescue	12	CBRNDET	CBRN Detection and Sampling
4	HUSAR	Heavy Urban Search and Rescue	13	CBRNUSAR	USAR in CBRN conditions
5	FFFH	Aerial Forest Fire-Fighting Module using Helicopters	14	GFFF	Ground Forest Fire-Fighting
6	FFFP	Aerial Forest Fire-Fighting Module using Planes	15	GFFF-V	Ground Forest Fire-Fighting using vehicles
7	AMP	Advanced Medical Post	16	FC	Flood Containment
8	AMPS	Advanced Medical Post with Surgery	17	FRB	Flood Rescue Using Boats
9	FHOS	Field Hospital	18	TAST	Technical Assistance and Support Team



GENERAL SECRETARIAT
FOR CIVIL PROTECTION

Union Civil Protection Mechanism 2001-2014

This handbook was created for the purposes of the Presidency Workshop “Enhancing the European Disaster Response Capacity: Joint/Multi-National Modules”, Athens 21-22 January 2014.

Edited by:

Dr. Kelly N. Saini, Lt. Colonel (Fire Corps HQs), National Representative in EU for Civil Protection, Chair Working Party for Civil Protection (PROCIV), Hellenic Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

Captain Elpis Chlimintza, Ph.D, (Fire Corps HQs), Senior Assistant to the National Representative in EU for Civil Protection, EU Projects and GSCP 2014 Team.

Dr. Olga Kakaliagou, Deputy National Representative in EU for Civil Protection, Deputy Chair PROCIV.

Thanks are due to Mr. Hans Das (DG ECHO-Head of A5 Unit), Mr. Jan Alhadeff, Mr. Bartoz Lercel (Council of the European Union), as well as all colleagues who helped prepare the Presidency Workshop as well as all tasks undertaken on civil protection issues by the General Secretariat for Civil Protection during the Hellenic Presidency. However, special thanks are due to the GSCP 2014 Team: Dimitrios Kalyviotis, Captain Sykovefi Vasiliki, 2nd Lt. Kleitsikas Nontas, Sg. Nikolaou Spyros and to Dr. Dimitrios Pagidas (DG ECHO/ERCC).

Printing: National Printing Office, Design: Maria Tsirouki, GSCP, ©GSCP 2014: all rights reserved