



European  
Commission

## rescEU: A stronger collective

### European response to disasters

PROTECTING CITIZENS IN TIMES OF NEED



*"Europe can't be on the side-lines when our Member States suffer from natural disasters and need help. No country in Europe is immune to natural disasters which have sadly become the new normal. When a disaster strikes, I want the European Union to offer more than condolences. Europe is a continent of solidarity and we must be better prepared than before, and faster in helping our Member States on the frontline."*

Jean-Claude Juncker, European Commission President, 23 November 2017



*"The tragedies of last summer and the past few years have shown that our current disaster response system has reached its limits in its existing voluntary format. The challenges we face have evolved, and so must we. It is a matter of solidarity and shared responsibility at all levels."*

Christos Stylianides, Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management, 23 November 2017

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. 2017 has been a particularly tragic year with **over 200 people losing their lives**. The economic costs are huge: **close to €10 billion in damages** on the European continent were recorded in 2016. Much of these costs could be avoided if damage was prevented and societies better prepared.



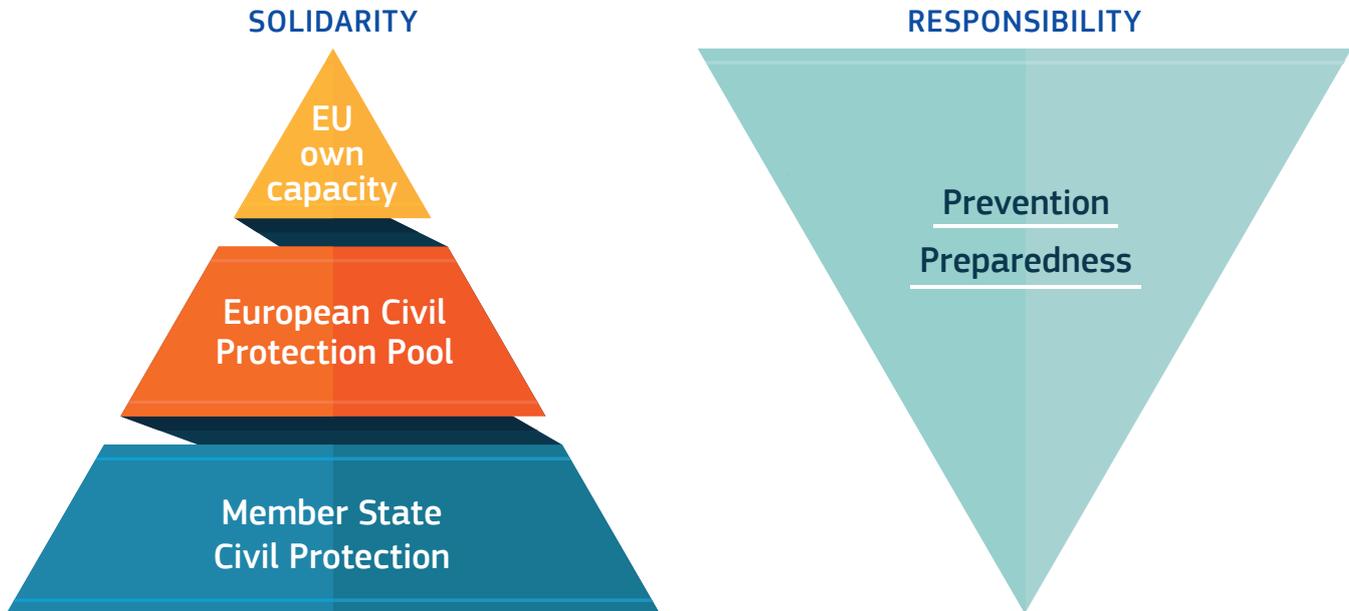
Visit of Christos Stylianides, to Portugal,  
13 February 2017



Christos Stylianides at the Emergency Response  
Coordination Centre

## Two complementary strands: response and prevention/preparedness

The Commission proposes an ambitious new plan to strengthen the EU's civil protection response:



### Response capacities: rescEU

- ▶ **EU response:** a reserve of new civil protection capabilities managed by the EU, such as firefighting aircrafts, high pressure water pumps, urban search and rescue and field hospitals. To complement national capacities when overwhelmed. 100% EU financed.
- ▶ **Boosting national capacities:** EU financing for the adaptation, repair, transport and operation costs of Member States existing resources. These assets would become part of a shared pool of emergency response resources under the European Civil Protection Pool, and would be made available for deployment when disasters strike. 75% EU financed.

### Disaster prevention and preparedness

- ▶ **Supporting national prevention and preparedness:** requesting Member States to share national prevention strategies with the Commission and provide guidance
- ▶ **European Civil Protection Knowledge Network** to train national civil protection authorities and to share information.
- ▶ **Links with other EU policies:** strengthening cooperation and coherence with other EU policies dealing with prevention and preparedness.

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