

Civil protection: Council adopts new rules to strengthen disaster response

The Council today adopted a regulation to strengthen the EU civil protection mechanism. The new rules will allow the EU and the member states to better prepare for natural and man made disasters and to respond faster when they strike, including in cases which affect a majority of member states simultaneously, such as a pandemic. The text also sets out the funding of the civil protection mechanism in the context of the multiannual financial framework 2021-2027.



The EU civil protection mechanism is an emblem of EU solidarity both within our borders and abroad. In 2020 it was activated 102 times and provided support to 77 countries worldwide. The COVID-19 pandemic has put its functioning to the test and has shown us that we need to go further. With the tripling of the budget and the new rules we will be better prepared to predict and respond to future crises, whatever their nature.

Eduardo Cabrita, Minister of Home Affairs of Portugal

The proposed rules will allow the European Commission to address gaps in the area of transport and logistics, and, in cases of urgency, directly procure certain additional rescEU capacities. These rescEU capacities, as well as those hosted by member states, will be fully financed from the EU budget.

Prevention and preparedness will also be improved under the proposed regulation. The Commission, in cooperation with member states, will define and develop EU disaster resilience goals in the area of civil protection

The text sets out a total of €1 263 million in funds for the 2021-2027 period. It also includes an amount of up to €2 056 480 000 to implement the civil protection related measures to address the impact of the Covid-19 crisis foreseen in the EU recovery instrument. This is an increase of over three times as compared to the 2014-2020 budget. It reflects the strengthening of the EU's collective response to disasters, including the recent establishment of a reserve of capacities (rescEU), the reinforcement of the European civil protection pool and the improvements in disaster prevention and preparedness.

Background

The EU civil protection mechanism was first established in 2001 and it coordinates the response to natural and man-made disasters at the EU level.

Its objective is to foster cooperation among national civil protection authorities, increase public awareness and preparedness for disasters and enable quick, effective, coordinated assistance to affected populations.

The EU civil protection mechanism includes a European civil protection pool. This is a voluntary pool of capacities pre-committed by member states for immediate deployment inside or outside the EU. The civil protection mechanism was last amended in 2019, when an additional reserve of resources, called rescEU, was created to provide assistance in situations where overall existing capacities are insufficient.

[Visit the meeting page](#)

Media advisory – EU-Kazakhstan Cooperation Council of 10 May 2021



Indicative programme

+/- 16.30

Beginning of the EU-Kazakhstan Cooperation Council

- the state of play and next steps concerning the EU-Kazakhstan Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement
- political, economic and trade matters, including internal reforms, regional trade, the rule of law and human rights
- regional and international developments and cooperation, including security

At the end of the meeting (+/- 19.50) press conference in [live streaming](#).

Arrangements for the press conference

Please note that there will be no physical press conference. EU accredited journalists will be able to ask questions remotely using [this link](#).

Journalists who already registered for previous Foreign Affairs Council press conferences do not need to register again.

Deadline: Monday, 10 May 2021, 18.30

Further instructions will be sent to all registered participants approximately half an hour after the deadline.

[Visit the meeting page](#)

Council complements EU research legislative framework



We use cookies in order to ensure that you can get the best browsing experience possible on the Council website. Certain cookies are used to obtain aggregated statistics about website visits to help us constantly improve the site and better serve your needs. Other cookies are used to boost performance and guarantee security of the website.

With your permission, we will use AT internet cookies to produce aggregated, anonymous data about our visitors' browsing and behaviour on our website. We will use this data to improve your experience on our website.

To get more information about these cookies, how and why we use them and how you can change your settings, check our [cookies policy page](#).

[Read more](#) [I accept cookies](#) [I refuse cookies](#)

Security and defence: EU to move forward on common security and defence



The Council today approved conclusions affirming its determination to move forward on implementing the EU's security and defence agenda, enabling the EU to take more responsibility for its own security.

In line with its Strategic Agenda 2019-2024, the Council calls for the EU to pursue a **more strategic course of action** and to increase its **capacity to act autonomously**. The EU should promote its interests and values and be able to tackle global security threats and challenges.

Against this background, an ambitious and actionable **Strategic Compass** will enhance and guide the implementation of the level of ambition on security and defence. The Council therefore calls on the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to **present a first draft of the Strategic Compass** for discussion at the Council **meeting in November 2021**.

The Council calls for further work to enhance the EU's capacity to undertake

CSDP missions and operations across the whole spectrum of different crisis management tasks. The Council also encourages further reflection on a **timely and efficient decision-making process**, possibly using Article 44 of the TEU. More work should be done on ways to incentivise member states to improve force generation and provide sufficient means and personnel for CSDP missions and operations.

The conclusions underline the importance of **strengthening EU defence initiatives**, like Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO), the European Defence Industrial Development Programme (EDIDP), and other initiatives such as the Action Plan on synergies between civil, defence and space industries, while ensuring **coherence** in the use of the various tools.

The need to further strengthen the EU's resilience and ability to counter **hybrid threats** is also strongly emphasised.

A strong EU in terms of security and defence will bring tangible benefits to transatlantic and global cooperation. The Council reaffirms the centrality of international **partnerships with** multilateral organisations such as **the UN** and **NATO**, in line with the statement of the members of the European Council of 26 February 2021.

[Visit the meeting page](#)

Trade of dual-use items: new EU rules adopted

The EU has upgraded its legislation on the export controls applicable to sensitive dual-use goods and technologies such as cyber-surveillance tools.

Today the Council adopted a regulation modernising the EU system for the **control of exports, brokering, technical assistance, transit and transfer of dual-use items**. These are goods, software and technology that can be used for both civilian and military applications.



We welcome the new EU rules on exports of dual-use items that give human rights the prominence they deserve. Strong controls will allow us to prevent human rights violations and abuses, while keeping up with the latest technological developments.

João Leão, Portuguese Minister of Finance and President of the Council

The new regulation strengthens controls on a wider range of emerging dual-use technologies, and the coordination between member states and the Commission in support of the effective enforcement of controls throughout the EU. By introducing due diligence obligations for producers, the new rules also give companies an important role in addressing the risks to international security sometimes posed by dual-use items.

Finally, the dual-use regulation paves the way for better coordination between the EU and partner countries in enhancing international security through more convergent approaches to export controls at global level.

Next steps

After the European Parliament and the Council sign the adopted regulation, it will be published in the EU Official Journal and enter into force 90 days later.

[Visit the meeting page](#)