



Council of the
European Union

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From:	Presidency
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 2)/Council
No. Cion doc.:	8322/23
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 - <i>General Approach</i> - <i>Statement</i>

Statement by the Council

The Council welcomes the Commission's proposal of 14 April 2023 to amend Decision 1313/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism (the Decision).

The Council fully supports the objective of extending the transitional period referred to in Article 35 of the Decision, to ensure that the Union can continue providing emergency support to Member States in fighting wildfires through the capacities developed under the ‘rescEU transition’, until the permanent European aerial forest firefighting fleet will become available.

The Council notes with concern the increasing wildfire risk in the Union and the development that wildfires are becoming more frequent and intense as a result of rising temperatures and prolonged periods of drought. Due to the impact of climate change, this trend is only expected to continue in the coming years.

In this light, the Council underlines the urgency and importance of the proposed modification of the Decision, to ensure that sufficient aerial firefighting capacities will be rapidly available beyond the 2024 wildfire season through “rescEU transition”. This requires the swift adoption of the amendment to the Decision, in any case before the end of the current legislative term.

For these reasons, the Council has decided to align its position with that of the Commission’s proposal and aims to solely amend Article 35 of the Decision.

The Council is fully committed to a swift conclusion of the legislative negotiations on this basis, and calls on the European Parliament to take a compatible approach.