



Council of the  
European Union

Brussels, 12 February 2021  
(OR. en)

6052/21

LIMITE

PROCIV 11  
JAI 124  
COHAFA 6  
FIN 104  
CODEC 171  
CADREFIN 55

---

**Interinstitutional File:  
2020/0097(COD)**

---

#### NOTE

|                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| From:           | Presidency                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| To:             | Permanent Representatives Committee                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| No. prev. doc.: | 13538/20                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| No. Cion doc.:  | 8330/20                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Subject:        | Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Decision No 1313/2013/EU on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism<br>- confirmation of the final compromise text with a view to agreement (first reading) |

#### I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 2 June 2020 the Commission submitted to the Council a proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Decision No 1313/2013/EU on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism<sup>1</sup>.
2. The European Parliament voted its mandate on 16 September 2020<sup>2</sup>.

---

<sup>1</sup> 8330/20.

<sup>2</sup> P9\_TA(2020)0218.

3. On 30 November 2020 Coreper gave a mandate<sup>3</sup> to the Presidency to enter into negotiations with the European Parliament, with a view to reaching a first-reading agreement. The mandate amended and complemented the partial mandate approved by Coreper on 7 October 2020<sup>4</sup>.
4. The European Court of Auditors adopted its opinion on 28 September 2020<sup>5</sup>.
5. The European Committee of the Regions adopted its opinion on 14 October 2020<sup>6</sup>.
6. The European Economic and Social Committee adopted its opinion on 29 October 2020<sup>7</sup>.
7. Informal political trilogues were held on 10 December 2020 and on 8 February 2021, accompanied by nine tripartite technical-level meetings.

## II. COMPROMISE TEXT

8. At the second informal trilogue a provisional agreement on a possible final compromise package was reached, as set out in the Annex to this note.

The key elements of the overall final compromise package are the following:

### i. **rescEU**

The provisions related to rescEU were accepted in line with the Council mandate. The newly established possibility for the Union to directly procure rescEU capacities is limited to the area of transport and logistics. In duly justified cases of urgency, the Union could also directly procure material means and, if necessary, enabling 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. It was also agreed to maintain the current limitation of rescEU deployments outside the Union to disasters which could significantly affect one or more Member States or their citizens.

---

<sup>3</sup> 13334/20.

<sup>4</sup> 11042/20.

<sup>5</sup> 11447/20.

<sup>6</sup> 12064/20.

<sup>7</sup> 12722/20.

ii. **Union disaster resilience goals**

According to the agreed compromise, non-binding Union disaster resilience goals, limited in scope to the area of civil protection, should be developed by the Commission together with the Member States and set out in Commission recommendations. A definition of the resilience goals was also agreed. Information on progress made on the resilience goals should be included in the reports which the Commission submits to the European Parliament and the Council every two years under the current legislation. In addition, the reference to disaster loss data collection has been maintained.

iii. **Budgetary management**

A compromise was reached to re-introduce Annex I, which establishes a percentage allocation for prevention, preparedness and response (covering both the MFF and the EU Recovery Instrument). This allocation can be modified beyond the flexibility margins by way of delegated acts. To allow for flexibility and long-term planning, the compromise includes a possibility for the Commission to adopt multi-annual work programmes for all prevention and preparedness actions. A possibility of budget implementation in indirect management was also agreed, limited in scope as proposed by the Council. In line with the Council position, it was agreed that the budgetary execution and the projected future allocations should be presented and discussed on a yearly basis in the Civil Protection Committee.

iv. **Climate and biodiversity**

A compromise was found between the ambitious European Parliament's proposals and the Council's position not to include provisions related to climate and biodiversity, given that the Union targets are not directly related to the UCPM. It was agreed to include a recital, in line with the political guidance provided by the European Council, and to specify as a principle related to Annex I that the Union target of contributing to overall climate objectives and to the ambition of mainstreaming of biodiversity action in the Union policies should be duly taken into account to the extent that the unpredictability and specific circumstances of disaster preparedness and response so allow.

### III. CONCLUSION

9. On the basis of the above Coreper is invited to:

- approve the final compromise text, as set out in the Annex to this note, and
- confirm that the Presidency can indicate to the European Parliament that, should the European Parliament adopt its position at first reading as regards the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Decision 1313/2013/EU on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism as set out in the Annex to this note, subject to revision of this text by the lawyer-linguists of both Institutions, the Council would approve the European Parliament's position and the act shall be adopted in the wording which corresponds to the European Parliament's position.

**PE-CONS No/YY - 2020/0097(COD)**

***REGULATION (EU) 2020/...***  
**OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL**

**of ...**

**amending Decision No 1313/2013/EU on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism**

(Text with EEA relevance)

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 196 and Article 322(1)(a) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

After transmission of the draft legislative act to the national parliaments,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee<sup>8</sup>,

Having regard to the opinion of the Committee of the Regions<sup>9</sup>,

Having regard to the opinion of the Court of Auditors,

Acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure,

---

<sup>8</sup> OJ C , , p. .

<sup>9</sup> OJ C , , p. .

Whereas:

- (1) The Union Civil Protection Mechanism ('the Union Mechanism') governed by Decision No 1313/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>10</sup> strengthens cooperation between the Union and the Member States and facilitates coordination in the field of civil protection in order to improve the Union's response to natural and man-made disasters.
- (2) Whilst ■ the primary responsibility ■ for preventing, preparing for and responding to natural and man-made disasters *remains with the Member States*, the Union Mechanism, *and in particular rescEU following the adoption of the Decision (EU) 2019/420*, promotes solidarity between Member States in accordance with Article 3(3) of the Treaty on European Union. *The Union Mechanism does so by strengthening the Union's collective response to natural and man-made disasters through the establishment of a reserve of capacities complementing the existing capacities of Member States, enabling more effective preparedness and response, where those available at national level are not sufficient and by enhancing disaster prevention and preparedness. Adequate financial appropriations are required in order to establish, deploy and operate rescEU capacities and to be able to further develop the European Civil Protection Pool and cover additional costs stemming from adaptation grants and the operation of capacities committed to the European Civil Protection Pool.*

---

<sup>10</sup> Decision No 1313/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 924).

- (3) The unprecedented experience of the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated that the Union *and Member States need to be better prepared to respond to large-scale emergencies that impact several Member States simultaneously, and that the existing legal framework on health and civil protection should be reinforced. The COVID-19 pandemic has also highlighted how the consequences of disasters for human health, the environment, society and the economy can take on devastating proportions. During the COVID-19 pandemic, based on the existing provisions of Decision No 1313/2013/EU, the Union was able to rapidly adopt implementing provisions to expand rescEU capacities to include medical stockpiling, consisting of medical countermeasures such as intensive care medical equipment, personal protective equipment, laboratory supplies, vaccines and therapeutics, for the purpose of preparedness and response to a serious cross-border threat to health. In order to enhance effectiveness on preparedness and response actions, new provisions strengthening the current legal framework, among others by enabling the Commission to directly procure, under specific conditions, the necessary rescEU capacities, could further accelerate deployment time in the future. It is also important that the operations of rescEU be well coordinated with national civil protection authorities.*
- (4) The *Members of the* European Council in *their* Joint Statement of 26 March 2020<sup>11</sup> and the European Parliament in its resolution of 17 April 2020<sup>12</sup> have invited the Commission to make proposals for a more ambitious and wide-ranging crisis management system within the Union.

---

<sup>11</sup> Joint statement of the Members of the European Council,  
<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/43076/26-vc-euco-statement-en.pdf>

<sup>12</sup> European Parliament resolution of 17 April 2020 on EU coordinated action to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences (2020/2616(RSP)).

- (5) *Climate change is leading to an increase in the frequency, intensity and complexity of natural disasters within the Union and worldwide, and thus to a need for a high degree of solidarity among countries. Disasters, such as forest fires, can lead to loss of lives, livelihoods and biodiversity, cause the release of high amounts of carbon emissions, and a decrease in the carbon absorption capacity of the planet, which further exacerbates climate change. It is therefore essential that prevention of, preparedness for and response to disasters be strengthened and that the Union Mechanism comprise sufficient capacities, including during the resEU transition period, to act when forest fires and other climate related natural disasters occur.*
- (6) *The Union remains committed to gender-sensitive civil protection, including addressing specific vulnerabilities, and exchange on best practices concerning gender-related issues and aspects that arise during disasters and their immediate aftermath, including the support to victims of gender-based violence.*
- (7) *On the basis of the principles of solidarity and universal coverage of quality health services and the central role of the Union in accelerating progress on global health challenges, the Union Mechanism should contribute to improving prevention, preparedness and response capacity also in respect to medical emergencies.*
- (8) *Member States, depending on national structures, are encouraged to ensure that the first responders are adequately equipped and prepared to respond to disasters.*
- (9) *To strengthen cooperation in response to disasters, administrative processes should be streamlined where possible in order to ensure prompt intervention.*
- (10) *In order to be better prepared when confronted with such events in the future, urgent action is required for reinforcing the Union Mechanism. **The reinforcement of the Union Mechanism should complement Union policies and funds and should not be a substitute for the mainstreaming of disaster resilience into those policies and funds.***

- (11) *Data on losses caused by disasters is crucial for a robust assessment of risks, the development of evidence-based scenarios of potential disasters and the implementation of effective risk management measures. Therefore, Member States should continue working on improving disaster loss data collection, in line with the commitments already undertaken under international agreements, such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the Paris Agreement under the United Nations (UN) Framework Convention on Climate Change and the UN Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.*
- (12) To improve *resilience and* planning *for disaster* prevention, preparedness *and response*, the Union should continue advocating for investment in prevention of disasters across *borders and* sectors, and for comprehensive risk management approaches that underpin prevention and preparedness, taking into account a multi-hazard approach, an ecosystem-based approach and the likely impacts of climate change, in close cooperation with the relevant scientific communities, key economic operators, *regional and local authorities and non-governmental organisations operating in the field, without prejudice to the established Union coordination mechanisms and competence of the Member States*. To that effect, **■** *the Commission should work together with Member States to define and develop Union disaster resilience goals in the area of civil protection, as a non-binding common baseline to support prevention and preparedness actions in face of transboundary disasters with high impact. The disaster resilience goals should take into account immediate social consequences of disasters and the need to ensure critical societal functions.*
- (13) *Regular risk assessments and analyses of disaster scenarios at national and, where appropriate, sub-national level, are crucial to detect gaps in prevention and preparedness and reinforce resilience, including by using Union funds. Such risk assessments and analyses of disaster scenarios should focus on risks that are specific to the region and should where relevant, include cross-border cooperation.*
- (14) *The development of Union disaster resilience goals to support prevention and preparedness actions should give particular attention to the consequences of disasters for groups of vulnerable people.*

- (15) *The role of regional and local authorities in disaster prevention and management is of great importance, and where appropriate their capacities are included in the activities carried out under Decision 1313/2013/EU, with a view to minimising overlaps and fostering interoperability. Therefore, there is also a need for on-going cooperation at local and regional levels across borders with a view to developing common alert systems for rapid intervention prior to the activation of the Union Mechanism. Similarly, and depending on national structures, the need to provide technical training assistance to local communities to enhance their first response capacities where appropriate should be acknowledged. It is also important to keep the public informed on initial response measures.*
- (16) The Union Mechanism should continue to exploit synergies with the ■ Union framework on ■ *resilience of critical entities.*
- (17) As a 24/7 operational centre at Union level with capacity to follow and support operations in various types of emergencies, within and outside the Union, in real-time, the Emergency Response Coordination Centre ('ERCC') should be further strengthened. This should include enhanced coordination of the ERCC with Member States' national ■ civil protection authorities, as well as with other relevant Union bodies. The work of the ERCC is supported by scientific expertise, including that provided by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre.

(18) The Union Mechanism should make use of Union space infrastructures such as the European Earth Observation Programme (Copernicus), Galileo, Space Situational Awareness and GOVSATCOM, which provide important Union level tools to respond to internal and external emergencies. Copernicus Emergency Management Systems are providing support to the ERCC in the various emergency phases from early warning and prevention to disaster *response* and recovery. GOVSATCOM is to provide secure satellite communication capability specifically tailored to the needs of governmental users in emergency management. Galileo is the first global satellite navigation and positioning infrastructure specifically designed for civilian purposes in Europe and worldwide, and can be used in other areas such as emergency management, including early warning activities. Galileo's relevant services will include an emergency service, which broadcasts, through emitting signals, warnings regarding natural *or man-made* disasters ■ in particular areas. *Given its potential for saving lives and facilitating the coordination of emergency actions*, Member States should be *encouraged* to use this service. Where they decide to use it, in order to validate the system, they should identify and notify to the Commission the national authorities competent to use that emergency service.

- (19) *During the COVID-19 pandemic, transport and logistical resources were identified as a key bottleneck for the Member States to provide or receive assistance. Therefore, transport and logistical resources should be defined as rescEU capacities. Such capacities could also be rented, leased or otherwise contracted directly by the Union. Furthermore, in order to have the operational capacity to respond swiftly to a large-scale transboundary disaster or to a low probability event with a high impact [REDACTED], the Union should also have in duly justified cases of urgency and in consultation with the Member States pursuant to the urgency procedure through the adoption of immediately applicable implementing acts the possibility of acquiring, renting, leasing or contracting material means and necessary enabling support services defined as rescEU capacities, where these cannot be made immediately available by Member States. Such material means exclude modules, teams and categories of experts and are meant to assist Member States overwhelmed by disasters. In order to make the best use of the experience gained so far with trusted logistical networks managed by relevant international organisations inside the Union, such as the UN Humanitarian Response Depots, the Commission should consider these networks when acquiring, renting, leasing or contracting rescEU capacities. Relevant Union agencies should be appropriately involved and consulted in matters related to the Union Mechanism falling under their remit. It is particularly important that the European Medicines Agency and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control be consulted where appropriate as regards the definition, management and distribution of capacities dedicated to responding to medical emergencies.*
- (20) rescEU capacities acquired, rented, leased or otherwise contracted by Member States could be used for national purposes, but only when not used or needed for response operations under the Union Mechanism.
- (21) Where needed, the Union has an interest in responding to emergencies in third countries. Whilst primarily established for use as a safety net within the Union, in duly justified cases and taking into account the humanitarian principles, rescEU capacities could be deployed outside the Union. *The deployment decision should be made in accordance with the existing provisions on the deployment decisions of rescEU capacities.*

- (22) *The Union Mechanism should ensure an adequate geographical distribution of reserves of essential medical countermeasures and personal protective equipment, including those that respond to high impact low probability events, in synergy with, and in a manner that complements, the EU4Health Programme, the Emergency Support Instrument, the Resilience Instrument and other Union policies, programmes and funds, and complementing national stockpiling at Union level where needed.*
- (23) *The COVID-19 pandemic has shown the key importance of systematically bringing together and sharing relevant knowledge across all phases of the disaster risk management cycle. These findings and the experience gained so far in the process of developing the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network indicate that its role as a processing unit within the Union Mechanism should be further refined.*
- (24) Obtaining the necessary transport and logistical **resources** is essential to allow the Union to respond to any kind of emergency situation within and outside the Union. It is key to **■** ensure timely transport and delivery of assistance and aid within the Union, but also to and from outside the Union. Therefore, *the affected countries should be able to request assistance consisting only of transport and logistical resources.*
- (25) *Decision No 1313/2013/EU sets out a financial envelope for the Union Mechanism that constitutes the prime reference amount intended to cover programme expenditure until the end of the 2014-2020 budgetary period. That financial envelope should **■** be updated as from the date of applicability of Council Regulation (EU, Euratom), 2020/2093 of 17 December 2020<sup>13</sup> laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2021 to 2027 by the new figures provided therein.*

---

<sup>13</sup> *Council Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2020/2093 of 17 December 2020 laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2021 to 2027 (OJ L 433 I, 22.12.2020, p. 11).*

- (26) In accordance with Council Regulation (EU) 2020/2094 of 14 december 2020<sup>14</sup> establishing a European Union Recovery Instrument to support the recovery in the aftermath of the COVID-19 crisis and within the limits of resources allocated therein, recovery and resilience measures under the Union Mechanism should be carried out to address the unprecedented impact of the COVID-19 crisis. ***In particular, measures for increasing the level of the Union's preparedness and enabling a quick and effective Union response in the event of major emergencies, including measures such as stockpiling of essential supplies and medical equipment and acquiring the necessary infrastructure for rapid response.*** Such additional resources should be used in such a way as to ensure compliance with the time limits provided for in that Regulation.
- (27) ***Reflecting the importance of tackling climate change in line with the Union's commitments to implement the Paris Agreement, and the commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, the actions under Decision 1313/2013/EU should contribute to the achievement of an overall target of at least 30% of the total amount of the Union budget and the European Recovery Instrument expenditures supporting climate objectives and the ambition of 7.5% of the Budget reflecting biodiversity expenditures in 2024 and 10% in 2026 and 2027 while considering the existing overlaps between climate and biodiversity goals.***
- (28) Given that the deployment of rescEU capacities for response operations under the Union Mechanism provides significant Union added value by ensuring an effective and fast response to people in emergencies, further visibility obligations should be made to provide ***information to Union citizens and media and also to provide Union prominence. National authorities should receive communication guidance from the Commission for specific interventions to ensure that the Union's role is appropriately publicised.***

---

<sup>14</sup> ***Council Regulation (EU) 2020/2094 of 14 December 2020 establishing a European Union Recovery Instrument to support the recovery in the aftermath of the COVID-19 crisis (OJ L 433 I, 22.12.2020, p. 23).***

- (29) *Taking into account the recent operational experience, in order to further strengthen the Union Mechanism and in particular to simplify the process of rapid rescEU implementation, development costs of all rescEU capacities should be fully financed from the EU budget.*
- (30) In order to support Member States to deliver the assistance *also outside the Union*, the European Civil Protection Pool should be further reinforced by co-financing the operational costs of the committed capacities *at the same level, irrespective of whether they are deployed inside or outside the Union.*
- (31) *In order to ensure flexibility in supporting Member States with transport and logistical resources, in particular in large scale disasters, it should be possible to fully finance from the EU budget the transport within the Union or to the Union from third countries of cargo, logistical means and services deployed as rescEU capacities.*
- (32) The Union Mechanism should also provide transport assistance needed in environmental disasters through the furtherance of the "polluter pays" principle, *under the responsibility of the competent national authorities*, in accordance with Article 191(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), *and in line with* Directive 2004/35/CE of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>15</sup> on environmental liability with regard to the prevention and remedying of environmental damage.
- (33) In order to increase flexibility as well as *to* achieve optimal budget *implementation, this Regulation should provide for* indirect management ■ *as a method of budget implementation, to be used where justified by the nature and content of the action concerned.*

---

<sup>15</sup> Directive 2004/35/CE of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 April 2004 on environmental liability with regard to the prevention and remedying of environmental damage, (OJ 143, 30.4.2004 p. 56.).

- (34) *In accordance with Article 193(2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council (the ‘Financial Regulation’)<sup>16</sup>, a grant may be awarded for an action which has already begun, provided that the applicant can demonstrate the need for starting the action prior to signature of the grant agreement. However, the costs incurred prior to the date of submission of the grant application are not eligible, except in duly justified exceptional cases. In order to avoid any disruption in Union support which could be prejudicial to Union’s interests, it should be possible to provide in the financing decision, during a limited period of time at the beginning of the multi-annual financial framework 2021-2027, and only in duly justified cases, for eligibility of activities and costs from the beginning of the 2021 financial year, even if they were implemented and incurred before the grant application was submitted.*
- (35) In order to promote predictability and long-term effectiveness, when implementing Decision No 1313/2013/EU, the Commission should adopt annual or multi-annual work programmes indicating the planned allocations. This should help the Union to have more flexibility in budget execution and thereby enhance prevention and preparedness actions. *In addition, the projected future allocations should be presented and discussed on a yearly basis in the committee assisting the Commission in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 182/2011.*
- (36) *The Commission reports on the implementation of the budget of the Union Mechanism in accordance with the Financial Regulation.*

---

<sup>16</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, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 (OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p. 1).*

- (37) *Horizontal financial rules adopted by the European Parliament and the Council on the basis of Article 322 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union apply to Decision 1313/2013/EU. These rules are laid down in the Financial Regulation and determine in particular the procedure for establishing and implementing the budget through grants, procurement, prizes, indirect implementation, and provide for checks on the responsibility of financial actors. Rules adopted on the basis of Article 322 TFEU also include a general regime of conditionality for the protection of the Union budget.*
- (38) While prevention and preparedness measures are essential to enhance the robustness of the Union in facing natural and man-made disasters, the occurrence, timing and magnitude of disasters is by its nature unpredictable. As shown in the recent COVID-19 crisis, financial resources requested to ensure an adequate response may significantly vary from year to year and should be made available immediately. Reconciling the principle of predictability with the need to react rapidly to new needs consequently means adapting the financial implementation of the programmes. Consequently, it is appropriate to authorise carry-over of unused appropriations, limited to the following year and solely devoted to response action, in addition to Article 12(4) of the Financial Regulation.

(39) In accordance with the Financial Regulation, **Regulation** (EU, Euratom) No 883/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>17</sup> and Council Regulations (**EC**, Euratom) No 2988/95<sup>18</sup>, (Euratom, EC) No 2185/96<sup>19</sup> and (EU) 2017/1939<sup>20</sup>, the financial interests of the Union are to be protected through proportionate measures, including *measures relating to* the prevention, detection, correction and investigation of irregularities, including fraud, *to* the recovery of funds lost, wrongly paid or incorrectly used, and, where appropriate, *to* the imposition of administrative penalties. In particular, in accordance with Regulations (Euratom, EC) No 2185/96 and (EU, Euratom) No 883/2013, the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) *has the power to* carry out administrative investigations, including on-the-spot checks and inspections, with a view to establishing whether there has been fraud, corruption or any other illegal activity affecting the financial interests of the Union. *The* European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) *is empowered, in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2017/1939 to* investigate and prosecute *criminal* offences *affecting* the financial interests of the Union, as provided for in Directive (EU) 2017/1371<sup>21</sup> of the European Parliament and of the Council. In accordance with the Financial Regulation, any person or entity receiving Union funds is to fully cooperate in the protection of the financial interests of the Union, grant the necessary rights and access to the Commission, OLAF, *the Court of Auditors and* in respect of those Member States participating in enhanced cooperation

- 
- <sup>17</sup> Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 883/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 September 2013 concerning investigations conducted by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1073/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Regulation (Euratom) No 1074/1999 (OJ L 248, 18.9.2013, p. 1).
- <sup>18</sup> Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2988/95 of 18 December 1995 on the protection of the European Communities financial interests (OJ L 312, 23.12.1995, p. 1).
- <sup>19</sup> Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 2185/96 of 11 November 1996 concerning on-the-spot checks and inspections carried out by the Commission in order to protect the European Communities' financial interests against fraud and other irregularities (OJ L 292, 15.11.1996, p. 2).
- <sup>20</sup> Council Regulation (EU) 2017/1939 of 12 October 2017 implementing enhanced cooperation on the establishment of the European Public Prosecutor's Office ('the EPPO') (OJ L 283, 31.10.2017, p. 1).
- <sup>21</sup> Directive (EU) 2017/1371 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 July 2017 on the fight against fraud to the Union's financial interests by means of criminal law (OJ L 198, 28.7.2017, p. 29).

pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2017/1939, **the EPPO**, and █ ensure that any third parties involved in the implementation of Union funds grant equivalent rights. For that reason, agreements with third countries and territories and with international organisations, and any contract or agreement resulting from the implementation of this Decision, should contain provisions expressly empowering the Commission, the European Court of Auditors, EPPO and OLAF to conduct such audits, on-the-spot checks and inspections, in accordance with their respective competences and ensuring that any third parties involved in the implementation of Union funding grant equivalent rights.

- (40) Third countries which are members of the European Economic Area (**EEA**) may participate in Union programmes in the framework of the cooperation established under the Agreement on the European Economic Area, which provides for the implementation of the programmes by a decision under that Agreement. Third countries may also participate on the basis of other legal instruments. A specific provision should be introduced in this Decision **requiring third countries** to grant the necessary rights █ and access **required for** the authorising officer responsible, OLAF █ and the Court of Auditors to comprehensively **exercise** their respective **competences**.
- (41) ***In duly justified cases of urgency, where material means urgently need to be acquired, rented, leased or contracted directly by the Union, the*** Commission should be empowered to adopt immediately applicable implementing acts, ***determining the necessary type and quantity of material means defined as rescEU capacities, and if necessary, define additional material means as rescEU capacities.*** This would allow the Union to react without delay to █ emergencies which might have a high impact on human lives, health, environment, property, and cultural heritage, affecting at the same time **multiple** Member States.

█

- (42) *During the COVID-19 pandemic, in order to have functioning rescEU capacities and for the Union Mechanism to effectively respond to the needs of Union citizens, additional financial appropriations have been made available to finance actions under the Union Mechanism. It is important to give the Union the necessary flexibility to be able to react effectively to the unpredictable nature of disasters, while at the same time maintaining a certain predictability in the fulfilment of the objectives set out in Decision 1313/2013/EU. It is important to achieve the necessary balance in the fulfilment of those objectives. In order to update the percentages set out in Annex I, according to the priorities of the reformed Union Mechanism, the power to adopt acts in accordance with Article 290 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union should be delegated to the Commission.*
- (43) Decision No 1313/2013/EU should therefore be amended accordingly.
- (44) *In order to ensure continuity in providing support in the relevant policy area and to allow implementation as of the beginning of the multi-annual financial framework 2021-2027, it is necessary to provide for the application of this Regulation from the beginning of the 2021 financial year.*
- (45) *In order to allow for the prompt application of the measures provided for in this Regulation, this Regulation should enter into force on the day following that of its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union,*

HAVE ADOPTED THIS **REGULATION**:

## Article 1

Decision No 1313/2013/EU is amended as follows:

(1) *in Article 1, paragraphs 2 and 3 are replaced by the following:*

- ‘2. The protection to be ensured by the Union Mechanism shall cover primarily people, but also the environment and property, including cultural heritage, against all kinds of natural and man-made disasters, including the consequences of acts of terrorism, technological, radiological or environmental disasters, marine pollution, hydrogeological instability 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.*
- 3. The Union Mechanism shall promote solidarity between the Member States through practical cooperation and coordination, without prejudice to the Member States' 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 prevent, and cope adequately and in a consistent manner with, disasters of a nature and magnitude that can reasonably be expected and prepared for.’*

(2) *in Article 3(1), point (c) is replaced by the following:*

- ‘(c) to facilitate rapid and efficient response in the event of disasters or imminent disasters, including by taking measures to mitigate the immediate consequences of disasters and encouraging Member States to work towards removing bureaucratic obstacles;’*

(3) in Article 3(2), point (b) is replaced by the following:

'(b) progress in increasing the level of readiness for disasters: measured by the quantity of response capacities included in the European Civil Protection Pool in relation to the capacity goals referred to in Article 11, the number of modules registered in the CECIS and the number of rescEU capacities established to provide assistance in overwhelming situations;';

(4) *in Article 4, the following point is inserted:*

*'4a. Union disaster resilience goals' means 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;'*

(5) *in Article 5(1), point (c) is replaced by the following:*

*'(c) establish and regularly update a cross-sectoral overview and map of natural and man-made disaster risks, including disasters which cause or are capable of causing transboundary effects, the Union may face, by taking a coherent approach across different policy areas that may address or affect disaster prevention and taking due account of the likely impacts of climate change;'*

(6) *in Article 5(1), point (g) is replaced by the following:*

*'(g) report periodically, in accordance with the deadlines set out in point (d) of Article 6(1), to the European Parliament and to the Council on the progress made in the implementation of Article 6;'*

(7) Article 6 is amended as follows:

(a) *in paragraph 1, point (c) is replaced by the following:*

*'(c) further develop and refine disaster risk management planning at national or appropriate sub-national level, including as regards cross-border collaboration, taking into account the Union disaster resilience goals referred to in Article 6(5) when established, and the risks related to disasters which cause or are capable of causing transboundary effects;'*

(b) *in paragraph 1, point (d) is replaced by the following:*

*'(d) make available to the Commission a summary of the relevant elements of the assessments referred to in points (a) and (b), focusing on key risks. For key risks having cross-border impacts and risks related to disasters which cause or are capable of causing transboundary effects, as well as, where appropriate, for low probability risks with a high impact Member States shall describe priority prevention and preparedness measures. The summary shall be provided to the Commission by 31 December 2020 and every three years thereafter and whenever there are important changes;'*

(c) *in paragraph 1, point (e) is replaced by the following:*

*'(e) participate, on a voluntary basis, in peer reviews on the assessment of risk management capability;'*

(d) *the following point (f) is inserted:*

*'(f) in line with the international commitments, improve disaster loss data collection at the national or appropriate sub-national level to ensure evidence-based scenario building as referred to in Article 10(1) and the identification of gaps in disaster response capacities.';*

(e) the following paragraph 5 is added:

‘5. The Commission, *in cooperation with Member States*, shall define *and develop* Union disaster resilience goals *in the area of civil protection, and adopt recommendations to define them as a non-binding common baseline* to support prevention and preparedness actions *in face of transboundary disasters*. *Those* goals shall be based on *current and* forward looking scenarios, including the impacts of climate change on disaster risk, data on past events and cross-sectoral impact analysis, with a particular attention to *groups of* vulnerable people. *When developing disaster resilience goals, the Commission shall take into account recurrent disasters that hit Member States and suggest that Member States take concrete measures, including those to be implemented with the use of Union funds, to strengthen the resilience to disasters.*’;

(8) *Articles 7 and 8 are* replaced by the following:

‘Article 7

Emergency Response Coordination Centre

1. An Emergency Response Coordination Centre (‘ERCC’) is established. The ERCC shall ensure 24/7 operational capacity, and serve the Member States and the Commission in pursuit of the objectives of the Union Mechanism.

The ERCC shall in particular coordinate, monitor and support in real-time the response to emergencies at Union level. The ERCC shall work in close contact with national ■ civil protection authorities and relevant Union bodies *to promote a cross-sectoral approach to disaster management*.

2. The ERCC shall have access to operational, analytical, monitoring, information management and communication *capabilities* to address a broad range of emergencies within and outside the Union.

## Article 8

### *General preparedness actions of the Commission*

#### *1. The Commission shall carry out the following preparedness actions:*

- (a) manage the ERCC;*
- (b) manage a Common Emergency Communication and Information System (CECIS) to enable communication and sharing of information between the ERCC and the Member States' contact points;*
- *(c) work with Member States*
  - (i) to develop transnational detection and **early** warning systems of Union interest **in order to mitigate the immediate effects of disasters**;*
  - (ii) to better integrate existing **transnational detection and early warning** systems following a multi-hazard approach and minimising the lead time to respond to disaster;*
  - (iii) to maintain and further develop the situational awareness and analysis capability;*
  - (iv) to monitor and provide advice based on scientific knowledge on disasters and, where relevant, climate change impacts;*
  - (v) to translate scientific information into operational information;*
  - (vi) to create, maintain and develop European scientific partnerships to cover natural and man-made hazards, which in turn should promote the inter-linkage between national early warning and alert systems and their linkage to the ERCC and the CECIS;*

- (vii) to support the efforts of Member States and mandated international organisations with scientific knowledge, innovative technologies and expertise when those bodies further develop their early warning systems, *including through the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network*;
- (d) *establish and manage the capability to mobilise and dispatch expert teams, responsible for:*
- (i) *assessing the needs that can possibly be addressed under the Union Mechanism in the state requesting assistance,*
  - (ii) *facilitating, when necessary, the coordination of disaster response assistance on site and liaising with the competent authorities of the state requesting assistance, and*
  - (iii) *supporting the requesting state with expertise on prevention, preparedness or response actions;*
- (e) *establish and maintain the capability to provide logistical support for those expert teams;*
- (f) *develop and maintain a network of trained experts of the Member States, who can be available at short notice to assist the ERCC in the monitoring of information and facilitating coordination;*
- (g) *facilitate the coordination of the Member States' pre-positioning of disaster response capacities inside the Union;*
- (h) *support efforts to improve the inter-operability of modules and other response capacities, taking into account the best practices at the level of the Member States and at international level;*

- (i) *take, within its sphere of competence, the necessary actions to facilitate host nation support, including developing and updating, together with Member States, guidelines on host nation support, on the basis of operational experience;*
- (j) *support the creation of voluntary peer review assessment programmes for the Member States' preparedness strategies, based on pre-defined criteria, which will enable recommendations to be formulated to strengthen the level of preparedness of the Union;*
- (k) *in close consultation with the Member States, take additional necessary supporting and complementary preparedness action to achieve the objective specified in point (b) of Article 3(1); and*
- (l) *upon their request for disasters happening within their territories support Member States by providing the possibility of using European Scientific Partnerships for targeted scientific analysis. These analyses may be shared via CECIS, with the agreement of the affected Member State(s).*

2. *At the request of a Member State, a third country or the United Nations or its agencies, the Commission may deploy an expert team on site to provide advice on preparedness measures.'*

(9) in Article 9, the following paragraph is added:

‘10. When emergency services are provided by Galileo, Copernicus, GOVSATCOM, or other components of the Space Programme<sup>22</sup>, each Member State may decide to use them.

Where a Member State decides to use the emergency services by Galileo referred to in the first subparagraph, it shall identify and notify to the Commission the national authorities authorised to use that emergency service.’;

<sup>22</sup> Regulation (EU) 2019/... of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the space programme of the Union and the European Union Agency for the Space Programme and repealing Regulations (EU) No 912/2010, (EU) No 1285/2013, (EU) No 377/2014 and Decision 541/2014/EU.

(10) Article 10 is replaced by the following:

‘Article 10

***Scenario-building and disaster management*** planning

- ‘1. The Commission and the Member States shall work together to improve ***cross-sectoral disaster risk management*** planning ***at Union level***, both for natural and man-made disasters likely to have a trans-boundary effect, including the adverse effects of climate change. The ■ planning shall include scenario-building at Union level for disaster prevention, ***preparedness*** and response, ***taking into account the work carried out on the Union disaster resilience goals referred to in Article 6(5) and the work by the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network as referred to in Article 13, and*** based on:
  - (i) the risk assessments referred to in point (a) of Article 6(1), ■
  - (ii) the overview of risks referred to in point (c) of Article 5(1),
  - (iii) ***Member States' assessment of*** risk management ***capability*** referred to in point (b) of Article 6(1),
  - (iv) ***available*** disaster loss data referred to in point (f) of Article 6(1),
  - (v) ***the voluntary exchange of existing information on disaster risk management planning at national or appropriate sub-national level,***
  - (vi) asset mapping, and
  - (vii) the development of plans for the deployment of response capacities ■ ,
2. The Commission and the Member States shall identify and promote synergies between civil protection assistance and humanitarian aid funding provided by the Union and Member States in planning of response operations for humanitarian crises outside the Union.’;

(11) in Article 11, paragraph 2 is replaced by the following:

- ‘2. On the basis of identified risks, **overall capacities, gaps** and **any existing** scenario-building **as** referred to in Article 10(1) the Commission shall , by means of implementing acts, **define** the types and **specify** the number of key response capacities required for the European Civil Protection Pool ("capacity goals"). **Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 33(2).**

The Commission, in cooperation with the Member States, shall monitor progress towards the capacity goals set out in the implementing acts referred to in the first subparagraph of this paragraph, and identify potentially significant response capacity gaps in the European Civil Protection Pool. Where such gaps have been identified, the Commission shall examine whether the necessary capacities are available to the Member States outside the European Civil Protection Pool. The Commission shall encourage Member States to address significant response capacity gaps in the European Civil Protection Pool. It may support Member States in this in accordance with Article 20 and Article 21(1)(i) and (2).’;

(12) in Article 12, paragraphs 2 and 3 are replaced by the following:

- ‘2. The Commission shall , by means of implementing acts, **define** the capacities rescEU shall consist of, based **inter alia** on **any existing** scenario-building as referred to in Article 10(1), taking into account identified and emerging risks and overall capacities and gaps at Union level, in particular in the areas of aerial forest fire fighting, chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear incidents, emergency medical response, **as well as transport and logistics**. **Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 33(2). The Commission shall regularly update the information on the type and number of rescEU capacities and make that information directly available to the Council and the European Parliament.**

3. rescEU capacities shall be acquired, rented, leased, **■** or otherwise contracted by **■** Member States.
- 3a. *rescEU capacities, as defined by means of implementing acts adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 33(2), may be rented, leased or otherwise contracted by the Commission to the extent necessary to address the gaps in the area of transport and logistics.*
- 3b. *In duly justified cases of urgency, the Commission may acquire, rent, lease or otherwise contract capacities determined by means of implementing acts adopted in accordance with the urgency procedure referred to in Article 33(3). Such implementing acts shall:*
- (i) determine the necessary type and quantity of material means and, if necessary, enabling support services already defined as rescEU capacities and/or*
  - ii) define additional material means and, if necessary, enabling support services as rescEU capacities and determine the necessary type and quantity of those capacities.*
- 3c. *Union financial rules shall apply where rescEU capacities are acquired, rented, leased or otherwise contracted by the Commission.* Where rescEU capacities are acquired, rented, leased or otherwise contracted by Member States, direct grants may be awarded by the Commission to Member States without a call for proposals. The Commission and any Member States which so desire may engage in a joint procurement procedure conducted pursuant to Article 165 of the Financial Regulation with a view of acquiring rescEU capacities.

rescEU capacities shall be hosted by the Member States that acquire, rent, lease or otherwise contract those capacities. **■** ’;

**■**

(13) *Article 13 is replaced by the following:*

*'Article 13*

*Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network*

1. *The Commission shall establish a Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network ("the Network") to aggregate, process and disseminate knowledge and information relevant to the Union Mechanism, following a multi-hazard approach and including relevant civil protection and disaster management actors, centres of excellence, universities and researchers.*

*The Commission, through the Network, shall take due account of the expertise available in the Member States, at Union level, at the level of other international organisations and entities, third countries and at the level of organisations active on the ground.*

*The Commission and the Member States shall promote a gender-balanced participation in the establishment and the functioning of the Network.*

*The Commission, through the Network, shall support coherence of planning and decision-making processes by facilitating continuous exchange of knowledge and information between all areas of activity under the Union Mechanism.*

*To this aim, the Commission, through the Network, shall inter alia:*

- (a) *set up and manage a training and exercises programme for civil protection and disaster management personnel on the prevention of, preparedness for and response to disasters. The programme shall focus on and encourage the exchange of best practices in the field of civil protection and disaster management, including in relation to disasters originating from climate change, and include joint courses and a system for the exchange of expertise in the area of disaster management, including exchanges of professionals and experienced volunteers, and the secondment of Member State experts.*

*The training and exercises programme shall aim to enhance the coordination, compatibility and complementarity of capacities referred to in Articles 9, 11 and 12, and to improve the competence of experts as referred to in points (d) and (f) of Article 8(1);*

- (b) set up and manage a programme of lessons learnt from civil protection actions conducted within the framework of the Union Mechanism including aspects from the entire disaster management cycle, in order to provide a broad basis for learning processes and knowledge development. The programme shall include:*
  - (i) monitoring, analysing and evaluating all the relevant civil protection actions within the Union Mechanism;*
  - (ii) promoting implementation of lessons learnt in order to obtain an experience-based foundation for the development of activities within the disaster management cycle; and*
  - (iii) developing methods and tools for gathering, analysing, promoting and implementing lessons learnt.*

*That programme shall also include, where appropriate, lessons learnt from interventions outside the Union with regard to exploiting links and synergies between assistance provided under the Union Mechanism and humanitarian response;*

- (c) stimulate research and innovation, and encourage the introduction and use of relevant new approaches and/or technologies for the purpose of the Union Mechanism;*
- (d) set up and maintain a Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network online platform to support and facilitate the implementation of the different tasks referred to in points (a), (b) and (c).*

2. *When carrying out the tasks set out in paragraph 1, the Commission shall take particular account of the need and interest of Member States facing disaster risks of a similar nature, as well as the need to strengthen the protection of biodiversity and cultural heritage.*
3. *The Commission shall strengthen cooperation on training, and promote the sharing of knowledge and experience, between the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network and international organisations and third countries, in particular in order to contribute to meeting international commitments particularly those in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030 adopted on 18 March 2015 at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan.'*

(14) in Article 15(3), point (b) is replaced by the following:

- ‘(b) collect and analyse validated information on the situation, in conjunction with the affected Member State, with the goal of generating common awareness **of the situation and the response to the situation**, and disseminate it **directly** to the Member States;’;

(15) in Article 17, paragraphs 1 and 2 are replaced by the following:

- ‘1. The Commission may select, appoint and dispatch an expert team composed of experts provided by Member States:
  - (a) upon request for prevention expertise in accordance with Article 5(2);
  - (b) upon request for preparedness expertise in accordance with Article **8(2)**;
  - (c) in the event of a disaster within the Union as referred to in Article 15(5);
  - (d) in the event of a disaster outside the Union as referred to in Article 16(3);

Experts from the Commission and from other services of the Union may be integrated in the team in order to support the team and facilitate liaison with the ERCC. Experts dispatched by UN agencies or other international organisations may be integrated in the team in order to strengthen cooperation and facilitate joint assessments.

Where operational effectiveness so requires, the Commission, ***in close cooperation with Member States***, may facilitate additional experts, technical and scientific support, through deployment, and reach back to specialist scientific, emergency medical and sectoral expertise.

2. The procedure for the selection and appointment of experts shall be the following:
  - (a) Member States shall nominate experts, under their responsibility, who can be deployed as members of expert teams;
  - (b) the Commission shall select the experts and the leader for those teams on the basis of their qualifications and experience, including the level of the Union Mechanism training undertaken, previous experience of missions under the Union Mechanism and other international relief work; the selection shall also be based on other criteria, including language skills, to ensure that the team as a whole has the available skills needed in the specific situation;
  - (c) the Commission shall appoint experts and team leaders for the mission in agreement with their nominating Member State.

The Commission shall notify Member States of additional expert support provided in accordance with paragraph 1.’;

(16) Article 18 is replaced by the following:

‘Article 18

**Transport and equipment**

1. In the event of a disaster, either within or outside the Union, the Commission may support Member States in obtaining access to equipment or transport and logistical resources by:
  - (a) providing and sharing information on equipment, and transport and logistical resources that can be made available by Member States, with a view to facilitating the pooling of such equipment or transport and logistical resources;
  - (b) *developing cartographical material for the swift deployment and mobilization of resources, especially bearing in mind the specificities of cross-border regions for the purpose of trans-boundary risks;*
  - (c) assisting Member States to identify, and facilitating their access to, transport and logistical resources that may be available from other sources, including the commercial market; or
  - (d) assisting Member States to identify equipment that may be available from other sources, including the commercial market.
2. The Commission may complement the transport and logistical resources provided by Member States by providing additional resources necessary for ensuring a rapid response to disasters.
3. The assistance requested by a Member State or a third country may consist only of transport and logistical resources in order to respond to disasters with relief items or equipment procured in a third country by the requesting Member State or country.’;

(17) Article 19 is amended as follows:

(a) the following paragraph is inserted:

‘1a. The financial envelope for the implementation of the Union Mechanism for the period 2021 to 2027 shall be EUR **1 263 000 000** in current prices.’;

(b) paragraph 2 is replaced by the following:

‘2. Appropriations resulting from reimbursement made by the beneficiaries for disaster response actions shall constitute assigned revenue within the meaning of Article 21(5) of the Financial Regulation.’;

(c) *paragraph 3 is replaced by the following*

***"3. The financial allocation referred to in paragraphs 1 and 1a of this Article and in Article 19a may also cover expenses pertaining to preparatory, monitoring, control, audit and evaluation activities, which are required for the management of the Union Mechanism and the achievement of its objectives.***

***Such expenditure may, in particular, cover studies, meetings of experts, information and communication actions, including corporate communication of the political priorities of the Union, as far as they are related to the general objectives of the Union Mechanism, expenses linked to IT networks focusing on information processing and exchange, including their interconnection with existing or future systems designed to promote cross-sectoral data exchange and related equipment, together with all other technical and administrative assistance expenses incurred by the Commission for the management of the programme."***

**I**

(d) paragraph 4 is replaced by the following:

*‘4. The financial envelope referred to in **paragraph 1a of this Article and in Article 19a** shall be allocated, **over the period 2021-2027, according to the percentages and principles set out in Annex I.**’*

**I**

(e) *paragraph 5 is replaced by the following:*

*‘5. **The Commission shall assess the breakdown set out in Annex I in light of the outcome of the evaluation referred to in Article 34(3).**’*

(f) *paragraph 6 is replaced by the following:*

*‘6. **Where necessary for disaster response on imperative grounds of urgency, or in the light of unexpected events affecting the execution of the budget or the establishment of rescEU capacities, the Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 30 in order to amend Annex I within the available budgetary allocations and in accordance with the procedure provided for in Article 31.**’*

(18) The following Article is inserted:

‘Article 19a

#### **Resources from the European Union Recovery Instrument**

- 1. Measures referred to in Article **1(2)(d) and (e)** of Regulation **(EU) 2020/2094** shall be implemented under this Decision through **an amount of up to EUR 2 056 000 000 in current prices** referred to in point (iii) of **Article 2(2)(a)** of that Regulation, subject to its Article **3(3), (4), (7) and (9)**.*
- 2. **This amount** shall constitute external assigned revenue **as set out in Article 3(1) of Regulation (EU) 2020/2094.***

3. *Measures referred to in paragraph 1 shall be eligible for financial assistance in accordance with conditions set out in this Decision and shall be implemented in full respect of the objectives of Regulation (EU) 2020/2094.*
4. *Without prejudice to conditions of eligibility of actions in favour of third countries set out in this Decision, the financial assistance referred to in this Article may be granted to a third country only where that assistance is implemented in full respect of the objectives of Regulation (EU) 2020/2094, regardless of whether that third country participates in the Union Mechanism or not.'*

(19) Article 20a is replaced by the following:

‘Article 20a

#### **Visibility and awards**

1. The recipients of Union funding, as well as the beneficiaries of the delivered assistance, shall acknowledge the origin and ensure the visibility of the Union funding (in particular when promoting the actions and their results) by providing coherent, effective and proportionate targeted information to multiple audiences, including the media and the public.

Any assistance or funding provided under this Decision shall be given appropriate visibility *in line with the specific guidance issued by the Commission for specific interventions*. In particular, Member States shall ensure that public communication for operations funded under the Union Mechanism:

- include appropriate references to the Union Mechanism;
- provide visual branding on the capacities funded or co-funded by the Union Mechanism;
- deliver actions with the Union emblem;

- proactively communicate the Union support to national media and stakeholders as well as on their own communication channels;
  - support the Commission’s communication actions on the operations.
2. The Commission shall implement information and communication actions relating to this Decision, and its actions and results ***and support Member States in their communication actions***. Financial resources allocated to this Decision shall also contribute to the corporate communication of the political priorities of the Union, as far as they are related to the objectives referred to in Article 3(1).

***Where rescEU capacities are used for national purposes as referred to in Article 12(5), Member States shall, by the same means as referred to in the first subparagraph of this paragraph, acknowledge the origin of those capacities and ensure the visibility of the Union funding used to acquire those capacities.***

3. The Commission shall award medals in order to recognise and honour longstanding commitments and extraordinary contributions to Union Mechanism.’;

(20) Article 21 is amended as follows:

- (a) in paragraph 1, point (g) is replaced by the following:

‘(g) developing ***disaster risk management*** planning ■ , as referred to in Article 10.’;

- (b) paragraph 3 is replaced by the following:

‘3. The financial assistance for the action referred to in point (j) of paragraph 1 shall cover all costs necessary to ensure the availability and deployability of rescEU capacities under the Union Mechanism in accordance with the second subparagraph of this paragraph. The categories of eligible costs necessary to ensure the availability and deployability of rescEU capacities shall be as set out in Annex Ia.

The Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 30 to amend Annex Ia regarding the categories of eligible costs.

**3a.** The financial assistance referred to in this *Article* may be implemented by multi-annual work programmes. For actions extending beyond one year, budgetary commitments may be broken down into annual instalments.’;

(c) paragraph 4 is deleted.

(21) in Article 22, point (b) is replaced by the following:

‘(b) in the event of a disaster, supporting Member States in obtaining access to equipment and transport and logistical resources as specified in Article 23; **and**’;

(22) Article 23 is replaced by the following:

‘Article 23

#### **Eligible actions linked to equipment and operations**

1. The following actions shall be eligible for financial assistance in order to allow access to equipment and transport and logistical resources under the Union Mechanism:

- (a) providing and sharing information on equipment and transport and logistical resources that Member States decide to make available, with a view to facilitating the pooling of such equipment or transport and logistical resources;
- (b) assisting Member States to identify, and facilitating their access to, transport and logistical resources that may be available from other sources, including the commercial market;
- (c) assisting Member States to identify equipment that may be available from other sources, including the commercial market;

- (d) financing transport and logistical resources necessary for ensuring a rapid response to disasters. Such actions shall be eligible for financial support only if the following criteria are met:
  - (i) a request for assistance has been made under the Union Mechanism in accordance with Articles 15 and 16;
  - (ii) the additional transport and logistical resources are necessary for ensuring the effectiveness of disaster response under the Union Mechanism;
  - (iii) the assistance corresponds to the needs identified by the ERCC and is delivered in accordance with the recommendations given by the ERCC on the technical specifications, quality, timing and modalities for delivery;
  - (iv) the assistance has been accepted by a requesting country, directly or through the United Nations or its agencies, or a relevant international organisation, under the Union Mechanism;
  - (v) the assistance complements, for disasters in third countries, any overall Union humanitarian response.
- 1a. The amount of Union financial assistance for the transport of capacities not pre-committed to the European Civil Protection Pool and deployed in the event of a disaster or imminent disaster inside or outside the Union and for any other transport support needed to respond to a disaster shall not exceed 75 % of the total eligible cost.
- 2. The amount of Union financial assistance for capacities pre-committed to the European Civil Protection Pool shall not exceed 75 % of the costs of operating the capacities, including transport, in the event of a disaster or imminent disaster inside or outside the Union.

4. The Union financial assistance for transport and logistical resources may, in addition, cover a maximum of 100 % of the total eligible costs specified in points (a) to (d), where this is necessary to make the pooling of Member States' assistance operationally effective and where the costs relate to one of the following:
- (a) short-term rental of warehousing capacity to temporarily store the assistance from Member States with a view to facilitating their coordinated transport;
  - (b) transport from the Member State offering the assistance to the Member State facilitating its coordinated transport;
  - (c) repackaging of Member States' assistance to make maximum use of available transport capacities or to meet specific operational requirements; or
  - (d) local transport, transit and warehousing of pooled assistance with a view to ensuring a coordinated delivery at the final destination in the requesting country.
- 4a. When rescEU capacities are used for national purposes in accordance with Article 12(5), all costs, including maintenance and repair costs, shall be covered by the Member State using the capacities.
- 4b. In the event of deployment of rescEU capacities under the Union Mechanism, Union financial assistance shall cover 75 % of the operational costs.
- By way of derogation from the first subparagraph, Union financial assistance shall cover 100 % of the operational costs of rescEU capacities necessary for low probability disasters with a high impact, when those capacities are deployed under the Union Mechanism.
- 4c. For deployments outside the Union, as referred to in Article 12(10), Union financial assistance shall cover 100 % of the operational costs.

- 4d. When the Union financial assistance referred to in this Article does not cover 100 % of costs, the remaining amount of the costs shall be borne by the requester of the assistance, unless otherwise agreed with the Member State offering assistance or the Member State hosting the rescEU capacities.
- 4e. For the deployment of rescEU capacities, Union financing may cover 100% of any direct costs necessary for the transport of cargo, logistical means and services, within the Union, and to the Union from third countries
5. In case of pooling of transport operations involving several Member States, a Member State may take the lead in requesting Union financial support for the entire operation.
6. When a Member State requests the Commission to contract transport services, the Commission shall request partial reimbursement of the costs according to the funding rates set out in paragraphs 2, 3 and 4.
- 6a. Without prejudice to paragraphs 2 and 3, Union financial support for the transport of assistance, ■ needed in environmental disasters in which the ‘polluter pays principle’ applies may cover a maximum of 100% of the total eligible costs. The following conditions shall apply:
- (a) the *Union financial support for the transport of* assistance is requested by the affected *or assisting* Member State based on a duly justified needs assessment;
  - (b) the affected *or assisting* Member State, *as appropriate*, takes all necessary steps to request and obtain compensation from the polluter, in accordance with all the applicable international, Union or national legal provisions;
  - (c) upon receiving compensation from the polluter, the affected *or assisting* Member State, *as appropriate*, shall immediately reimburse the Union.

***In case of an environmental disaster as referred to in the first subparagraph, which does not affect a Member State, actions referred to under points a), b) and c) shall be carried out by the assisting Member State.***

7. The following costs shall be eligible for Union financial support for transport and logistical resources under this Article: all costs relating to the movement of transport and logistical resources, including the costs of all services, fees, logistical and handling costs, fuel and possible accommodation costs as well as other indirect costs such as taxes, duties in general and transit costs.
8. Transport costs may consist of unit costs, lump sums or flat rates, determined per category of cost.’;

(23) Article 25 is replaced by the following:

‘Article 25

#### **Types of financial intervention and implementing procedures**

1. The Commission shall implement the Union's financial support in accordance with the Financial Regulation.
2. The Commission shall implement the Union's financial support ■ in direct management ***in accordance with the Financial Regulation or, where justified by the nature and content of the action concerned,*** in indirect management with ***the*** bodies referred to in ***sub-points (ii), (iv), (v) and (vi) of point (c) of Article 62(1) ■*** of ***that*** Regulation.
3. Financial support under this Decision may take any of the forms laid down in the Financial Regulation, in particular the form of grants, procurement or contributions to trust funds.

**3a. *In accordance with point (a) of the second subparagraph of Article 193(2) of the Financial Regulation, in duly justified cases specified in the financing decision and for a limited period, activities supported under this Decision and the underlying costs may be considered eligible as of 1 January 2021, even if they were implemented and incurred before the grant application was submitted.***

4. In order to implement this Decision, the Commission shall adopt annual or multi-annual work programmes, by means of implementing acts. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 33(2). The annual or multi-annual work programmes shall set out the objectives pursued, the expected results, the method of implementation and their total amount. They shall also contain a description of actions to be financed, an indication of the amount allocated to each action and an indicative implementation timetable. With regard to the financial support referred to in Article 28(2), the annual or multi-annual work programmes shall describe the actions foreseen for countries referred to therein.

However no annual or multi-annual work programmes shall be required for actions falling under the disaster response laid down in Chapter IV, which cannot be provided for in advance.

**4a. *For the purposes of transparency and predictability, the budgetary execution and the projected future allocations shall be presented and discussed on a yearly basis in the Committee referred to in Article 33. The European Parliament shall be kept informed.***

5. In addition to Article 12(4) of the Financial Regulation, commitment and payment appropriations, which have not been used by the end of the financial year for which they were entered in the annual budget shall be automatically carried over and may be committed and paid up to 31 December of the following year. The carried-over appropriations shall be used solely for response actions. The carried-over appropriations shall be used first in the following financial year.’

(24) Article 27 is replaced by the following:

‘Article 27

**Protection of the financial interests of the Union**

Where a third country participates in the Union Mechanism by *means of* a decision *adopted pursuant to* an international agreement or *on the basis of* any other legal instrument, the third country shall grant the necessary rights and access required for the authorising officer responsible, OLAF and the █ Court of Auditors to comprehensively *exercise* their respective competences. In the case of OLAF, such rights shall include the right to carry out investigations, including on-the-spot checks and inspections, as provided for in Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 883/2013.’

(25) Article 30 is amended as follows:

(a) paragraph 2 is replaced by the following:

‘2. The power to adopt delegated acts referred to in *Article 19(6)* and in the second subparagraph of Article 21(3) shall be conferred on the Commission until 31 December 2027.’

(b) *paragraph 3 is deleted.*

(c) paragraph 4 is replaced by the following:

‘4. The delegation of power referred to in *Article 19(6)* and in the second subparagraph of Article 21(3) may be revoked at any time by the European Parliament or by the Council. A decision to revoke shall put an end to the delegation of the power specified in that decision. It shall take effect the day following the publication of the Decision in the Official Journal of the European Union or at a later date specified therein. It shall not affect the validity of any delegated acts already in force.’

(d) paragraph 7 is replaced by the following:

‘7. A delegated act adopted pursuant to **Article 19(6)** or the second subparagraph of Article 21(3) shall enter into force only if no objection has been expressed either by the European Parliament or the Council within a period of two months of notification of that act to the European Parliament and the Council or if, before the expiry of that period, the European Parliament and the Council have both informed the Commission that they will not object. That period shall be extended by two months at the initiative of the European Parliament or of the Council.’

(26) in Article 32 (1), point (i) is replaced by the following :

‘(i) the organisation of support for ■ transport **and logistical resources**, as provided for in Articles 18 and 23;’;

(27) in Article 33, the following paragraph is added:

‘3. **Where reference is made to this paragraph**, Article 8 of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011, **in conjunction with Article 5 thereof, shall apply**’;

(28) **in Article 34, paragraphs 2 and 3 are replaced by the following:**

‘2. **The Commission shall submit a report to the European Parliament and to the Council on operations and progress made under Articles 6(5), 11 and 12 every two years. The report shall include information on progress made towards the disaster resilience goals, capacity goals and remaining gaps as referred to in Article 11(2), taking into account the establishment of rescEU capacities in accordance with Article 12. The report shall also provide an overview of the budgetary and cost developments relating to response capacities, and an assessment of the need for further development of those capacities.**

3. *The Commission shall evaluate the application of this Decision and submit a communication on the effectiveness, cost efficiency and continued implementation of this Decision, in particular as regards Article 6(4), rescEU capacities and the degree of coordination and synergies achieved with other Union policies, programmes and funds, including medical emergencies, to the European Parliament and to the Council, by 31 December 2023 and every five years thereafter. That communication shall be accompanied, where appropriate, by proposals for amendments to this Decision.'*

I

- (29) *Annex I is replaced by the following:*

*'Annex I*

*Percentages for allocation of the financial envelope for the implementation of the Union Mechanism referred to in Article 19(1a) and in Article 19a for the period 2021 to 2027*

*Prevention: 5 % +/- 4 percentage points*

*Preparedness: 85 % +/- 10 percentage points*

*Response: 10 % +/- 9 percentage points*

*Principles*

*When implementing this Decision, the Union target of contributing to overall climate objectives and to the ambition of mainstreaming of biodiversity action in the Union policies shall be duly taken into account to the extent that the unpredictability and specific circumstances of disaster preparedness and response so allow.'*

- (30) The title of Annex Ia is replaced by the following:

**'Categories of eligible costs in accordance with Article 21(3)'**

*Article 2*

**Entry into force**

This **Regulation** shall enter into force on the day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

■

*It shall apply from 1 January 2021.*

■

*This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.*

Done at Brussels,

*For the European Parliament  
The President*

*For the Council  
The President*