



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 24.7.2018
C(2018) 4758 final*

*Ms Regina BASTOS
Chair of the European Affairs Committee
Palácio de S. Bento
P – 1249-068 LISBOA*

*cc Mr Eduardo FERRO RODRIGUES
President of the Assembleia da República
Palácio de S. Bento
P – 1249-068 LISBOA*

Dear Chair,

The Commission would like to thank the Assembleia da República for its Opinion on the Communication ‘Strengthening European Union Disaster Management: rescEU – Solidarity with Responsibility’ {COM(2017) 773 final}.

The Commission emphasises that the rationale of the Communication was to strengthen the European Union’s disaster management in view of the emerging risk landscape in the Union, which poses new threats for our citizens, our environment and our economies.

The Commission takes good note of the issues raised by the Assembleia da República, in particular the importance of improving the Union’s preparedness for the changing risk landscape, which indeed brings security matters to the fore. Civil protection services are increasingly working with other emergency management services, and fostering further synergies merits reflection. National governments are the main counterparts for the Commission in the area of civil protection. Nevertheless, the Commission also recognises the important role played by non-State actors, especially when it comes to risk awareness and citizen preparedness, and encourages Member States to continue including non-State actors in some disaster risk management areas. Finally, the Commission reiterates its all-hazard approach when it comes to disaster risk management, focusing not only on existing but also on new risks. In this sense, the European Union Risk Overview¹ published in 2017 is a good example of this approach, as it brings attention to a range of new/emerging risks identified in various Member States.

¹ SWD(2017) 176

The Communication 'Solidarity with Responsibility' provided a vision for the future of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism and laid the foundations for the proposal to amend Decision No 1313/2013/EU on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism {COM(2017) 772 final}.

The Commission hopes that these comments address the issues raised by the Assembleia da República and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Christos Stylianides
Member of the Commission*