



COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION (EU) 2025/704
of 10 April 2025

laying down rules for the implementation of Decision No 1313/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism and repealing Commission Implementing Decisions 2014/762/EU and (EU) 2019/1310

(notified under document C(2025) 2130)

(Text with EEA relevance)

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Decision No 1313/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism (¹), and in particular Article 32(1) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Pursuant to Article 1(1) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU, the Union Civil Protection Mechanism ('the UCPM') is to strengthen 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.
- (2) By adoption of Decision (EU) 2019/420 of the European Parliament and of the Council (²), Decision No 1313/2013/EU was amended to strengthen the UCPM by, among other things, increasing the Union's financial assistance to the European Civil Protection Pool ('ECP') and establishing rescEU as a reserve of Union civil protection capacities. Prior to that, Commission Implementing Decisions 2014/762/EU (³), (EU) 2018/142 (⁴) and (EU) 2019/1310 (⁵) were adopted in order to provide a framework for the implementation of Decision No 1313/2013/EU.
- (3) In order to implement the legal framework resulting from the amendment of Decision No 1313/2013/EU properly, the implementing rules should be updated, in particular to provide definitions and provisions on technical assistance and support teams ('TAST'), the Union Civil Protection Team ('EUCP Team'), including their registration, other response capacities, as well as to consistently refer to the ECP and rescEU, update rules on certification, registration and donation of capacities under the UCPM, provide for clear rules on Host Nation Support, and a simplified procedure on requesting and receiving Union assistance.
- (4) In order to simplify and facilitate access to the provisions that are currently included in two Implementing Decisions, they should be merged in into one act.

(¹) OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 924, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2013/1313/oj>.

(²) Decision (EU) 2019/420 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 March 2019 amending Decision No 1313/2013/EU on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism (OJ L 771, 20.3.2019, p. 1 ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2019/420/oj>).

(³) Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2014/762 of 16 October 2014 laying down rules for the implementation of Decision No 1313/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism and repealing Commission Decisions 2004/277/EC, Euratom and 2007/606/EC, Euratom (OJ L 320, 6.11.2014, p. 1 ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec_impl/2014/762/oj).

(⁴) Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/142 of 15 January 2018 amending Implementing Decision 2014/762/EU laying down rules for the implementation of Decision No 1313/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism (OJ L 25, 30.1.2018, p. 40, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec_impl/2018/142/oj).

(⁵) Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/1310 of 31 July 2019 laying down rules on the operation of the European Civil Protection Pool and rescEU (OJ L 204, 2.8.2019, p. 94, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec_impl/2019/1310/oj).

(5) The Common Emergency Communication and Information System ('the CECIS') is an essential element of the UCPM. It guarantees the authenticity, integrity and confidentiality of information exchanged between the Member States both in routine conditions and in emergencies. A separate version of the CECIS that provides access for the secretariats of the regional sea conventions and third countries sharing a regional sea basin with the Union should be maintained in view of the specific requirements for responding to marine pollution incidents.

(6) In order to ensure operational effectiveness, minimum requirements should be determined for the response capacities as provided for in Article 9 of Decision No 1313/2013/EU. A response capacity should be self-sufficient and independent of any support provided by the country benefiting from its operation. Rules on self-sufficiency should allow elements required for self-sufficient operation to be arranged for or procured in the country receiving the assistance.

(7) A certification and registration procedure should be established in order to confirm that response capacities in the European Civil Protection Pool ('ECPP') fulfil the necessary requirements.

(8) Due to the complexity and multi-component nature of some rescEU capacities and the interoperability requirements for their components, certification for rescEU capacities will be required only for those capacities identified by the Commission. The capacities requiring certification will be identified following discussion with Member State experts in the relevant Commission expert group. Based on this identification, relevant rescEU capacities may need to undergo the Union certification process as those in the European Civil Protection Pool. Since the rescEU reserve serves as a last resort for assistance under the Union Civil Protection Mechanism, rescEU capacities that are in the process of completing the Union certification may still be deployed, if needed.

(9) The concept of pre-commitment of ECPP response capacities should be defined because, pursuant to Article 23(2) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU, the amount of Union financial assistance for the deployment of response capacities under the UCPM depends on whether the response capacities are pre-committed to the ECPP.

(10) Pursuant to Article 21(2), point (c), of Decision No 1313/2013/EU, response capacities benefiting from Union financial support for adaptation costs are to be made available as part of the ECPP for a minimum period. This minimum period is to be linked to the funding received and is to range between 3 and 10 years starting from a response capacity's effective availability date, except where their economic lifespan is shorter. The exact period of commitment should be specified in order to guarantee legal certainty.

(11) In order to make the results of the actions taken under the UCPM visible to citizens, appropriate visibility arrangements should be provided to ECPP and rescEU response capacities used for response operations.

(12) In accordance with Article 12(5) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU, which foresees that Member States may engage in national use of rescEU capacities when not used or needed for response operations under the Union Civil Protection Mechanism, Member States that host rescEU capacities of a consumable nature should be allowed to donate those capacities.

(13) Such possibility aims to ensure the sustainable management of the rescEU stockpile concerning capacities which can be expected not to be used for response operations under the Union Civil Protection Mechanism before the expiry of their operational lifespan. Such donation of consumable capacities enables a much more cost-effective use. It should be done after prior consent of the Commission. In coordination with the Commission, Member States that host rescEU capacities should be allowed to donate those capacities when they are close to expiry, to ensure that they are used.

(14) Where Member States offer assistance they should ensure that the assistance offered is of an appropriate quality and fit for its intended use.

(15) Response capacity goals should be established for the ECPP. The Commission should regularly assess their suitability on the basis of risks identified in national risk assessments and other sources of information. Member States should be kept informed about progress made in achieving the response capacity goals.

(16) The UCPM Training, Exercises and Exchange of Experts programme remains key to the preparedness of civil protection and disaster management personnel and response capacities deployed in the context of the UCPM. In accordance with the scope established in Article 13(1) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU, the programme should cover the prevention, preparedness and response phases.

(17) In order to strengthen disaster resilience in the area of civil protection, lessons identified should be implemented in a manner that is comprehensive and covers the full disaster management cycle of prevention, preparedness, response and recovery, and is sustainable. Due account should therefore be taken of the impact of climate change and environmental degradation on disaster risks. Prevention and mitigation of the environmental impact of disasters should pay particular attention to minimising the environmental impact of civil protection operations. In the framework of the UCPM, clear operational procedures for disaster response are an important way to ensure efficient assistance in the event of disasters, including for the relevant international organisations referred to in Article 16(1) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU.

(18) In order to ensure effective coordination of assistance, the ERCC should share its assessment of critical needs and its recommendations regarding the deployment of UCPM capacities with Member States in the form of analytical briefs. Those assessments should be for internal use and based on the Scientific Technical Advisory Facility ('STAF'), existing early warning systems and other available sources of data. The selection of response capacities should be based on specific and objective criteria. The priority of the specific capacities should be assessed by the ERCC in the light of current operational needs and capabilities. Given the role of the ERCC in the effective coordination of assistance, both the Member States providing the assistance and the personnel operating the response capacities should keep the ERCC regularly informed about the provision of assistance.

(19) rescEU capacities are made available for response operations under the UCPM. Following a request for assistance pursuant to Article 15 or Article 16 of Decision No 1313/2013/EU, the ERCC is to decide on the deployment of that capacity, in close coordination with the requesting Member State and the Member State owning, renting or leasing the rescEU capacity. Criteria for deployment decisions as well as relevant operating procedures should be laid down in order to ensure an effective and transparent decision-making process. Criteria should also be laid down for decision-making on deployment in the event of conflicting requests for the use of rescEU capacities.

(20) It should be possible for rescEU capacities to be used for national purposes when not used or needed for response operations under the UCPM. Appropriate rules for such national use should be established in order to ensure that rescEU capacities are on stand-by and ready for deployment under the UCPM within the time frame set by the quality requirements for each type of rescEU capacity.

(21) Pursuant to Article 12(10), second subparagraph, of Decision No 1313/2013/EU, Member States may in specific cases refuse to deploy personnel operating rescEU capacities outside the Union. Rules should be laid down for such specific cases.

(22) Pursuant to Article 8(1), point (i), of Decision No 1313/2013/EU, rules are to be established governing host nation support. The rules should allow the state providing the civil protection assistance and the state receiving it to agree that host nation support is not to be provided. The rules should also require the establishment of a national liaison contact point to facilitate the provision of host nation support, but should not stipulate that the contact point is to be established either permanently or for each individual emergency. Rules should be put in place in order to allow Union financial assistance for the pre-positioning of response capacities.

(23) The availability of technical, coordination and assessment experts and of team leaders and deputy team leaders of EUCP Team is an important element of the UCPM. The experts' tasks and functions profiles should be specified and the procedure for deploying them should be determined.

(24) Article 23 of Decision No 1313/2013/EU sets out provisions regarding support in the event of a disaster so as to facilitate a rapid and effective response with the help of the UCPM. It is necessary to establish a more streamlined set of rules and procedures for Member States to request support from the Union and for the Commission to handle such requests.

- (25) Rules should be put in place to allow that the financing of transport and logistical resources necessary to ensure an effective and efficient coordinated response to disasters, in accordance with Article 23(4) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU may take the form of a UCPM Logistical Hub. The establishment of a UCPM Logistical Hub should satisfy the needs identified by the ERCC, including ERCC operational recommendations via the CECIS on the location of the UCPM Logistical Hub and detailed rules relating to the delivery of the assistance in the event of disasters both inside and outside the Union.
- (26) Rules should be put in place to allow the ERCC to facilitate coordination medical evacuation (medevac) operations, both inside or outside the Union, once a request for assistance is made under Article 15 or Article 16 of Decision No 1313/2013/EU. Rules governing Union assistance should allow the financing of medevac operations, including additional necessary supporting and complementary action to facilitate the coordination of that response in the most effective way, such as the establishment of a hub.
- (27) Grants in response actions awarded to competent authorities for facilitating operational and administrative aspects of the Union assistance in pursuant to Article 22 of Decision No 1313/2013/EU should be able to take the form of multi-action grants.
- (28) Implementing Decisions 2014/762/EU and (EU) 2019/1310 should be repealed.
- (29) The measures set out in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Civil Protection Committee,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

CHAPTER 1

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

Subject matter

This Decision lays down detailed rules for the implementation of Decision No 1313/2013/EU, as regards:

- (a) the interaction of the Emergency Response Coordination Centre ('ERCC') with Member States' contact points;
- (b) the components of the Common Emergency Communication and Information System ('the CECIS') and the organisation of information-sharing via the CECIS;
- (c) the identification of experts, modules, other response capacities and technical assistance and support teams ('TAST') committed to European Civil Protection Pool ('ECPP')
- (d) the minimum technical requirements for modules and TAST;
- (e) the certification, re-certification and registration procedures necessary for the functioning of the ECPP and rescEU;
- (f) the identification of response capacity gaps in the ECPP and how those gaps are to be addressed;
- (g) identification of the capacity goals of the ECPP;
- (h) the organisation of the training, exercises and exchange of experts' programmes;
- (i) the identification and promotion of lessons learnt programme;
- (j) the operational procedures for ECPP and rescEU for responding to disasters inside and outside the Union and the identification of relevant international organisations;
- (k) the procedure for deploying European Union Civil Protection Teams;
- (l) the organisation of Union assistance in response actions.

*Article 2***Definitions**

For the purposes of this Decision, the following definitions shall apply:

- (1) 'requestor of assistance' means a Member State or third country affected by a disaster or imminent disaster or expecting to be affected by an imminent disaster, the United Nations and its agencies and other relevant international organisations listed in Annex VI;
- (2) 'civil protection assistance' means experts, modules, other response capacities or technical assistance and support teams intended for civil protection, together with their equipment and in-kind assistance, including relief materials or supplies needed to mitigate the immediate consequences of a disaster;
- (3) 'technical assistance and support team' ('TAST') means the human and material resources assigned by one or more Member States to fulfil logistical and support tasks;
- (4) 'European Union Civil Protection Team' ('EUCP Team') means a team composed of experts and, when necessary, a TAST, that is selected and deployed by the ERCC under terms of reference related to a request for prevention or preparedness expertise or an emergency response in the context of an ongoing request for assistance;
- (5) 'other response capacity' means either a self-sufficient, autonomous, deployable and predefined task-driven and needs-driven arrangement of Member States' capabilities or a mobile operational team of the Member States. It represents a combination of human and material means that can be characterised in terms of its capacity for intervention or of the task(s) it is able to undertake, for which no minimum technical requirements are defined. 'Other response capacity' also includes relief items.
- (6) 'operational lifespan' means the total period of time during which a capacity can technically perform its function in accordance with its quality requirements, taking into consideration its components;
- (7) 'pre-committed response capacity to the ECPP' means a response capacity offered by a Member State for registration in the ECPP for which the Commission has formally notified the offering Member State that the certification has been completed.

CHAPTER 2

EMERGENCY RESPONSE COORDINATION CENTRE ('ERCC')*Article 3***Interaction of the ERCC with Member States' contact points**

1. Each Member State shall designate a national contact point for the ERCC that is available 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. The designation shall be made using the 'country template' set out in Annex I.
2. The ERCC shall maintain close contact with the Member States' contact points for the purpose of carrying out its regular duties and the response operations provided for in this Decision and in Decision No 1313/2013/EU.

CHAPTER 3

COMMON EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SYSTEM ('CECIS')*Article 4***CECIS layers**

The CECIS shall include the following three components:

- (a) a network layer, connecting the competent authorities and the contact points in Member States and the ERCC;
- (b) an application layer, consisting of the databases and other information systems necessary for the functioning of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism and, in particular, those needed for:
 - (i) communicating notifications;
 - (ii) ensuring communication and information-sharing between the ERCC and competent authorities and the contact points;
 - (iii) communicating lessons identified from interventions as well as operational documentation and procedures;
- (c) a security layer, consisting of the set of systems, rules and procedures necessary for ensuring the authenticity, integrity and confidentiality of the data stored in and exchanged via the CECIS.

*Article 5***Information security**

1. The CECIS shall be capable of handling documents, databases, and information systems in a secure way through the Secure Trans European Services for Telematics between Administrations ('sTESTA') or a comparable network.
2. Documents and information classified as 'EU CONFIDENTIAL' or higher, shall be transmitted pursuant to the special arrangements between the originator and the recipient(s) set out in Commission Decision (EU, Euratom) 2015/444 (6).

*Article 6***Information and update**

1. Member States shall submit appropriate information to the Commission using the country template set out in Annex I.
2. Member States shall provide information on contact points and, where necessary, on other services handling natural, technological, chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear and other man-made disasters or environmental accidents, including marine pollution.
3. Member States shall immediately notify the Commission of any changes to the information referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2.
4. The CECIS database shall contain a designated section with information on the registration and availability of response capacities in the ECPP and rescEU. The Commission shall ensure that national civil protection contact points have continuous access.
5. Member States shall ensure that the designated section in the CECIS database is always up to date as regards availability status and all necessary factual data concerning the relevant characteristics of all registered response capacities in the ECPP.

(6) Commission Decision (EU, Euratom) 2015/444 of 13 March 2015 on the security rules for protecting EU classified information (OJ L 72, 17.3.2015, p. 53, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2015/444/oj>).

6. Where appropriate, Member States may grant access to the CECIS to other relevant national authorities or designated competent authorities.

Article 7

CECIS user group

A user group consisting of representatives nominated by the Member States shall assist the Commission in the validation, testing and further development of the CECIS.

Article 8

Implementation and further development

1. The Commission shall manage and further develop the CECIS, taking into account the Member States' needs and requirements.

2. Member States shall implement the appropriate CECIS information technology environment on their territory in accordance with the commitments made using the 'country template' set out in Annex I.

Article 9

Marine pollution CECIS

1. The Commission may ensure that a specialised CECIS application accessible by Member States and the European Maritime Safety Agency is available for marine pollution in order to reflect the specific requirement for responding to maritime incidents.

2. That specialised CECIS application may also be open to third countries that share a regional sea basin with the Union. Access may also be given by the Commission on an ad hoc basis to the secretariats of the relevant regional sea conventions.

CHAPTER 4

EXPERTS, MODULES, OTHER RESPONSE CAPACITIES AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT TEAMS ('TAST')

Article 10

Registration of experts, modules, other response capacities and TAST

1. Member States shall register information on their experts, modules and other response capacities as referred to in Article 9(6) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU in the CECIS database. They shall also register their TASTs in that database.

2. The Commission shall monitor the accuracy of the information transmitted for registration.

3. The experts, modules, other response capacities and TAST pre-committed to the ECPP shall be registered in the CECIS database and identified as such.

4. Member States shall update the information referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 as necessary.

Article 11

Composition of EUCP Teams, modules, other response capacities and TAST

1. EUCP Teams, modules, other response capacities and TAST may be composed of resources provided by one or more Member States.

2. Where a module, other response capacity or TAST is composed of more than one operational component, its deployment in an intervention may be limited to the components necessary for that intervention.

Article 12

Self-sufficiency of modules and other response capacities

1. The following elements of self-sufficiency shall be required for each module, unless otherwise specified in the minimum technical requirements set out in Annex II, and for other response capacities, with the exception of relief items:

- (a) shelter appropriate for the prevailing weather;
- (b) fuel, power generation and lighting covering the consumption of the base of operation and of the equipment required to fulfil the mission;
- (c) sanitation and hygiene facilities for the personnel of the module;
- (d) food and water for the personnel of the module;
- (e) medical or paramedical staff, facilities and supplies for the personnel of the module;
- (f) storage and maintenance of the equipment of the module;
- (g) equipment for communication with the relevant partners, notably those in charge of the coordination on site;
- (h) local transportation, when necessary;
- (i) logistical support, equipment and staff to enable the setting-up of a base of operations and the beginning of the mission without delay upon arrival on site.

2. Compliance with the self-sufficiency requirements shall be guaranteed by the offering Member State in one or more of the following ways:

- (a) by including in the module or other response capacity the necessary staff, equipment and consumables;
- (b) by making the necessary arrangements on the site of operations;
- (c) by making the necessary pre-arrangements to combine a non-self-sufficient response capacity with a TAST in order to comply with the requirements referred to in Article 13 prior to the registration of the module concerned in accordance with Article 10(1).

3. The period for which self-sufficiency is to be guaranteed at the onset of the mission shall not be shorter than either of the following:

- (a) 96 hours;
- (b) the periods laid down in Annex II.

Article 13

Requirements for modules, other response capacities and TAST

1. Modules and TAST shall comply with the minimum technical requirements set out in Annex II.
2. Member States shall ensure that:
 - (a) modules and other response capacities, except relief items, can operate with other modules and other response capacities, with the exception of relief items;
 - (b) TAST can operate with other TAST and with relevant actors on the ground;
 - (c) components of a module can operate together as one module;
 - (d) components of a TAST can operate together as one TAST;
 - (e) modules, other response capacities, with the exception of relief items, and TAST can operate with international disaster response capacities supporting the affected country;

(f) team leaders and deputy team leaders and liaison officers of modules, other response capacities, except relief items, and TAST participate in appropriate training courses and exercises organised by the Commission, as set out in Chapter 7.

CHAPTER 5

DEVELOPMENT OF THE ECPP AND rescEU

Article 14

Capacity goals of the ECPP

1. The capacity goals of the ECPP shall be as set out in Annex III.
2. The Commission shall, in cooperation with Member States, assess the suitability of the capacity goals at least every second year and, if necessary, revise them on the basis of risks identified in national risk assessments or other appropriate national, Union or international sources of information.
3. Member States shall provide the Commission with relevant information on risks necessary for the assessment of the capacity goals in a timely manner.

Article 15

Certification and registration procedure for ECPP capacities

1. The certification and registration procedure shall apply to modules, other response capacities and TAST in the ECPP, as set out in Annex V.
2. Certification of modules and TAST shall be subject to the fulfilment of the minimum technical requirements set out in Annex II.
3. When receiving an application for certification and registration to the ECPP, the Commission shall assess whether the module, other response capacity or TAST in question can be considered for inclusion in the ECPP, and shall communicate its conclusions to the relevant Member State without delay. In its assessment, the Commission shall consider, where necessary, the fulfilment of the capacity goals, the completeness of the information provided, the geographic proximity and participation of all Member States, and other relevant factors which it shall determine upfront.
4. After accepting the application for certification and registration to the ECPP, the Commission shall initiate the certification procedure for the module, other response capacity or TAST on the basis of the information provided and of any additional information that the Commission may request and receive from the relevant Member State.
5. The Commission shall communicate in writing to the relevant Member State the intermediary and final findings of the certification process.
6. If the Member State re-commits the same response module, other response capacity or TAST to the ECPP, the certification of that response capacity shall be reassessed at the latest after 5 years.
7. Where the Commission considers, on the basis of available information, that certification requirements have been fulfilled, it shall register the module, other response capacity or TAST in the ECPP.
8. Member States shall register the ECPP capacity in the CECIS.

*Article 16***Certification and registration procedure in the ECPP for experts**

1. Team leaders and deputy team leaders of EUCP Teams shall be considered as certified and shall become eligible for registration in the ECPP once they have completed, where necessary, the relevant courses and exercises of the UCPM Training and Exercises Programme.
2. Member States shall register certified team leaders and deputy team leaders of EUCP Teams in the ECPP after sending a written commitment to the Commission.
3. Member States may commit and register a given number of coordination and assessment experts and technical experts under particular profiles, as set out in Annex IV.
4. The Commission shall verify the compliance of coordination and assessment experts and technical experts with their respective profiles upon their nomination for deployment.

*Article 17***Certification and registration procedure for rescEU capacities**

1. The Commission, together with the Member States, shall identify the relevant rescEU capacities to be certified by Member States.
2. Member States shall certify rescEU capacities in accordance with certification and registration procedure set out in Annex V, as appropriate. The certification process shall take into account, where relevant, the multi-purpose nature of concerned rescEU capacities.
3. rescEU capacities that are in the process of completing the Union certification process may be deployed in accordance with Article 34.
4. Member States shall register the rescEU capacities in the CECIS.

*Article 18***Long-term commitment of rescEU capacities**

1. rescEU capacities shall be available for deployment under Article 34 for their entire operational lifespan, unless otherwise agreed with the Commission or donated in accordance with Article 36.
2. Subject to budgetary availability, the Commission and the Member State hosting the capacity shall provide the resources necessary to ensure the availability and deployability of capacities referred to in paragraph 1.

*Article 19***Commitment to the ECPP of capacities that receive Union funding for adaptation costs**

1. Member States receiving Union financial support for adaptation costs of capacities in accordance with Article 21(2), point (c), of Decision No 1313/2013/EU shall commit these capacities to the ECPP for the following minimum periods:
 - (a) 3 years for capacities receiving up to EUR 300 000 of Union financial support;
 - (b) 5 years for capacities receiving from EUR 300 001 up to EUR 1 000 000 of Union financial support;
 - (c) 7 years for capacities receiving from EUR 1 000 001 up to EUR 2 000 000 of Union financial support;
 - (d) 10 years for capacities receiving more than EUR 2 000 000 of Union financial support.
2. Where the operational lifespan of a capacity is shorter than the minimum period referred to in paragraph 1, the minimum period shall be the length of the operational lifespan.

3. The Commission may agree, via the ERCC, to waive the minimum period referred to in paragraph 1 in relation to a specific capacity where this is duly justified by a Member State receiving the Union financial support.

CHAPTER 6

ADDRESSING RESPONSE CAPACITY GAPS

Article 20

Monitoring progress towards the capacity goals

1. The Commission shall, in cooperation with Member States, continuously monitor progress made in achieving the capacity goals, taking into account capacities identified under Article 22.

2. The Commission shall regularly inform Member States of its assessment of the progress made in achieving the capacity goals.

Article 21

Procedure for identifying response capacity gaps in the ECPP

1. As part of monitoring the progress made in achieving the capacity goals, the Commission shall, in cooperation with Member States, assess the difference between Member States' registered capacities in the ECPP and the capacity goals set out in Annex III.

2. The Commission and Member States shall consider as the capacities pre-committed to the ECPP only those capacities that have a valid commitment and have been certified.

3. The Commission shall inform Member States about any remaining response capacity gaps.

Article 22

Procedure for identifying response capacities outside the ECPP

1. Where the Commission has, together with the Member States, identified potentially significant response capacity gaps in accordance with Article 21 of this Decision, it shall, in cooperation with Member States, examine whether the necessary capacities are available outside the ECPP, in accordance with Article 12(2) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU.

2. The Commission shall only consider the following capacities as available outside the ECPP:

(a) capacities registered in the CECIS;

(b) capacities that are not covered by point (a) but that may be made readily available to the Member State or Member States in the required quantities, at the required location, within the required time frame and for the required duration.

3. For the purpose of ascertaining the capacities referred to in paragraph 2, point (b), the Commission shall address a request to national contact points, setting out the details of the assessment of potentially significant response capacity gaps and inviting Member States to provide information on any capacities available outside the ECPP as referred to in that point.

4. In its request pursuant to paragraph 3, the Commission shall set a deadline for responding of up to 60 calendar days, depending on the expected complexity for Member States of ascertaining the capacities referred to in paragraph 2.

5. Member States shall inform the Commission in writing by the deadline of the details of any capacities referred to in paragraph 2.

6. Where a Member State does not reply in writing before the deadline, the Commission shall assume for the purpose of its assessment that no capacities referred to in paragraph 2 are available in that Member State.

7. Based on the information received from Member States and taking into account only those capacities referred to in paragraph 2, the Commission shall assess whether those capacities fill the response capacity gaps identified in accordance with Article 21. The Commission shall consider the capacity gaps to be filled only when the combined number of capacities inside the ECPP and capacities referred to in paragraph 2 is equal to or exceeds the capacity goals set out in Annex III.

Article 23

Procedure for addressing response capacity gaps

1. Where the Commission has, together with Member States, identified, in accordance with Article 21, potentially significant response capacity gaps that cannot be addressed in accordance with Article 22, it shall notify Member States in writing, detailing what it considers to be response capacity gaps and inviting them to address the significant response capacity gaps, in accordance with Article 12(3) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU.

2. Member States shall inform the Commission whether, when and how they plan to address the significant response capacity gaps, either individually or in cooperation with other Member States.

CHAPTER 7

TRAINING, EXERCISES AND EXCHANGE OF EXPERTS PROGRAMMES

Article 24

Common provisions on training, exercises and exchange of experts programmes

1. A training programme, an exercises programme and an exchange of experts programme shall be established to strengthen cooperation and coordination between Member States and with the Commission in the field of civil protection and disaster management in the framework of the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network set up pursuant to Article 13(1) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU.

2. The Commission shall be responsible for the coordination and organisation of the programmes referred to in paragraph 1.

3. For the development, implementation, strategic orientation and priorities of the programmes referred to in paragraph 1, the Commission shall closely collaborate with Member States through the working group set up pursuant to Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/1956 ('). The working group may take into account any Commission Recommendation adopted in accordance with Article 6(5) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU and the work undertaken by the Commission and the Member States on scenario-building in accordance with Article 10 of Decision No 1313/2013/EU.

4. Member States shall nominate national training coordinators with the responsibility of coordinating at national level the identification and management of experts and stakeholders participating in the training, exercises and exchange of experts programmes. The national training coordinators shall act in close consultation with the relevant national and regional authorities and other entities, as appropriate.

5. The Commission shall monitor the programmes referred to in paragraph 1 and ensure that an appropriate evaluation system is in place.

(') Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/1956 of 10 November 2021 on the establishment and organisation of the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network (OJ L 399, 11.11.2021, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec_impl/2021/1956/oj).

*Article 25***Supplementary character of the training programme**

In line with the Member States' primary responsibility, as set out in Article 1(3) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU, to provide their disaster management systems with sufficient capabilities, the training programme shall supplement the training for civil protection and disaster management personnel that is conducted at the appropriate national level.

*Article 26***Participants in the training programme**

1. The target participants of the training programme shall be:
 - (a) Member States' civil protection and disaster management personnel directly involved in operations set out in Chapters II, III, and IV of Decision No 1313/2013/EU and staff of relevant national or regional competent authorities or entities with a function related to the Union Civil Protection Mechanism;
 - (b) Commission staff, in particular ERCC liaison officers.
2. Participation in the training programme shall also be open, as appropriate, to selected experts from:
 - (a) Union institutions, bodies and agencies;
 - (b) the United Nations and its agencies;
 - (c) the international organisations listed in Annex VI;
 - (d) third countries;
 - (e) other relevant entities.

*Article 27***Content, format and curricula of the training courses**

The Commission shall, in cooperation with the working group set pursuant to Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/1956, determine the, content, format and curricula of courses, including the selection requirements and allocation of places in the training courses.

*Article 28***Exercises programme**

1. The exercises programme shall consist of:
 - (a) modules table-top and field exercises;
 - (b) full-scale exercises;
 - (c) other types of exercises, based on identified needs.

Those exercises may be conducted outside the Union.

2. The exercise programme shall in particular aim at:
 - (a) enhancing the level of preparedness of civil protection and disaster management systems;
 - (b) ensuring the effective and rapid response of Member States to disasters, in particular with regard to experts, teams and other assets provided in assistance interventions under the Union Civil Protection Mechanism;
 - (c) verifying and improving the quality requirements for deployments under the Union Civil Protection Mechanism, in order to enhance the coordination of civil protection assistance;

- (d) enhancing cooperation between the civil protection and other relevant services of Member States and the Commission including in the conduct of cross-border exercises referred to in Article 20(2) of Directive (EU) 2022/2557 of the European Parliament and of the Council (⁸);
- (e) identifying and sharing lessons learnt;
- (f) testing the implementation of lessons learnt.

Article 29

Exchange of experts programme

The exchange of experts programme shall support civil protection and disaster management personnel in:

- (a) gaining and sharing specific experience and direct knowledge;
- (b) becoming acquainted with techniques and operational procedures;
- (c) studying approaches followed by other participating emergency services and institutions;
- (d) attending and drawing lessons as observers in simulation exercises in other Member States;
- (e) attending courses for acquiring specific expert knowledge not available in their home organisation.

Article 30

Participants in the exchange of experts programme

The exchange of experts programme shall be open to Member States' civil protection and disaster management entities, experts and volunteers, as well as those from EU candidate and potential candidate countries and Eastern and Southern Neighbourhood countries.

CHAPTER 8

IDENTIFYING LESSONS

Article 31

Monitoring, analysing and evaluating

1. The Commission and Member States shall share relevant data, information and assessments necessary to evaluate all the civil protection actions within the Union Civil Protection Mechanism in order to identify lessons, including good practices and areas for improvement.

2. The Commission shall facilitate the identification of lessons with relevant stakeholders, including by organising meetings in the framework of the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network set up in accordance with Article 13(1) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU.

Article 32

Promoting implementation of lessons

1. The Commission shall, together with Member States, monitor and promote on the implementation of lessons identified.

^(⁸) Directive (EU) 2022/2557 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2022 on the resilience of critical entities and repealing Council Directive 2008/114/EC (OJ L 333, 27.12.2022, p. 164, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2022/2557/oj>).

2. Identified lessons shall be taken into account in the decision-making process for further developing the Union Civil Protection Mechanism and the setting of the priorities of:

- (a) the training programme provided for in Article 25, including, where appropriate, the content and curricula of the training courses, and the exercises programme provided for in Article 28;
- (b) the calls for prevention and preparedness projects;
- (c) the planning activities referred to in Article 10 of Decision No 1313/2013/EU.

CHAPTER 9

OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES FOR DISASTER RESPONSE

Article 33

Requests for assistance and response

1. When a disaster occurs or is imminent within the Union, and upon receiving a request for assistance via the CECIS, the ERCC shall, as appropriate and without delay, carry out the actions provided for in Article 15(3) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU.

2. When a disaster occurs or is imminent outside the Union, and may require civil protection assistance, the Commission may inform the third country concerned how it can request assistance under the Union Civil Protection Mechanism.

3. A Member State or a third country affected by a disaster or threatened by an imminent disaster that wishes to request assistance through the Union Civil Protection Mechanism, shall address a written request for civil protection assistance to the ERCC through its national competent authorities. A third country may also request assistance through the Union Civil Protection Mechanism by addressing a written request for civil protection assistance to the ERCC via the United Nations, its agencies, or any of the international organisations specified in Annex VI.

4. A Member State affected by a disaster or threatened by an imminent disaster may request scientific emergency reports prepared under the Scientific and Technical Advisory Facility ('STAF') from the ERCC.

5. The requestor of assistance shall inform the ERCC about the time frame, the entry point, and the location for the assistance which is being requested, and the on-site operational contact point managing the disaster and the host nation support arrangements.

6. The Commission may take additional necessary supporting and complementary action in order to ensure consistency and efficiency in the delivery of the assistance and to facilitate the coordination of the response.

7. The Commission may prepare, to the extent possible, an analytical brief before an imminent disaster or immediately thereafter, thus feeding into a comprehensive situational awareness. That analytical brief shall be based, *inter alia*, on STAF and existing early warning systems.

8. The following criteria, the prioritisation of which may depend on the specific nature of the request for assistance, shall be taken into account when selecting from among capacities in the ECPP:

- (a) the operational situation in the Member States and potential disaster risks;
- (b) the appropriateness and adequateness of the capacities to respond to the disaster;
- (c) the geographic location of the capacities, including estimated times and costs of transport to the affected area;
- (d) other relevant criteria, including sustainability, prior experience and use of the capacities.

9. Unless otherwise agreed with Member States, the ERCC shall not invite Member States to deploy specific capacities from the ECPP to areas of armed conflict or threats thereof, or to other conditions where the safety and security of the capacity in question and its personnel are at risk.

10. Member States that are invited to deploy capacities from the ECPP shall, in accordance with Article 11(7) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU, communicate their ultimate decision on deployment to the ERCC. The ERCC shall specify a deadline for the Member State to reply to the invitation to deploy.

11. The requestor of assistance shall inform the ERCC which offers of assistance it has accepted. The ERCC shall inform Member States of the accepted offers.

12. Member States that provide assistance shall keep the ERCC regularly informed about the dispatch of response capacities, including all capacities that are part of the ECPP.

13. The Commission may select, appoint and dispatch an EUCP Team for support on site in accordance with Article 17 of Decision No 1313/2013/EU.

Article 34

Criteria for deployment decisions on rescEU capacities

1. Upon receiving a request for assistance, the ERCC shall assess whether existing capacities offered by Member States through the Union Civil Protection Mechanism and capacities pre-committed to the ECPP are sufficient to ensure an effective response to that request. Where an effective response cannot be ensured, the Commission shall decide, through the ERCC, on the deployment of rescEU capacities in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 12(6) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU.

2. The decision to deploy rescEU capacities shall take the following specific criteria into account:

- (a) the operational situation in the Member States and potential disaster risks;
- (b) the appropriateness and adequacy of the rescEU capacities to respond to the disaster;
- (c) the geographic location of the rescEU capacities, including estimated times and costs of transport to the affected area;
- (d) other relevant criteria including sustainability, prior experience and use of the capacities.

3. In the event of conflicting requests for assistance, the following additional criteria shall be taken into account when deciding where to deploy rescEU capacities:

- (a) the projected risks to human lives;
- (b) the projected risks to critical infrastructure and critical entities as defined in Article 2 of Directive (EU) 2022/2557, irrespective of whether they are located inside or outside the Union;
- (c) the projected impact of the disasters, including the environmental impact;
- (d) needs identified by the ERCC;
- (e) the potential risk of the disasters spreading;
- (f) socioeconomic effects;
- (g) the invocation of the solidarity clause pursuant to Article 222 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union;
- (h) other relevant operational factors.

Article 35

National use of rescEU capacities

1. Member States using rescEU capacities for national purposes shall ensure:
 - (a) their availability and readiness for operations under the Union Civil Protection Mechanism within the time frame provided for in the relevant quality requirements, unless otherwise agreed with the Commission;
 - (b) equal treatment of rescEU capacities and other national capacities with regard to adequate maintenance, storage, insurance, staffing, and other relevant management and maintenance activities;
 - (c) rapid repair in the event of damage.
2. Member States shall, through the ERCC, notify the Commission of the national use of rescEU capacities and submit a report to the Commission following their use.
3. Where national use of rescEU capacities impacts availability as referred to in paragraph 1, point (a), Member States shall obtain the consent of the Commission, through the ERCC, prior to deployment.
4. Where the rescEU capacities in question are needed for response operations under the Union Civil Protection Mechanism, Member States shall ensure their availability in the shortest time possible.

Article 36

rescEU donations

Member States hosting rescEU capacities of a consumable nature may donate these capacities in agreement with the Commission and after obtaining its consent.

The Commission's consent to donate rescEU capacities of a consumable nature shall in particular take the following criteria into account:

- (a) the operational needs of the ongoing activations under the Union Civil Protection Mechanism;
- (b) the operational lifespan and expiry date of the capacity;
- (c) the eligibility of the recipient of the donation to receive the donation;
- (d) the needs of the recipient of the donation;
- (e) the capability of the recipient of the donation to receive and handle the concerned capacity.

Article 37

Refusal to deploy personnel outside the Union

1. Where a decision to deploy rescEU capacities outside the Union has been taken in accordance with Article 12(10) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU, Member States may refuse to deploy their personnel in the following cases:
 - (a) where diplomatic relations between the Member State and the requesting third country have been severed;
 - (b) where armed conflict, the threat thereof or other equally serious grounds would result in the safety and security of the personnel being put at risk and prevent the relevant Member State from fulfilling its duty of care.
2. A Member State that refuses to deploy its personnel shall immediately inform the ERCC and provide it with a reasoned justification.

*Article 38***Visibility arrangements for the use of ECPP and rescEU capacities**

Where ECPP and rescEU capacities are used for response operations under the Union Civil Protection Mechanism, the Member State hosting the ECPP or rescEU capacity and the Member State requesting assistance shall provide appropriate visibility to the Union in accordance with Article 20, point (a), of Decision No 1313/2013/EU.

*Article 39***Expert missions**

1. The experts referred to in Article 47 shall make themselves available for missions, prior to their nomination in accordance with Article 51.
2. The dispatched experts shall carry out the tasks set out in Article 8(1), point (d), of Decision No 1313/2013/EU. They shall report regularly to the requestor of assistance and to the ERCC.
3. The ERCC shall keep Member States informed about the progress of the expert mission.
4. The requestor of assistance shall inform the ERCC on a regular basis about the evolution of ongoing activities on site.
5. The ERCC shall compile all information received and distribute it to the contact points and competent authorities of Member States.

*Article 40***Operational disengagement of capacities**

1. The requesting Member State or any of the Member States providing assistance shall inform the ERCC and the dispatched experts and response capacities as soon as possible if they consider that their assistance is no longer required or can no longer be provided. Effective disengagement shall be organised in an appropriate way by the requestor of assistance and the Member States. The ERCC shall be kept informed thereof.
2. In third countries, the team leader of the EUCP Team shall report to the ERCC as soon as possible if they consider, following appropriate consultations with the requestor of assistance, that the assistance is no longer required or can no longer be provided. The ERCC shall transmit that information to the Union delegation in the third country concerned and to the relevant Commission services, the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the Member States. The ERCC shall, in coordination with the requestor of assistance, ensure the effective disengagement of dispatched experts and response capacities.

*Article 41***Criteria for decisions to disengage rescEU capacities**

1. rescEU capacities shall be disengaged in the following cases:
 - (a) upon receipt of a pre-closure notification in the CECIS;
 - (b) when there is a greater operational need for the capacity elsewhere or the needs on the ground no longer justify its use;
 - (c) when one of the situations referred to in points (a) and (b) occurs while an operation is ongoing.
2. A decision to disengage a rescEU capacity shall be taken by the Commission through the ERCC. The decision shall be taken in close coordination with the Member State hosting the rescEU capacity and the requestor of assistance as well as, where appropriate, with third countries or international organisations.

3. For the purposes of taking the decision referred to in paragraph 2, the Commission shall, among other things, consider the criteria listed in Article 34(2) and (3).

Article 42

Reporting and identifying lessons

1. The competent authorities of the requestor of assistance and of the Member States that have provided assistance, as well as the dispatched experts, shall have the opportunity to present their conclusions on all aspects of the intervention to the ERCC. The ERCC shall prepare a summary report on the assistance provided and any relevant lessons identified.

2. In addition to Articles 31 and 32, the ERCC shall, together with Member States, monitor and promote the implementation of identified lessons in order to improve assistance interventions under the Union Civil Protection Mechanism.

Article 43

Assistance costs

1. Unless agreed otherwise, the requestor of assistance shall bear the costs of assistance provided by Member States.

2. Any Member State providing assistance may, taking particular account of the nature of the disaster and the extent of any damage, offer its assistance entirely or partially free of charge. That Member State may also at any time waive all or part of the reimbursement of its costs.

Article 44

Operational costs

1. The operational costs referred to in Article 23(2), (4b) and (4c) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU shall include all the costs of running a capacity during an operation. Such costs may include costs related to personnel, international and local transport, logistics, consumables and supplies, maintenance, as well as other costs necessary to ensure the effective use of such capacities.

2. The costs referred to in paragraph 1 shall not be eligible for Union support where they are covered pursuant to Article 45 of this Decision or Article 3(2) of Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/570 (⁹), or where they are financed via other Union financial instruments.

3. The procedures for requesting Union assistance provided for in Article 54 shall also apply to requests for financial assistance for operational costs.

Article 45

Host nation support

1. Unless agreed otherwise, the requestor of assistance shall, for the duration of the intervention under the Union Civil Protection Mechanism, facilitate board, accommodation and local transport for the assisting teams and replenish supplies, fuel and provisions free of charge.

⁹) Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/570 of 8 April 2019 laying down rules for the implementation of Decision No 1313/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards rescEU capacities and amending Commission Implementing Decision 2014/762/EU (OJ L 99, 10.4.2019, p. 41, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec_impl/2019/570/oj).

2. Member States shall designate a national liaison contact point tasked with facilitating host nation support and notify the Commission of the designation. If a national liaison contact point is designated for an individual emergency, that information shall be submitted with the request for assistance.

3. In cases referred to in Article 15(2) of Decision 1313/2013/EU, the Commission may co-finance the costs referred to in paragraph 1.

Article 46

Compensation for damage

1. Member States requesting assistance or receiving a donation under Article 36 shall refrain from making any request for compensation from other Member States for damage caused as a consequence of assistance intervention provided under the Union Civil Protection Mechanism or as a consequence of a donation under Article 36, unless it is proven to be the result of intent or gross negligence.

2. Member States shall refrain from bringing any claim against the Commission for damages resulting from assistance interventions provided under the Union Civil Protection Mechanism or for consequences of non-deployment, demobilisation or disengagement or donation under Article 36 of rescEU capacities provided under the Union Civil Protection Mechanism and this Decision, unless they are proven to be the result of intent or gross negligence.

3. In the event of damage suffered by third parties as the result of assistance interventions, the Member States requesting assistance or receiving a donation under Article 36 and the Member State providing assistance or a donation under Article 36 shall cooperate to facilitate compensation of such damage in accordance with applicable laws and relevant frameworks.

CHAPTER 10

PROCESS OF DEPLOYING EXPERTS

Article 47

Categories of experts

Member States shall classify the experts in the following categories:

- (a) team leaders and deputy team leaders;
- (b) coordination and assessment experts on information management, operations, safety and security, and logistics;
- (c) technical experts.

Article 48

Tasks and functions

1. The team leader and deputy team leader shall be responsible for leading the EUCP Team during a mission. The team leader shall be responsible for liaison with the authorities of the affected country, with the ERCC, with other international organisations and, in the event of any assistance interventions under the Union Civil Protection Mechanism outside Member States, with the Union delegation in that country.

2. The technical experts shall be able to provide advice on specific highly technical topics and on risks involved.

3. The coordination and assessment experts shall be able to provide a needs assessment of the situation and advise on the appropriate action to be taken.

4. Experts dispatched on preparedness missions may be mandated by the Commission in agreement with their nominating Member State to carry out any of the functions specified in Article 47 and shall be able to provide advice and report on adequate preparedness measures, including administrative capacity, early warning needs, training, exercises and awareness-raising.

5. Experts dispatched on prevention missions may be mandated by the Commission in agreement with their nominating Member State to carry out any of the functions specified in Article 47 and shall be able to provide advice and report on adequate prevention measures and risk management capability.

6. The ERCC liaison officers dispatched by the Commission shall be fully integrated into the EUCP Team.

7. The Commission may decide to integrate other experts sent by relevant international organisations into the EUCP Team.

Article 49

Expert database

1. Information on the experts shall be compiled by the Commission in an expert database and be made available through the CECIS.

2. Experts included in the ECPP shall be specifically identified in the database referred to in paragraph 1.

Article 50

Training and exercises requirements

The experts shall, where necessary, follow the training programme and participate in exercises in accordance with Article 24.

Article 51

Nomination

In the event of a request for assistance, Member States shall be responsible for nominating the available experts and for sharing their contact details with the ERCC.

Article 52

Deployment of experts, EUCP Teams and TAST

1. The ERCC shall mobilise and dispatch the selected experts and TAST at very short notice once they have been nominated for the specific mission by Member States.

2. Costs of dispatching individual experts, EUCP Teams and TASTs shall be handled in accordance with Article 22, point (a), of Decision No 1313/2013/EU.

3. In cases where an agreement of service is drawn up, it shall cover the following elements:

- (a) the objectives of the mission;
- (b) the terms of reference;
- (c) principles of ethics and conduct;
- (d) the envisaged duration of the mission;
- (e) information on the local contact person;
- (f) the conditions of insurance coverage;
- (g) the daily allowance to cover expenses;

- (h) the specific payment conditions;
- (i) guidelines for technical experts, coordination and assessment experts and team leaders and deputy team leaders of EUCP Team.

CHAPTER 11

UNION ASSISTANCE IN RESPONSE ACTIONS

Article 53

Union assistance in response actions

1. Any Member State that provides civil protection assistance or deploys a rescEU capacity under Article 34 may request Union assistance in accordance with Article 54.
2. Union assistance may take the form of:
 - (a) awarding grants to Member States to cover equipment, transport and logistical resources and any additional necessary supporting and complementary action in order to facilitate the coordination of response;
 - (b) facilitating access to equipment, transport and logistical resources and services in the form of pooling with other Member States and of access to the commercial market or other sources through the Commission, such as transport services procured from private or other entities.
3. Where costs relating to a request for Union assistance referred to in paragraph 2 are lower than EUR 10 000, they shall not be eligible unless they are covered by the framework partnerships referred to in paragraph 4, or relate to the deployment of rescEU capacities or the facilitation of access to equipment, transport and logistical resources and services in the form of pooling with other Member States.
4. The Commission may establish financial framework partnerships with the relevant competent authorities of Member States referred to in Article 130 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council (¹⁰).

Article 54

Requests for Union assistance in response actions

1. Requests for Union assistance shall be issued by the competent authority referred to in Article 57 and sent to the Commission via CECIS or electronic mail (or other electronic means) before any response action related to that request takes place. The Commission shall inform the requesting authority what information is needed in order to proceed with the request.
2. Upon receipt of a request for Union assistance by the Commission, the costs of the requested response action shall become eligible for Union financing, without prejudice to Article 55.
3. The Commission may decide to use a dedicated electronic exchange system for all exchanges with beneficiaries, including the conclusion of grant agreements and the notification of grant decisions and any amendments thereto, pursuant to Article 148 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046.

(¹⁰) 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, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2018/1046/oj>).

4. Upon receipt of a request for Union assistance for a response action, the Commission shall notify the contact points designated by Member States under Article 9(7) of Decision 1313/2013/EU via the CECIS.

5. If a Member State requests Union assistance as referred to in Article 53(2), point (b), the Commission may invite Member States or private operators, or both, to provide it with details of any equipment, transport and logistics resources which they can offer. The Commission shall indicate a deadline for providing that information.

6. The Commission shall share the information received pursuant to paragraph 5 with the Member State making the request, together with any other information the Commission has concerning equipment, transport and logistics resources available from other sources, including the commercial market, and shall help the Member States to access those additional resources.

7. The Member State making the request shall inform the Commission of the equipment, transport and logistics solutions that Member State has selected, and shall liaise with the Member States providing such support or the operator providing such services identified by the Commission. It shall also inform the Commission of the progress made in the provision of its civil protection assistance.

8. Where the Member State selects services provided by the commercial market, it shall confirm in writing its request for a transport and logistical service and its commitment to reimburse the Commission in accordance with paragraph 9.

9. For the costs incurred by the Commission when the requesting Member State selects services provided by the commercial market, the Commission shall issue a debit note to the Member State that has benefited from the Union's financial assistance.

10. In the case of Article 53(2), point (b), one Member State may take the lead in coordinating the procedure under this Article.

Article 55

Decision on Union assistance for response actions

1. When assessing the requests in accordance with Article 53, the Commission shall take the following into account:

- (a) the information contained in the request for Union financing assistance for response actions submitted by the Member State in accordance with Article 54(1);
- (b) the needs expressed by the affected country activating the Union Civil Protection Mechanism, the needs identified by the ERCC and the needs of other affected countries, as in the case of consular assistance activations;
- (c) any needs assessments carried out by the EUCP Team deployed in the affected country and experts reporting to the Commission immediately before or during the disaster;
- (d) other relevant and reliable information available to the Commission at the time of the decision provided by Member States and by international organisations;
- (e) the efficiency and effectiveness of transport and logistical solutions or operations designed to ensure the timely delivery of civil protection assistance;
- (f) other relevant actions undertaken by the Commission.

2. Member States shall provide any additional information needed to assess the requests in accordance with Article 53. Following the receipt of a request from the Commission for additional information, Member States shall provide the requested information as soon as possible.

3. The Commission shall indicate the amount of pre-financing payment to be paid. This pre-financing payment may be up to 85 % of the requested Union financial contribution, subject to the availability of budgetary resources. No pre-financing shall be provided for response actions that have already been completed. No pre-financing shall be provided if grants do not meet the threshold established for low-value grants defined in Article 2, point (41), of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, unless the Member State requesting financial support can demonstrate that the absence of pre-financing would compromise the implementation of the response action.

4. The Commission shall immediately communicate the decision on Union assistance in response actions to the Member State requesting financial support and to all other Member States.

Article 56

Compensation for damage

Notwithstanding Article 340 of the Treaty, the Member State requesting Union assistance shall refrain from making any request for compensation from the Union for damage caused to its property or service staff where such damage is the consequence of the provision of transport resources or services governed by this Decision, unless it is proven to be the result of intent or gross negligence.

Article 57

Designation of competent authorities

1. Member States shall designate the competent authorities to request and receive Union financial assistance or shall authorise other entities to request and receive Union financial assistance, for implementing other response actions on the basis of Article 22, point (c), of Decision 1313/2013/EU. They shall inform the Commission accordingly and immediately notify the Commission of any changes.

2. Entities that own capacities or effectively control capacities that are pre-committed to the ECPP, when they are deployed, may be designated or authorised by the Member States within the meaning of paragraph 1.

CHAPTER 12

FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 58

Repeal

Implementing Decisions 2014/762/EU and (EU) 2019/1310 are repealed.

References to the repealed Implementing Decisions shall be construed as references to this Decision and shall be read in accordance with the correlation table in Annex VII.

Article 59

Addressees

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 10 April 2025.

For the Commission

Hadja LAHBIB

Member of the Commission

ANNEX I

CECIS

Country template for _____ (country) participating in the Common Emergency Communication and Information System (CECIS)

referred to in Article 8(1), point (b) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council

Competent national authority _____

Member of the Civil Protection Committee

First name			Last name	
Street			City	
Postcode				
Tel.	Fax	Email		

(In case of deputy members, please fill in similar table)

Information on the site(s) of contact point(s) to be connected to CECIS

Institution			
Street			
City			
Postcode			
	Head of the operational service of the contact point organisation	Contact person for technical matters	Local security registration officer
Last name			
Given name			
Tel.			
Fax			
Email			

(Add lines in case of more than one site)

The Commission shall communicate in writing to the competent national authority all other relevant technical specifications.

AGREEMENT

We confirm the accuracy of the above and undertake:

- To provide to the European Commission all necessary information and assistance in the context of the further development and implementation of CECIS.
- To ensure the availability of the necessary budgetary resources for the functioning of the connection.

Member of the Civil Protection Committee:

(Signature)

(Date)

Director-General:

(Signature)

(Date)

Please transmit a signed copy by normal mail or fax to the European Commission, DG ECHO.A1 Emergency Response Operations, as well as an email copy to ECHO-ERCC@ec.europa.eu

ANNEX II

MINIMUM TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR MODULES, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT TEAMS**Floods**

High capacity pumping

Tasks	<p>Provide pumping:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — in flooded areas, — to assist firefighting by delivering water.
Capacities	<p>Provide pumping with mobile medium and high capacity pumps with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — an overall capacity of at least 1 000 m³/hour, and — a reduced capacity to pump 40 m height difference. <p>Ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — operate in areas and terrain that are not easily accessible, — pump muddy water, containing no more than 5 percent solid elements having particles size up to 40 mm, — pump water up to 40 °C for longer operations, — deliver water over a distance of 1 000 m.
Main components	<p>Medium and high capacity pumps.</p> <p>Hoses and couplings compatible with different standards, including the Storz standard.</p> <p>Sufficient personnel to fulfil the task, if necessary, on a continuous basis.</p>
Self sufficiency	Article 12 applies.
Deployment	<p>Availability for departure maximum 12 hours after acceptance of the offer.</p> <p>Ability to be deployed for a period of up to 21 days.</p>

Water purification

Tasks	<p>Provide drinkable water, from surface water sources, according to the applicable standards and at least to the level of the WHO standards.</p> <p>Perform water quality control at the outtake point of the purification equipment.</p>
Capacities	<p>Purify 225 000 litres of water per day.</p> <p>Storage capacity equivalent to the production of half a day.</p>
Main components	<p>Desalination equipment (optional).</p> <p>Mobile water purification unit.</p> <p>Mobile water storage unit.</p> <p>Mobile field laboratory.</p> <p>Couplings compatible with different standards, including the Storz standard.</p> <p>Sufficient personnel to fulfil the task, if necessary, on a continuous basis.</p>
Self sufficiency	Article 12 applies.

Deployment	Availability for departure maximum 12 hours after acceptance of the offer. Ability to be deployed for a period of up to 12 weeks.
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Flood containment

Tasks	Reinforce existing structures and build new barriers to prevent further flooding of rivers, basins, waterways with rising water levels.
Capacities	Ability to dam up water to a minimum height of 0,8 m using: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — the materials making it possible to build a barrier 1 000 m long, — further materials made available on-site, — ability to reinforce existing levees, — ability to operate at a minimum of three locations at the same time within an area accessible by trucks, — operational 24 hours a day for 7 days, — supervision and maintenance of barriers and dykes, — ability to work with local staff.
Main components	Material to build watertight barriers for a total distance end to end of 1 000 m (sand shall be made available by the local authorities). Foils/plastic sheets (if needed to make an existing barrier watertight, depends on construction of barrier). Sandbag filling machine.
Self sufficiency	Article 12 applies.
Deployment	Availability for departure maximum 12 hours after the acceptance of the offer. Deployment by land or sea. Deployment by air is only an option in well justified cases. Ability to be operational at least for 10 days.

Flood rescue using boats

Tasks	Water search and rescue and assist people trapped in a flooding situation by using boats. Provide lifesaving aid and deliver first necessities as required.
Capacities	Ability to search for people in urban and rural areas. Ability to rescue people out of a flooded area including medical care on first responder level. Ability to work together with aerial search (helicopters and planes). Ability to deliver first necessities of life in a flooded area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — transportation of doctors, medicines, etc., — food and water. The module must have at least five boats and the ability to transport 50 people in total, excluding the staff of the module. The boats shall be designed for use in cold climate conditions and be able to drive upstream against at least 10 knots flow. Operational 24 hours a day for 7 days.

Main components	<p>Boats designed for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — shallow-streaming water conditions ($> 0,5$ m), — use in windy conditions, — use during day and night, — shall be equipped according to international safety standards including life jackets for the passengers. <p>People trained for swift water rescue. (No diving only surface rescue).</p>
Self sufficiency	Article 12 applies.
Deployment	<p>Availability for departure maximum 12 hours after the acceptance of the offer.</p> <p>Deployment by land or sea. Deployment by air is only an option in well justified cases.</p> <p>Ability to be operational at least for 10 days.</p>

Medical

Medical aerial evacuation of disaster victims

Tasks	Transport disaster victims to health facilities for medical treatment.
Capacities	<p>Capacity to transport patients on stretchers.</p> <p>Ability to fly day and night.</p>
Main components	Helicopters/planes with stretchers
Self sufficiency	Article 12(1), points (f) and (g) apply.
Deployment	Availability for departure maximum 12 hours after the acceptance of the offer.

Medical aerial evacuation for highly infectious diseases patients

Tasks	Aerial transport, including in-flight treatment of highly infectious disease (HID) patients to specialised health facilities in the Union.
Capacities	Aircraft with a capacity to transport at least one or more HID patients per flight;
Main components	<p>Ability to fly day and night.</p> <p>System for safe in-flight medical treatment of HID patients, including intensive care (I):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — appropriately trained medical personnel to provide care for one or more HID patients; — dedicated on-board technical and medical equipment to provide care to HID patients during the flight; — appropriate procedures ensuring isolation and treatment of HID patients during the aerial transport. <p>Support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — aircrew adapted to the number of HID patients and the timeframe of the flight; <p>Appropriate procedures ensuring the handling of equipment and waste as well as decontamination according to established international standards, including, where applicable, relevant Union legislation.</p>

Self sufficiency	Article 12(1), points (f) and (g) apply.
Deployment	Availability for departure maximum 24 hours after acceptance of the offer.

(¹) Such system may include the containerized approach.

Emergency medical team (EMT) type 1 (fixed): Outpatient Emergency Care

Tasks	Outpatient initial emergency care of injuries and other significant health care needs, including the following services: — triage, assessment, first aid, — stabilisation and referral of severe trauma and non-trauma emergencies, — definite care for minor trauma and non-trauma emergencies.
Capacities	Daytime services for at least 100 outpatient consultations/day.
Main components	Team and staff requirements: — Management: staff to cover the functions of Team Leader, Deputy Team Leader, Liaison Officer (link to Reception/Departure Centre, On-Site Operations Coordination Centre or other coordinating mechanism as appropriate, local emergency management authority), Safety & Security Officer, — Health Professionals: as defined in the minimum standards of the WHO, — Logistics: one Logistics Team Manager + logistics team in compliance with self-sufficiency requirements. The team shall comply with the 'Classification and minimum standards for foreign medical teams in sudden onset disasters' and subsequent or additional guidelines issued by the World Health Organisation (WHO).
Self sufficiency	The team should ensure self-sufficiency during the entire deployment time. Article 12 applies and, in addition, the minimum standards of the WHO.
Deployment	Availability for departure in maximum 24-48 hours after the acceptance of the offer. Ability to be operational for at least 14 days.

Emergency medical team (EMT) type 1 (mobile): Outpatient Emergency Care

Tasks	Outpatient initial emergency care of injuries and other significant health care needs, including the following services: — triage, assessment, first aid, — stabilisation and referral of severe trauma and non-trauma emergencies, — definite care for minor trauma and non-trauma emergencies.
Capacities	Daytime services for at least 50 outpatient consultations/day.
Main components	Team and staff requirements: — Management: staff to cover the functions of Team Leader, Deputy Team Leader, Liaison Officer (link to Reception/Departure Centre, On-Site Operations Coordination Centre or other coordinating mechanism as appropriate, local emergency management authority), Safety & Security Officer, — Health Professionals: as defined in the minimum standards of the WHO,

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Logistics: one Logistics Team Manager + logistics team in compliance with self-sufficiency requirements. <p>The team shall comply with the 'Classification and minimum standards for foreign medical teams in sudden onset disasters' and subsequent or additional guidelines issued by the World Health Organisation (WHO).</p>
Self sufficiency	The team should ensure self-sufficiency during the entire deployment time. Article 12 applies and, in addition, the minimum standards of the WHO.
Deployment	Availability for departure in maximum 24-48 hours after the acceptance of the offer. Ability to be operational for at least 14 days.

Emergency medical team (EMT) type 2: Inpatient Surgical Emergency Care

Tasks	<p>Inpatient acute care, general and obstetric surgery for trauma and other major conditions, including the following services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — intake/Screening of new and referred patients, counter-referral, — surgical triage and assessment, — advanced life support, — definitive wound and basic fracture management, — damage control surgery, — emergency general and obstetric surgery, — inpatient care for non-trauma emergencies, — basic anaesthesia, X-ray, sterilisation, laboratory and blood transfusion, — rehabilitation services and patient follow-up. <p>Capacity to receive and integrate specialised care teams to work within their facility, if some of the services above cannot be provided by the team.</p>
Capacities	<p>Day and night services (covering 24 hours a day for 7 days if necessary), including as a minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — one operating theatre with one operating room; at least 20 inpatient beds per operating table, — capability to treat 7 major or 15 minor surgical cases per day.
Main components	<p>Team and Staff requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Management: one Team Leader; one Deputy Team Leader; one Liaison Officer (link to Reception/Departure Centre, On-Site Operations Coordination Centre or other coordinating mechanism as appropriate, local emergency management authority); one Safety & Security Officer, — Health Professionals: as defined in the minimum standards of the World Health Organisation (WHO), — Logistics: one Logistics Team Manager + logistics team for the EMT and its inpatients. <p>The team shall comply with the 'Classification and minimum standards for foreign medical teams in sudden onset disasters' and subsequent or additional guidelines issued by the WHO.</p>
Self sufficiency	The team should ensure self-sufficiency during the entire deployment time. Article 12 applies and, in addition, the minimum standards of the WHO.

Deployment	<p>Availability for departure in maximum 48-72 hours after the acceptance of the offer, and ability to be operational on site within 24-96 hours.</p> <p>Ability to be operational for at least 3 weeks outside the Union, and for at least 14 days inside the Union.</p>
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Emergency medical team (EMT) type 3: Inpatient Referral Care

Tasks	<p>Complex inpatient referral surgical care including intensive care capacity, and including the following services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — capacity to provide EMT type 2 services, — complex reconstructive wound and orthopaedic care, — enhanced X-ray, sterilisation, laboratory and blood transfusion, — rehabilitation services and patient follow-up, — high-level paediatric and adult anaesthesia, — intensive care beds with 24h monitoring and ability to ventilate, — acceptance and referral services from EMTs types 1 and 2, and from the national health system. <p>Specialised services may be included, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — burn care; — dialysis and care of crush syndrome; — maxillofacial surgery; — orthoplastic surgery; — intensive rehabilitation; — maternal health; — neonatal and paediatric care; — transport and retrieval.
Capacities	<p>Day and night services (covering 24 hours a day for 7 days if necessary), including as a minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — one operating theatre with at least two operating tables in two separate rooms within the theatre area, at least 40 inpatient beds (20 per table), and four-six intensive care beds. Additional operating tables will require extra 20 inpatient beds each, to ensure adequate post-operative capacity, — capability to treat 15 major or 30 minor surgical cases per day.
Main components	<p>Team and Staff requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Management: one Team Leader; one Deputy Team Leader; one Liaison Officer (link to Reception/Departure Centre, On-Site Operations Coordination Centre or other coordinating mechanism as appropriate, Local Emergency Management Authority); one Safety & Security Officer, — Health Professionals Team: as defined in the minimum standards of the World Health Organisation (WHO), — Logistics Team: one Logistics Team Manager + logistics team for the EMT and its inpatients. <p>The team shall comply with the 'Classification and minimum standards for foreign medical teams in sudden onset disasters' and subsequent or additional guidelines issued by the WHO.</p>
Self sufficiency	The team should ensure self-sufficiency during the entire deployment time. Article 12 applies and, in addition, the minimum standards of the WHO.

Deployment	<p>Availability for departure in maximum 48-72 hours after the acceptance of the offer, and ability to be operational on site within 5-7 days.</p> <p>Ability to be operational for at least 8 weeks outside the Union, and for at least 14 days inside the Union.</p>
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Shelter and other support

Emergency shelter

Tasks	<p>Provide temporary emergency shelter to the affected population, including space for housing, hygiene and sanitation, basic medical service and social gathering.</p> <p>Provide staff to handle, mobilise, assemble, put in place and maintain shelter units when required. Where a handover takes place, train the relevant personnel (local or international) before the pull out of the shelter capacity.</p>
Capacities	Shelter capacity composed of a physical reserve of assets capable to shelter – when deployed simultaneously – a minimum of 250 persons.
Main components	<p>Shelter units, including tents, with heating (for winter conditions), appropriate aeration systems (for summer conditions), and basic material, such as beds with sleeping-bag and/or blankets.</p> <p>Sanitation and hygiene facilities. Infirmary for basic medical services. Basic hygiene kits.</p> <p>Multi-purpose facilities for preparation (optional) and consumption of food, distribution of drinkable water, social assembling.</p> <p>Power generators and lighting equipment.</p> <p>Appropriate arrangements ensuring the adequate transport and delivery of the units.</p> <p>Appropriately trained personnel and assets to handle, mobilise, assemble, put in place and maintain physical assets in the affected area.</p>
Self sufficiency	Article 12 applies.
Deployment	<p>Availability for departure of physical reserve maximum 24 hours after the acceptance of the offer.</p> <p>Duration of mission and, if applicable, the start of the handover process is to be defined in agreement with the affected country.</p>

Cultural heritage protection

Tasks	Technical, operational and safety support for the protection of cultural heritage
Capacities	<p>The module contributes to protecting/safeguarding movable, immovable and intangible cultural heritage through tasks, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — risk assessment and/or damage assessment, — cultural heritage emergency management,

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — cultural heritage information management, — emergency planning and damage mitigation techniques, — securing, recovering cultural heritage assets, — providing support to Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA).
Main components	<p>Composed of an appropriate team of experts from disaster management and cultural heritage protection agencies;</p> <p>Appropriate equipment such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — toolkit for cultural heritage experts (i.e. PPE). — toolkit (if needed) to intervene in the protection/safeguard of cultural heritage assets, according to the mission Terms of Reference. <p>Other equipment such as for communication/information exchange with the relevant partners.</p>
Self sufficiency	Article 12 applies.
Deployment	<p>Availability for departure maximum 96 hours after acceptance of offer</p> <p>Ability to operate for 10 days with possibility to extend.</p>

Emergency Energy Supply

Tasks	<p>Provide emergency backup power.</p> <p>Provide staff to handle, assemble/disassemble, install/uninstall, operate and maintain the emergency energy supply capacity when required.</p> <p>Where a handover takes place, train the relevant personnel (local and/or international) before the pull out of the staff of the module.</p>
Capacities	<p>Emergency energy supply units to generate and/or provide emergency energy on site when deployed simultaneously.</p> <p>The module must be capable of providing power for at least one month.</p>
Main components	<p>Power generators of various sizes to allow flexibility and scalability.</p> <p>Adequate connectivity, synchronization, monitoring and power transfer systems to enable connecting the capacity to the affected facilities as well as paralleling control of units.</p> <p>Adequate number of spare parts and other consumables for the functioning of the capacity, such as batteries, energy harvesting equipment, connectivity and synchronizing equipment, other types of apparatus and related services.</p> <p>Adequate procedures to ensure emergency fuel supply for the functioning of the capacity.</p> <p>Adequate procedures to transport, handle, assemble/disassemble, install/uninstall, operate and maintain the emergency energy supply capacity.</p> <p>Lighting equipment for emergency lighting of the affected area as well as lightning protection systems.</p> <p>Adequate storage facilities.</p> <p>Appropriately trained personnel and assets to handle, assemble, install, operate and maintain the emergency energy supply capacity.</p>

Self sufficiency	Article 12 applies.
Deployment	Availability for departure of the technical team and deployable components maximum 12 hours after the acceptance of the offer.

Transport and logistics

Tasks	Provide aerial transport and related logistics services for persons, including teams involved in response operations or aerial transport of material/equipment.
Capacities	<p>Ability to ensure relevant logistical support functions.</p> <p>Ability to operate day and night.</p> <p>Ability to perform, where necessary, in operationally challenging circumstances.</p> <p>Ability to transport at least five passengers or material (allowing for the fast deployment of small teams/experts/pilots).</p>
Main components	<p>Aircraft(s)</p> <p>Logistics staff and equipment, if applicable</p> <p>Technical staff, including crew, adequately equipped and trained to perform the tasks defined above.</p> <p>Adequate communication equipment (such as air-to-air and air-to-ground communication for aerial capacities).</p>
Self sufficiency	Article 12(1), points (f) and (g) apply.
Deployment	Availability for departure maximum 12 hours after the acceptance of the offer.

Bridges capacity

Tasks	<p>Provide emergency bridging capacities for vehicles and pedestrians (¹).</p> <p>Provide staff to transport, handle, assemble, install, operate and maintain the bridge capacity when required. Where a handover takes place, train the relevant personnel (local and/or international) before the pull out of the staff of the capacity.</p>
Capacities	<p>The bridge capacity shall be able to self-sufficiently carry out the construction of bridges (²) in a period of six weeks (³), where needed, with ramps.</p> <p>Vehicle bridge: 1 lane; a length of 20 m; a min. load of 20 t; passenger pads for pedestrians.</p> <p>Pedestrian bridge: min. 150 cm width (adequacy for wheelchair handling); up to 25 m in length; free-standing or with floating support; a min. load of 5 kN/m².</p>
Main components	<p>Equipment and vehicles to carry out all necessary preparatory works in the riparian area (⁴).</p> <p>Appropriate equipment and vehicles to transport the bridge components and staff for the initial deployment and on-site transport.</p> <p>Equipment and vehicles/cranes to facilitate the onsite assembling of the bridges.</p>

	Appropriately trained personnel and assets to handle and mobilise the equipment. Appropriate storage facilities in the Union (¹), logistics and adequate stockpiling monitoring system.
Self sufficiency	Where the capacity is deployed together with staff, the capacity shall ensure at least self-sufficiency during the first 96 hours of deployment.
Deployment	Availability for departure maximum 72 hours after acceptance of the offer. If applicable, the duration of the mission shall be determined in agreement with the affected country.

(¹) Due to its complexity railway bridges should not be considered for the ECPP bridge capacity.

(²) Self-supporting constructions without support pillars should be used for both pedestrian and vehicle bridges. The constructions should not restrict the navigation of boats or other vehicles.

(³) Different construction systems leading from specialist work frame systems to fast-mounting systems should be considered.

(⁴) Does not include asphalting appropriate paths to the bridge or away from the bridge.

(⁵) For the purposes of the logistics of storage facilities, "in the Union" encompasses the territories of Member States and Participating States of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism.

CBRN and environmental

Chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear detection and sampling (CBRNDET)

Tasks	<p>Carry out/confirm the initial assessment, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — the description of the dangers or the risks, — the determination of the contaminated area, — the assessment or confirmation of the protective measures already taken, — perform qualified sampling, — mark the contaminated area, — prediction of the situation, monitoring, dynamic assessment of the risks, including recommendations for warning and other measures, — provide support for immediate risk reduction.
Capacities	<p>Identification of chemical and detection of radio-logical hazards through a combination of handheld, mobile and laboratory-based equipment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — ability to detect alpha, beta and gamma radiation and to identify common isotopes, — ability to identify, and if possible, perform semi-quantitative analyses on common toxic industrial chemicals and recognised warfare agents. — ability to gather, handle and prepare biological, chemical and radiological samples for further analyses elsewhere (¹). — ability to apply an appropriate scientific model to hazard prediction and to confirm the model by continuous monitoring. <p>Provide support for immediate risk reduction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — hazard containment, — hazard neutralisation, — provide technical support to other teams or modules.
Main components	<p>Mobile chemical and radiological field laboratory.</p> <p>Handheld or mobile detection equipment.</p> <p>Field sampling equipment.</p> <p>Dispersion modelling systems.</p> <p>Mobile meteorological station.</p>

	<p>Marking material.</p> <p>Reference documentation and access to designated sources of scientific expertise.</p> <p>Secure and safe containment for the samples and waste.</p> <p>Decontamination facilities for the personnel.</p> <p>Appropriate personnel and protective equipment to sustain an operation in a contaminated and/or oxygen deficient environment, including gas tight suits where appropriate.</p> <p>Supply of technical equipment for hazard containment and neutralisation.</p> <p>Air-borne monitoring equipment (optional).</p>
Self sufficiency	Article 12 applies.
Deployment	Availability for departure maximum 12 hours after the acceptance of the offer.

(¹) This process shall, where possible, take account of the evidential requirements of the requesting state.

CBRN decontamination

Tasks	Decontamination from chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear agents of infrastructure, buildings, or vehicles, equipment, critical evidence or affected persons, including fatalities.
Capacities	<p>Adequate decontamination capability for infrastructure, buildings, or vehicles, equipment and critical evidence.</p> <p>If the capacity covers the decontamination of persons, adequate decontamination capability for at least 70 ambulant persons per hour or 10 non-ambulant persons per hour as well as fatalities.</p> <p>Ability to decontaminate from common toxic industrial chemicals, recognised warfare agents, biological infectious agents (pathogens) and toxins, and radionuclides.</p> <p>Ability to erect temporary decontamination facilities within a safe radius, to monitor the decontamination area in order to keep the work environment safe and to evaluate the decontamination effectiveness.</p>
Main components	<p>Appropriate equipment, technology and solutions to decontaminate from common toxic industrial chemicals, recognised warfare agents, biological infectious agents (pathogens) and toxins and radionuclides.</p> <p>Appropriate equipment to monitor progress of decontamination operations.</p> <p>Appropriate equipment and personnel to perform decontamination of infrastructure, buildings, vehicles, equipment, critical evidence and capabilities.</p> <p>If the capacity covers the decontamination of persons, appropriate equipment and personnel to perform decontamination of ambulant and non-ambulant persons.</p> <p>Appropriate capability and procedures to monitor the decontamination area to keep the work environment safe and to verify the decontamination effectiveness.</p> <p>Appropriate personal protective equipment to operate safely in a contaminated environment for the complete period of deployment.</p> <p>Adequate pumping system and containers to take-up water locally.</p>

	Secure and safe waste management system and procedures during and after decontamination, including containment solutions to temporarily and safely store contaminated waste, pumps, waste combustion remains, contaminated water and wastewater treatment equipment. The management of hazardous waste, including contaminated water and other by-products, will be carried out in accordance with relevant Union or international regulations, or the legislation of the affected country, whichever is more stringent and with support from the affected country.
Self sufficiency	Article 12 applies. Ability to decontaminate the capacity's own personnel.
Deployment	Availability for departure maximum 12 hours after the acceptance of the offer. Ability to maintain operations for at least 7 continuous days.

Search and rescue in CBRN conditions

Tasks	Special search and rescue using protective suits.
Capacities	Special search and rescue using protective suits, in accordance with the requirements of the medium and heavy urban search and rescue modules as appropriate. Three people working simultaneously in the hot zone. Continuous intervention during 24 hours.
Main components	Marking material. Secure and safe containment for the waste. Decontamination facilities for the personnel and the rescued victims. Appropriate personnel and protective equipment to sustain a search and rescue operation in a contaminated environment, in accordance with the requirements of the medium and heavy urban search and rescue modules as appropriate. Supply of technical equipment for hazard containment and neutralisation.
Self sufficiency	Article 12 applies.
Deployment	Availability for departure maximum 12 hours after the acceptance of the offer.

USAR and beyond the rubble

Light urban search and rescue

Tasks	Tasks in full compliance with the INSARAG Guidelines. Search for, locate and rescue victims (¹) located under debris such as collapsed buildings and transport incidents. Provide lifesaving first aid as required, until handover for further treatment.
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Capacities	In full compliance with the INSARAG Guidelines, the module shall have the ability to perform the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">— search with dogs or technical search equipment (or both),— rescue, including light lifting,— technical rope rescue,— advanced life support (¹).
Main components	Fully compliant with the INSARAG Guidelines. Management (command, liaison, coordination, planning, media/reporting, assessment/analysis, safety/security). Search (technical search, canine search). Rescue (breaking and breaching, lifting and moving, technical rope). Medical, including care of patients and of the team's personnel and search dogs (³).
Self sufficiency	Fully compliant with the INSARAG Guidelines.
Deployment	Fully compliant with the INSARAG Guidelines.

(¹) Live casualty.

(²) Basic capacity, more extensive capacities are included in the 'chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear detection and sampling module.'

(³) Subject to medical and veterinary licensing terms.

Medium urban search and rescue

Tasks	Tasks in full compliance with the INSARAG Guidelines. Search for, locate and rescue victims (¹) located under debris (such as collapsed buildings and transport incidents). Provide lifesaving first aid as required, until handover for further treatment.
Capacities	In full compliance with INSARAG Guidelines, the module shall have the ability to perform the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">— search with search dogs or technical search equipment,— rescue, including lifting,— cutting concrete,— technical rope,— basic shoring,— HAZMAT detection and isolation (²),— advanced life support (³). Ability to work on one site 24 hours per day for 7 days.
Main components	Fully compliant with INSARAG Guidelines. Management (command, liaison/coordination, planning, media/reporting, assessment/analysis, safety/security). Search (technical search and/or canine search, HAZMAT detection, HAZMAT isolation). Rescue (breaking and breaching, cutting, lifting and moving, shoring, technical rope). Medical, including care of patients and of the team's personnel and search dogs (⁴).
Self sufficiency	Fully compliant with the INSARAG Guidelines.
Deployment	Fully compliant with the INSARAG Guidelines.

(¹) Live casualty.

(²) Basic capacity, more extensive capacities are included in the 'chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear detection and sampling module.'

(³) Patient care (first aid and medical stabilisation) from victim access to victim handover.

(⁴) Subject to medical and veterinary licensing terms.

Heavy urban search and rescue

Tasks	<p>Tasks in full compliance with the INSARAG Guidelines</p> <p>Search for, locate and rescue victims (¹) located under debris (such as collapsed buildings and transport incidents).</p> <p>Provide lifesaving first aid as required, until handover for further treatment.</p>
Capacities	<p>In full compliance with INSARAG Guidelines, the module shall have the ability to perform the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — search with search dogs and technical search equipment, — rescue, including heavy lifting, — cutting reinforced concrete and structural steel, — technical rope, — advanced shoring, — hazmat detection and isolation (²), — advanced life support (³). <p>Ability to work 24 hours per day on more than one site for 10 days.</p>
Main components	<p>Fully compliant with the INSARAG guidelines.</p> <p>Management (command, liaison/coordination, planning, media/reporting, assessment/analysis, safety/security).</p> <p>Search (technical search, canine search, HAZMAT detection, HAZMAT isolation).</p> <p>Rescue (breaking and breaching, cutting, lifting and moving, shoring, technical rope).</p> <p>Medical, including care of patients and of the team's personnel and search dogs (⁴).</p>
Self sufficiency	Fully compliant with the INSARAG Guidelines
Deployment	Fully compliant with the INSARAG Guidelines

(¹) Live casualty.

(²) Basic capacity, more extensive capacities are included in the 'chemical, biological, radio- logical and nuclear detection and sampling' module.

(³) Patient care (first aid and medical stabilisation) from victim access to victim handover.

(⁴) Subject to medical and veterinary licensing terms.

Mountain search and rescue

Tasks	Undertake search and rescue operations in mountainous areas
Capacities	<p>Search in mountainous environments (all types of areas within Europe), able to rescue during all time of day and perform one technical rescue at a time;</p> <p>Able to perform vertical rescue in very restricted areas.</p>
Main components	<p>Provide medical care on advanced life support level;</p> <p>Install communication system (wireless and long lines wired);</p> <p>Ability to support any other module who request advanced rope technical support;</p> <p>Management (command, liaison/coordination, planning, media/reporting, assessment/analysis, safety/security);</p> <p>Logistics (Base of Operations, maintenance and supply, communications);</p> <p>Search (technical search, canine search, drone search);</p> <p>Rescue (mountain rescue, rescue in vertical terrain, avalanche rescue);</p>

	Medical (care of the team including canines and victims encountered). Adequate personnel.
Self sufficiency	Article 12 applies.
Deployment	Availability for departure maximum 12 hours after acceptance of the offer. Ability to work 24 hours a day for 7 days.

Cave search and rescue

Tasks	Undertake search and rescue operations in underground and enclosed spaces. Search in confined space with technical search equipment down to 1 000 m depth (caves). Rescue people out of a confined space with technical single rope rescue technique for horizontal and vertical transport down to 1 000 m depth (caves).
Capacities	Search in confined space with technical search equipment down to 1 000 m depth (caves); Rescue people out of a confined space with technical single rope rescue technique for horizontal and vertical transport down to 1 000 m depth (caves).
Main components	Provide medical care on advanced life support level; Install communication system (wireless and long lines wired) Conduct technical blasting in case of narrow passages; Mountaineering equipment for accessing cave entrance; Optional ability to conduct cave diving operations in siphons and potentially other water environments; Ability to support any other module who request advanced rope technical support; Management (command, liaison/coordination, planning, media/reporting, assessment/analysis, safety/security); Logistics (BoO, maintenance and supply, communications); Cave search and rescue (including technical rope rescue techniques for horizontal and vertical transport); Medical personnel (care of patients and team's personnel); Adequate personnel.
Self sufficiency	Article 12 applies.
Deployment	Availability for departure maximum 12 hours after acceptance of the offer. Ability to work 24 hours a day for 7 days.

Maritime

Coastal and freshwater pollution response

Tasks	Pollution containment and recovery of floating pollutants from flooded areas and/or coastal or fresh water to protect shoreline or banks.
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Capacities	<p>Ability to intervene quickly to protect water bodies or stretches of coast/banks.</p> <p>Ability to adapt to different sites (surface area of the beach, access conditions).</p> <p>Ability to recover different types and quantity of pollutant (floaters) and to adapt to the rate of waste evacuation.</p> <p>Ability to store waste.</p>
Main components	<p>Containers with a configuration of equipment depending on actual situation and needs.</p> <p>A multipurpose work platform with a small outboard engine in a transport container.</p> <p>Equipment for pollution recovery in coastal or freshwater (e.g. coastal containment barriers/breakwaters and required accessory equipment (anchors, chains, buoys, ropes), hydraulic power packs, hydraulic and oil transfer hoses, light and/or modular skimmers, and pumps).</p> <p>Waste storage capacity (e.g., collapsible tanks).</p> <p>Safety equipment: PPE for oil recovery (e.g., overalls, gloves, boots, glasses, helmets, shoe covers, decontamination devices, equipment, and accessories to delimit the area, lighting systems).</p> <p>Communication equipment.</p> <p>Trained personnel to fulfil the tasks.</p>
Self sufficiency	Article 12 applies.
Deployment	<p>Availability for departure maximum 12 hours after the acceptance of the offer.</p> <p>Ability to operate for a period of up to 14 days.</p>

Fire

Aerial forest firefighting module using helicopters

Tasks	Contribute to the extinction of large forest and vegetal fires by performing aerial firefighting.
Capacities	<p>One or more helicopters with a total capacity of 3 000 litres, where no individual helicopter falls below a capacity of 1 000 litres.</p> <p>Ability to perform continuous operations.</p>
Main components	<p>One or more helicopter(s) with crew(s).</p> <p>Technical staff.</p> <p>Water buckets or releasing kits.</p> <p>One maintenance set.</p> <p>One spare parts set.</p> <p>Two rescue hoists.</p> <p>Communication equipment.</p>
Self sufficiency	Article 12(1), points (f) and (g) apply.
Deployment	Availability for departure maximum 3 hours after the acceptance of the offer.

Aerial forest firefighting module using airplanes

Tasks	Contribute to the extinction of large forest and vegetal fires by performing aerial firefighting.
Capacities	Two airplanes with a capacity of at least 3 000 litres each. Ability to perform continuous operations.
Main components	Two planes. Minimum of four crews. Technical staff. Field maintenance kit. Communication equipment.
Self sufficiency	Article 12(1), points (f) and (g) apply.
Deployment	Availability for departure maximum three hours after the acceptance of the offer.

Ground forest firefighting

Tasks	To contribute to the extinction of large forest and vegetal fires by using ground means.
Capacities	Sufficient human resources for continuous operations during seven days. Ability to operate in areas with restricted access. Ability to set long lines of hoses with pumps, minimum 2 km, and/or make defence lines continuously.
Main components	Firefighters trained to fulfil the above-mentioned task and with additional safety and security training taking into account the different types of fires that the module might be deployed for. Manual tools for making defence lines. Hoses, portable tanks and pumps for establishing a line. Adaptors for hose connection including the Storz standard. Water backpacks. Equipment potentially to be roped or winched down by helicopter. Evacuation procedures for the firefighters have to be arranged with the receiving state.
Self sufficiency	Article 12 applies.
Deployment	Availability for departure maximum 6 hours after the acceptance of the offer. Ability to work continuously during 7 days.

Ground forest firefighting using vehicles

Tasks	To contribute to the extinction of large forest and vegetal fires using vehicles.
Capacities	Sufficient human resources and vehicles for continuous operations with a minimum of 20 firefighters at any time.
Main components	Firefighters trained to fulfil the above-mentioned task. Four vehicles with off road capability.

Self sufficiency	Tank capacity of each vehicle of at least 2 000 litres. Adaptors for hose connection including the Storz standard.
Deployment	Article 12 applies. Availability for departure maximum 6 hours after the acceptance of the offer. Ability to work continuously during 7 days. Deployment by land or sea. Deployment by air is only an option in well justified cases.

Technical assistance and support teams (TAST)

General requirements for technical assistance and support teams

Tasks	Provide or arrange for: — support for set-up and running of office, — ICT support, — logistics and subsistence support, — transport support on site.
Capacities	Capable of assisting an assessment, coordination and/or preparedness team, an on-site operations coordination centre, or of being combined into a civil protection module as referred to in Article 12(2).
Main components	The following support components, enabling all on site operations coordination centre functions to be fulfilled, taking into account acknowledged international guidelines, such as UN guidelines: — support for set-up and running of office, — ICT support equipment, — logistics and subsistence support equipment, — transport support on site. The components shall be able to be divided in different units to ensure flexibility when adapting to the needs of a specific intervention.
Deployment	Availability for departure maximum 12 hours after the acceptance of the offer.

ANNEX III

CAPACITY GOALS OF THE ECPP

Modules

Module	Number of modules simultaneously available for deployment
LIGHT USAR (Light urban search and rescue)	3
MEDEVAC HID (Medical aerial evacuation of highly infectious diseases patients)	2
CHP (Cultural Heritage Protection)	2
EES (Emergency Energy supply)	2
T&L (Transport and logistics)	2
Coastal and freshwater pollution response	2
Mountain search and rescue	3
Cave search and rescue	3
CBRN Decontamination	2
Bridges capacity	2
HCP (High capacity pumping)	20
MUSAR (Medium urban search and rescue – one for cold conditions)	4
WP (Water purification)	6
FFFP (Aerial forest fire fighting module using planes)	2
ES (Emergency shelter)	4
HUSAR (Heavy urban search and rescue)	4
CBRNDET (CBRN detection and sampling)	6
GFFF (Ground forest fire fighting)	4
GFFF-V (Ground forest fire fighting using vehicles)	15
CBRNUSAR (USAR in CBRN conditions)	2
FC (Flood containment)	2
FRB (Flood rescue using boats)	2
MEDEVAC (Medical aerial evacuation of disaster victims)	2
FFFH (Aerial forest firefighting module using heli-copters)	2
EMT type 1 fixed (Emergency medical team type 1: Outpatient Emergency Care – fixed)	15
EMT type 1 mobile (Emergency medical team type 1: Outpatient Emergency Care – mobile)	6

Module	Number of modules simultaneously available for deployment
EMT type 2 (Emergency medical team type 2: Inpatient Surgical Emergency Care)	6
EMT type 3 (Emergency medical team type 3: Inpatient Referral Care)	1

Technical Assistance and Support Teams

Technical Assistance and Support Team	Goal
TAST (Technical Assistance and Support Team)	2

Other Response Capacities

Other response capacity	Number of other response capacities simultaneously available for deployment
Burns Assessment Teams (BAT)	2
Transport and Logistics (non-aerial configurations)	2
Pollution detection (at-sea, shoreline, inland)	2
Shoreline and inland pollution response (on-land pollution recovery, waste management and oiled wildlife response)	2
Relief items and other types of in-kind assistance	As necessary
Teams for water search and rescue	2
Teams with specialised search and rescue equipment, e.g. search robots	2
Remotely piloted aircraft systems (RPAS)	2
Teams for maritime incident response (MIRG)	2
Structural engineering teams, to carry out damage and safety assessments, appraisal of buildings to be demolished/repaired, assessment of infrastructure, short-term shoring	2
Evacuation support: including teams for information management and logistics	2
Firefighting: advisory/assessment teams	2
Mobile laboratories for environmental emergencies	2
Communication teams or platforms to quickly re-establish communications in remote areas	2
Medical Evacuation Jets Air Ambulance and Medical Evacuation Helicopter separately for inside Europe or worldwide	2

Other response capacity	Number of other response capacities simultaneously available for deployment
Additional Shelter Capacity: units for 250 persons (50 tents); incl. self-sufficiency unit for the handling staff	100
At-sea pollution response (offshore, heavy equipment, recovery vessels)	2
Emergency medical teams for specialised care	8
Mobile biosafety laboratories	4
Standing engineering capacity	2
Other response capacities necessary to address identified risks	as necessary

ANNEX IV

TECHNICAL EXPERT PROFILES

Environmental Cluster

1. Forest Fires Expert
2. Environmental Expert
3. Marine Pollution Response Expert
4. Waste Management Expert

Health/CBRN Cluster

5. WASH Expert
6. Epidemiology/Public Health Expert
7. Health Coordinator
8. CBRN Expert

Horizontal Cluster

9. Transport and Logistics Expert
10. Cultural Heritage Expert
11. Structural Engineering Expert

Geological Cluster

12. Geologist/Volcanologist
13. Dam Assessment Expert
14. Seismologist

Shelter Cluster

15. Civil Engineering Expert
16. Site Planning

ANNEX V

CERTIFICATION AND REGISTRATION PROCESS FOR ECPP AND rescEU CAPACITIES**REQUISITE INFORMATION**

The requisite information to be provided to apply for the certification and registration [procedure] of a particular module, other response capacity (with the exception of relief items) or technical assistance and support team in the ECPP shall include the following elements and any other information the Commission considers necessary:

1. self-assessment establishing that the modules and technical assistance and support teams fulfil the requirements established for this type of response capacity as set out in Annex II or, for other response capacities, with the relevant information;
2. factsheet of the response capacity (CECIS factsheets);
3. confirmation of necessary arrangements put in place to ensure the relevant authority and national contact points are continuously capable to handle without delay requests for deployment with regard to their response capacities registered in the ECPP;
4. confirmation that all necessary measures have been taken, including the necessary financing arrangements, to ensure that the response capacity registered in the ECPP can be deployed immediately following an invitation to deploy by the Commission;
5. exact duration of the pre-commitment in the ECPP (minimum one year, taking into account Article 19 if an adaptation grant has been awarded);
6. information on the guaranteed maximum mobilisation time (maximum 12 hours after the acceptance of the offer, unless otherwise specified in Annex II);
7. the geographic location of the asset, the indicative location of mobilisation (for example, airport), the normal geographic scope of deployment, as well as geographic restrictions, if any;
8. standard Operating Procedures of the response capacity;
9. all relevant transport handling information, such as measures, weights, flight restrictions, etc., preferred modes of transport; if relevant: access to harbours;
10. any other restrictions or other foreseeable conditions of deployment;
11. an 'Experience File', with summarises of previous deployments of the response capacity; participation in Union Mechanism exercises, training of key personnel (Team Leader, Deputy Team Leader, others) through the Union Civil Protection Mechanism, compliance with international standards where relevant (for example, INSARAG, WHO, IFRC);
12. a self-assessment of adaptation needs and associated costs;
13. all necessary contact information.

CERTIFICATION PROCESS

1. The certification process for modules, other response capacities with the exception of relief items and technical assistance and support teams shall include a consultative visit, participation in a table-top exercise, and participation in a field exercise. In duly justified cases, the Commission may decide to waive the requirement of participation in a field exercise for response capacities, when agreed criteria are met, as defined in the certification guidelines.
2. Urban Search and Rescue teams shall be considered certified if they have completed the INSARAG External Classification and that classification is still valid. No additional certification process for Urban Search and Rescue teams shall be required under the ECPP.
3. Emergency Medical Teams (types 1, 2, 3 and specialised care teams) shall be considered certified if they have completed the World Health Organisation (WHO) classification and that certification is still valid. No additional certification process for Emergency Medical Teams under the ECPP shall be required.

4. Mobile biosafety laboratories shall be considered certified if they have completed the recognition process of the World Health Organisation (WHO) for Rapid Response Mobile Laboratories and the recognition is still valid. No additional certification process for mobile biosafety laboratories shall be required under the ECPP.

5. Quality requirements for relief items under the ECPP shall comply with relevant Union or international regulations or standards. The relevant competent authority shall be requested to submit a formal declaration or supporting evidence. Relief items should be committed to the ECPP for a minimum period of six months or for the duration of their shelf life, which shall not be less than six months.

6. Guidelines present the detailed procedure and tools for the certification and registration of modules, other response capacities, and TAST. The certification guidelines are approved by the Commission Expert Group on Capacities.

7. Guidelines present the detailed procedure and tools for the certification, registration and selection of experts. The guidelines are approved by the Commission Expert Group on Capacities.

8. Guidelines present the detailed procedure and tools for the recertification and registration of modules, other response capacities, and TAST. The recertification guidelines are approved by the Commission Expert Group on Capacities.

REGISTRATION

Member States shall be responsible for entering capacities in CECIS upon receiving information from the Commission about the completion of the certification procedure and the registration of the capacities in the ECPP.

ANNEX VI

RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

The relevant international organisations referred to in Article 16(1) of Decision No 1313/2013/EU shall be as follows:

1. International Organization for Migration (IOM)
2. International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)
3. Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)
4. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

ANNEX VII

CORRELATION TABLE

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