Disasters have become the new reality across the European Union. From flash floods and storms, to forest fires and earthquakes, all countries are at risk. Moreover, new risks have emerged and we need to stand ready to respond also to risks of low probability with high impact.

In 2018, countries from the EU requested assistance nearly 10 times mainly for forest fires, medical support and marine pollution. 2018 has been a tragic year with almost 100 people losing their lives and wildfires burning in some European regions – that had never been affected before. The economic costs are huge: close to €10 billion in damages in Europe were recorded in 2016. Much of these costs could have been avoided if damage was prevented and societies better prepared.
Stepping up disaster prevention and preparedness

rescEU completes European Civil Protection

RescEU: Strengthening European response capacities

- **EU response**: creating an additional reserve of capacities, including firefighting planes and helicopters to be ready to help Member States when needed, i.e. to complement national capacities when overwhelmed. Development costs and operational costs of RescEU capacities to be co-financed by the EU (or fully financed for capacities addressing low probability risks with high impact).

- **Boosting national capacities**: drastically increasing financial support for capacities registered in the European Civil Protection Pool, including for adaptation, repair, operational costs (inside the Union) and transport costs (outside the Union). These will be made available for deployment when disasters strike.

Stepping up disaster prevention and preparedness

- **Strengthening prevention and preparedness for large cross-border disasters**: establishing a simplified reporting framework, focusing on key risks of a cross-border nature and risks of low probability with high impact.

- **Supporting national prevention and preparedness**: providing support to Member States to increase their existing measures through a consultation mechanism and deployment of expert missions and follow-up recommendations.

- **European Civil Protection Knowledge Network**: to share knowledge and lessons learnt among national civil protection authorities.

- **Links with other EU policies**: strengthening cooperation and coherence with other EU policies dealing with prevention and preparedness.

Less bureaucracy: RescEU aims to streamline and simplify administrative procedures in order to reduce the time needed to deploy life-saving assistance.