

European Civil Protection

**The EU Civil
Protection Mechanism
in preparedness and
response**



**Workshop on Generic
Preparedness and response
Brussels 3 rd June 2008**

DG ENV A3 Civil Protection Unit

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/civil/index.htm>

The fundamentals

- **Responsibility:** Member States are responsible for the security and safety of their citizens.
- **Call for assistance.** Member States can call for assistance when overwhelmed by a disaster.
- **Solidarity:** Member States have the responsibility to support Member States affected by a disaster when needed.
- **Voluntary:** The level of support / assistance is determined by the MS providing assistance.).



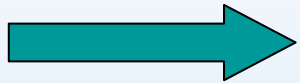
New legal framework for EU civil protection

New instrument to organise EU solidarity in case of disasters (Legal base: Council Decision of 23 October 2001).

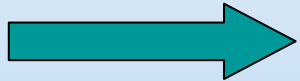
- ❑ Recast of the 2001 Council Decision establishing the Community Mechanism.
 - Adopted on 8 November 2007
- ❑ New Financial Instrument for civil protection. (Council Decision)
 - adopted on 5 March 2007 (2007/162/EC, Euratom)



THE CIVIL PROTECTION MECHANISM



Response: facilitating and supporting European civil protection assistance and solidarity in the event of a major disaster



Preparedness: training, exercises, exchange of experts.

- **Participating states:** EU-27 + 3 (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway)



HOW IT WORKS: THE MONITORING AND INFORMATION CENTRE (MIC)

- Based in the Commission DG Environment, on duty 24/7
- **Entry point for requests for assistance**
(central hub of a network)
- **Information** role: analysing and distributing reliable info to Participating States during disasters /Linked to other Rapid alert systems.
- Supports **coordination**: dispatching EU expert teams, matching requests for aid in kind/ material relief teams experts to offers from Participating States. (teams and means belong to MS)
- **Technical support** role, e.g. satellite images and access to other EC resources



**A one-stop shop for civil protection
assistance**

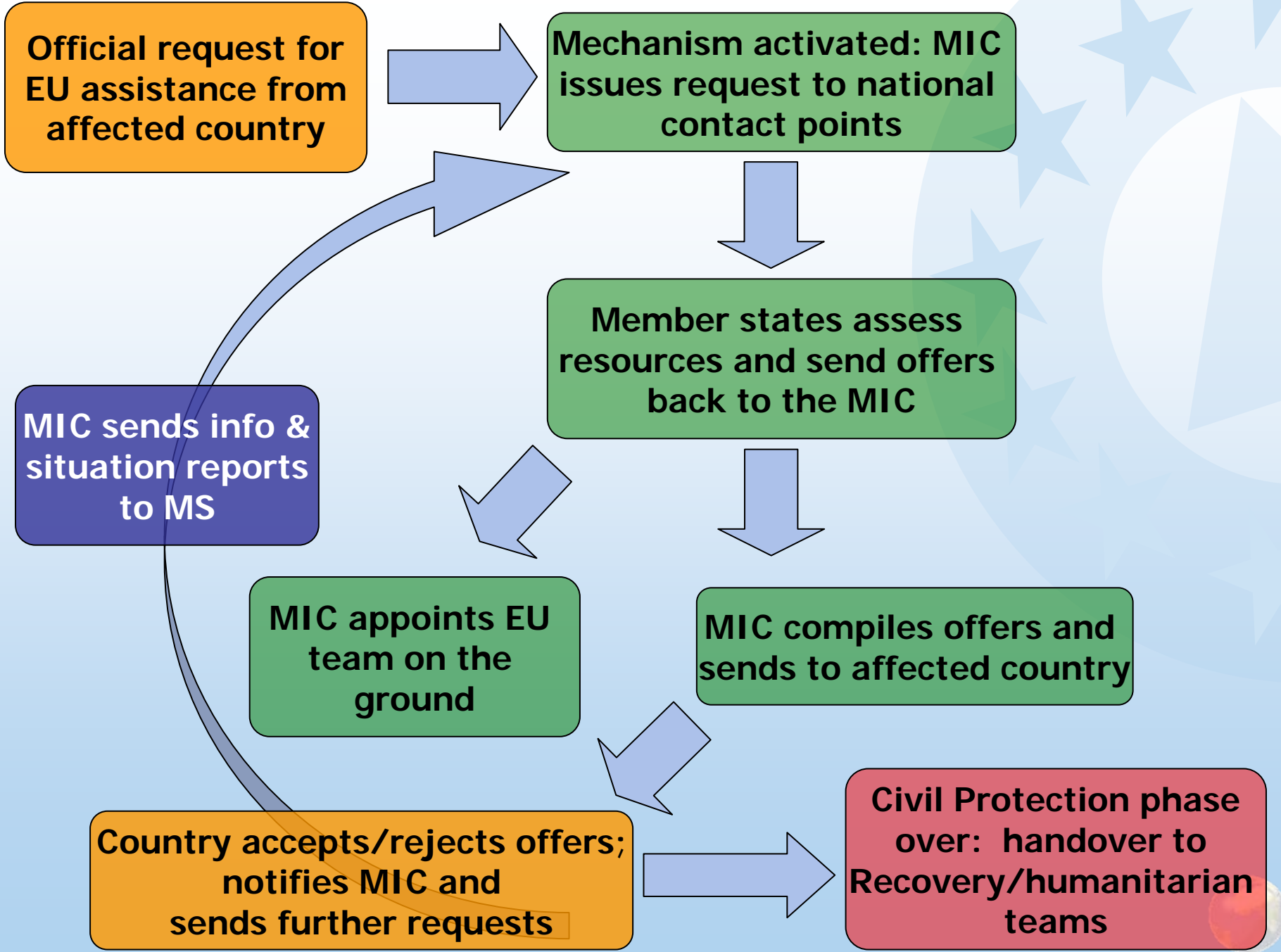


SCOPE OF THE MECHANISM

- MIC involved in over 100 emergencies since 2001
- Mechanism called upon on over 50 occasions

<i>Inside EU</i>	floods (central Europe 2002 & 2005, France 2003); marine pollution (<i>Prestige</i> –Spain– 2002); forest fires (France 2003, Portugal 2003-2005)
<i>Outside EU</i>	earthquakes (Algeria & Iran 2003, Morocco 2004, Pakistan 2005, Indonesia 2006); tsunami (Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Maldives, Thailand 2004), hurricane (USA – <i>Katrina</i> –2005) Lebanon 2006, Bolivia floods 2007
<i>Duration</i>	Several days to 2-3 weeks max
<i>Type of disaster</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Natural: floods, fires, earthquakes, landslides etc• Chemical or technological accidents• CBRN and other terrorist attacks
<i>Type of assistance</i>	Anything in kind: experts, search and rescue teams, specialised teams and/or equipment, other material assistance (pumps, blankets, tents, medicine, etc)





Official request for EU assistance from affected country

Mechanism activated: MIC issues request to national contact points

Member states assess resources and send offers back to the MIC

MIC compiles offers and sends to affected country

Civil Protection phase over: handover to Recovery/humanitarian teams

MIC sends info & situation reports to MS

MIC appoints EU team on the ground

Country accepts/rejects offers; notifies MIC and sends further requests

Preparedness

- Simulation exercises
(several terrorist related scenarios latest EULUX June 2007)
- Training
- Exchange of experts
 - <http://www.exchangeofexperts.eu/>
- Modules
- Projects



New legal framework for EU civil protection

The Recast

- Includes more explicitly acts of terrorism and man-made disasters in the list of possible emergencies that can trigger civil protection assistance through the Mechanism;

□ Main developments / CBRN

- ❖ Prevention
- ❖ Modules (preparedness)
- ❖ Transport (response)
- ❖ Medicines / vaccines



Prevention

As well as continuing to finance activities for *preparedness* (training, exercises...), the new Financial Instrument allows for the possibility of prevention activities to be financed:

- studies, surveys, modelling and scenario building;
- workshops, creation of networks, demonstration projects and technology transfer;
- public information, education and awareness raising and dissemination actions, so as to minimise the effects of emergencies on EU citizens and to help EU citizens to protect themselves more effectively.



Modules (preparedness)

The Recast reaffirms the goal of establishing an EU rapid reaction capability composed of civil protection modules of the Member States.

Key principles of modules:

- can be dispatched at very short notice (generally within 12 hours of a request for assistance);
- work self-sufficiently and autonomously;
- are interoperable with other modules; are able to provide assistance to other international organisations, especially the UN.
- Implementation work has started incl. for **CBRN module**; Experts are defining Tasks, capacities, components deployment features. A Commission Decision was adopted in Dec. 2007 (implementing rules).



Transport (response)

- ❑ The new Financial Instrument provides for the possibility of partly financing the transportation of civil protection assistance, both inside and outside the EU.
- ❑ Strict criteria:
 - Options for pooling and sharing transport must have been exhausted;
 - and the assistance must:
 - have been offered to and accepted by the affected country; be necessary to meet vital needs arising from the emergency; complement the assistance provided by the Member States; complement, for emergencies in third countries, the overall Community humanitarian response.



Transport (cont.)

□ The Member State requesting the financial support has to reimburse at least 50% of the Community funds received within 180 days of the intervention.

Commission intends to contribute either through grants to Member States or through using the service of a broker to hire transport assets.

➤ Implementing rules (Commission Decision) were adopted in August 2007.



Provision of information on medical resources, inc. vaccines

Recast

Article 3(5)

Member States shall provide relevant general information on the teams, experts, modules and other intervention support referred to in paragraphs 1 to 4 within six months of the adoption of this Decision, and promptly update this information when necessary, as well as on medical resources referred to in Article 4/1(e).



Provision of information on medical resources, inc. vaccines

recast (task of the Commission)

Article 4(1)(e)

Pooling and compiling in the event of a major emergency, information on the capabilities of the Member States for maintaining a production of serums and vaccines or other necessary medical resources and on the stocks thereof which might be available for intervention

➤ **These amendments put the emphasis on providing the information *in the event of an emergency*, as opposed to providing it in advance as a measure of preparedness.**

➤ this is also supported by conclusions reached in the Health Council Working Party in April 2006 on the Communication from the Commission to the Council: Building solidarity through mutual assistance: Report on the assessment of civil protection assistance available through the Community Civil Protection Mechanism in case of major terrorist attacks in the Union. Nov 2005.

Vaccines and related medical assistance can be part of the overall *ad hoc* emergency assistance channeled through the Civil Protection Mechanism in case of major terrorist attacks.



Sharing Capabilities in case of a major terrorist attacks

- **On the basis of data provided from Member States** concerning potential assistance that could be available (shared for intervention in another MS) in case of a terrorist attack, the traditional civil protection assets and teams seems to be well covered. It would be beneficial to reinforce access to additional capacities related to the **detection and identification of pathogens, protective gears, decontamination equipments and teams, treatment of contagious victims, vaccines, antidotes and related medical assistance, isolation of victims, and mobile mortuaries...**

Additional access to these capacities could prove very useful in the case of a large scale bio terrorist attack and facilitate solidarity.



Conclusions

- EU Civil Protection Mechanism: **Efficient, multi-purpose tool** which can support Member States - at their request – for the preparedness and the effective coordinated response to terrorist threats.
- **Limits:** Based on assets (teams and means) that Member States have and are willing to share. (No additional layer of equipment at European level).
- EU supports **increased co-operation** (between MS and between authorities and sharing and efficient use of assets).



Thank you for your attention

DG ENVIRONMENT
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