



rescEU: EU that protects

European response to disasters

PROTECTING CITIZENS IN TIMES OF NEED



"A Europe that protects citizens has to be there in times of need. When there is a dangerous forest fire or a flood overwhelming national response, our citizens want action not words. rescEU will ensure concrete solidarity with our Member States hit by disasters."

Jean-Claude Juncker, European Commission President, 12 December 2018



"Natural disasters know no borders and climate change is increasing their risks and impact. With rescEU our current Civil Protection Mechanism will be taken to the next level. This was considered impossible two years ago. With the upgraded EU Civil Protection Mechanism there will be more response, better coordination and above all more effective solidarity to our citizens."

Christos Stylianides, Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management, 12 December 2018

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.

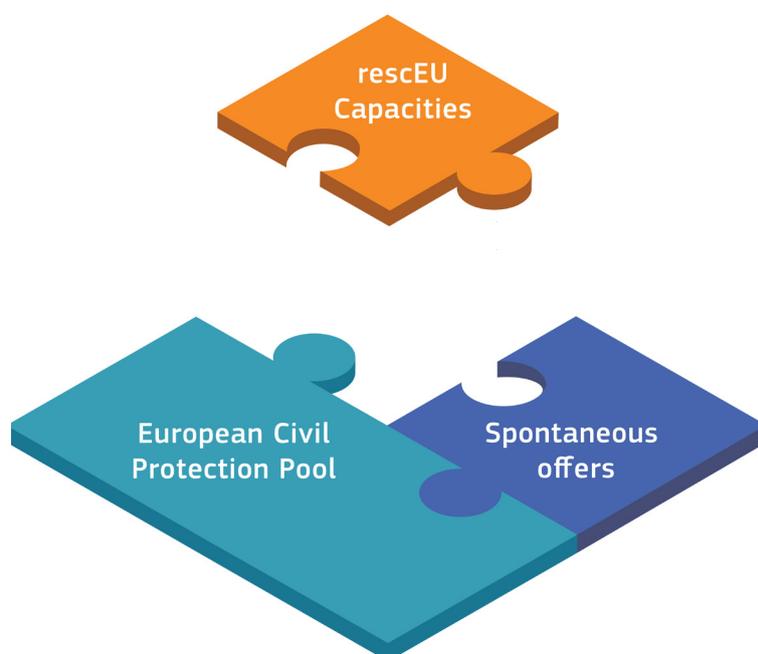


Visit of Christos Stylianides, to Portugal, 13 February 2017



Christos Stylianides at the Emergency Response Coordination Centre

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.