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Opinion of the European Committee of the Regions – Union Civil Protection Mechanism

(C/2026/5146)

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Reference document: Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Union Civil Protection Mechanism and Union support for health emergency preparedness and response, and repealing Decision No 1313/2013/EU (Union Civil Protection Mechanism)

COM(2025) 548 final

I. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AMENDMENTS

Amendment 1

Recital 6

Text proposed by the European Commission	CoR amendment
The protection to be ensured under the Union Mechanism should cover people, the environment and property, including housing, critical infrastructure, such as energy and transport or space infrastructure, and cultural heritage, against all kinds of natural and human-induced disasters. Reference to natural and human-induced disasters should be understood as referring to the consequences of all natural and human-induced hazards. This should include acts of terrorism, technological, ***radiological*** or environmental disasters, climate change, marine and inland water pollution, water supply disruptions and water resilience, hydrogeological instability, health emergencies, and other undefined hybrid disasters or emergencies, occurring inside or outside the Union. Those disasters require cross-sectoral coordination in situations where other Union crisis management mechanisms are also applied.	The protection to be ensured under the Union Mechanism should cover people, the environment and property, including ***but not limited to*** housing, critical infrastructure, such as energy and transport or ***communications and*** space infrastructure, and cultural heritage, against all kinds of natural and human-induced disasters. Reference to natural and human-induced disasters should be understood as referring to the consequences of all natural and human-induced hazards. This should include acts of terrorism ***and sabotage,*** technological, ***Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear threats (CBRN)*** or environmental disasters, climate change, marine and inland water pollution, water supply disruptions and water resilience, hydrogeological instability, ***disruptions of critical infrastructure, disruptions of essential services and supply chains,*** health emergencies***, cross-border threats to health***, and other undefined hybrid disasters or emergencies, occurring inside or outside the Union. Those disasters require cross-sectoral coordination in situations where other Union crisis management mechanisms are also applied.

Amendment 2

Recital 9

Text proposed by the European Commission	CoR amendment
(9) [...] A stronger collective operational response at Union level, together with support for the individual capabilities of Member States through capacity-building	(9) [...] A stronger collective operational response at Union level, together with support for the individual capabilities of Member States***, including at local and***

Text proposed by the European Commission	CoR amendment
measures, is essential to ensure the skills, resources and knowledge needed to manage risks, reduce vulnerabilities and enhance resilience to future risks and threats.	***regional level,*** through capacity-building measures, is essential to ensure the skills, resources and knowledge needed to manage risks, reduce vulnerabilities and enhance resilience to future risks and threats ***as well as anticipating recovery from such disasters and crises. The rising frequency of climate-related disasters requires embedding climate adaptation into the Union Civil Protection Mechanism, guided by climate science and vulnerability assessments. Social vulnerability mapping should be mandatory to ensure effective support for at-risk groups in all phases of prevention, response, and recovery.***

Reason

The inclusion of regional and local level as the first level of response is essential and indicating climate issues as important ongoing source of risks in civil safety should be mentioned.

Amendment 3

Recital 15

Text proposed by the European Commission	CoR amendment
(15) Capacity building programmes as well as uptake and sharing of research and innovation are essential aspects of cooperation in the field of civil protection. To strengthen the collective capacity to prevent, prepare for and respond to disasters, to support knowledge sharing within the civil protection community and application of research in all phases of disaster risk management, and to enhance the collaboration and knowledge exchange between civil protection and disaster risk management actors, civil society organisations and research community, it is necessary to maintain and further reinforce the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network (the 'Knowledge Network') established by Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/1956[1]. [...]	(15) Capacity building programmes as well as uptake and sharing of research and innovation are essential aspects of cooperation in the field of civil protection. To strengthen the collective capacity to prevent, prepare for and respond to ***and recover from*** disasters, to support knowledge sharing within the civil protection community and application of research in all phases of disaster risk management ***and across all levels of government***, and to enhance the collaboration and knowledge exchange between civil protection and disaster risk management actors, civil society organisations and research community, it is necessary to maintain and further reinforce the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network (the 'Knowledge Network') established by Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/1956[1]. [...]
[1] Regulation (EU) 2021/836 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 amending Decision No 1313/2013/EU on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism (OJ L 185, 26.5.2021, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/836/oj).	[1] Regulation (EU) 2021/836 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 amending Decision No 1313/2013/EU on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism (OJ L 185, 26.5.2021, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/836/oj).

Reason

Important emphasis on recovery.

Amendment 4

Recital 20

Text proposed by the European Commission	CoR amendment
Disaster risk prevention and preparedness considerations should be systematically integrated into the relevant policies, programmes, and governance processes. The Union Mechanism should therefore advance the principle of preparedness by design, as set out in the Strategy, including by contributing to the development and dissemination of risk knowledge and operational experience to support risk-aware planning and decisions that enhance preparedness across sectors.	Disaster risk prevention and preparedness considerations should be systematically integrated into the relevant policies, programmes, and governance processes. The Union Mechanism should therefore advance the principle of preparedness by design, as set out in the Strategy, including by contributing to the development and dissemination of risk knowledge and operational experience to support risk-aware planning and decisions that enhance preparedness across sectors***, enhancing systemic resilience and addressing vulnerabilities through sustainable management of natural and environmental systems, including ecosystem- and nature-based solutions***.

Amendment 5

Article 2(1)

Text proposed by the European Commission	CoR amendment
This Regulation shall aim to ensure the protection of people, environment and property, cultural heritage***,*** against all kinds of natural and human-induced disasters, ***including*** serious cross-border threats to health.	This Regulation shall aim to ensure the ***prevention of loss of human life and the*** protection of people, environment and property, cultural heritage***, critical infrastructure and essential services and endogenous potential*** against all kinds of natural and human-induced disasters, ***risks and threats, as well as health emergencies and*** serious cross-border threats to health.

Reason

Strengthening the essence of protecting human life and expanding the scope of protection, also to critical infrastructure and essential services.

Amendment 6

Article 2(7)

Text proposed by the European Commission	CoR amendment
Where applying the prevention, preparedness and response measures under this Regulation, the special needs of isolated, outermost and other regions or islands of the Union in terms of prevention, preparedness and response.	Where applying the prevention, preparedness and response measures under this Regulation, the special needs of isolated, outermost and other regions or islands of the Union***, including regions bordering or in the proximity of war,*** in terms of prevention, preparedness and response.

Reason

The special needs, including higher probability of risks, of regions bordering and in proximity to war should be recognised and integrated into the future multiannual financial framework (MFF) and cohesion policy.

Amendment 7

Article 4(1)

Text proposed by the European Commission	CoR amendment
The general objective of this Regulation shall be to strengthen cooperation between the Union and the Member States to prevent, prepare for and respond to all kinds of natural and human-induced disasters with a view to consequence management, and serious cross-border threats to health, that may occur inside or outside the Union, as well as situations where they impact several sectors simultaneously.	The general objective of this Regulation shall be to strengthen cooperation between the Union and the Member States***, local and regional authorities, especially in cross-border situations, and all relevant actors including civil society and NGOs,*** to prevent, prepare for and respond to all kinds of natural and human-induced disasters with a view to consequence management, and serious cross-border threats to health, that may occur inside or outside the Union, as well as situations where they impact several sectors simultaneously.

Reason

Local and regional authorities (LRAs) have an indispensable role in prevention, preparedness and response measures, especially in cross-border contexts.

Amendment 8

Article 4(2)

Text proposed by the European Commission	CoR amendment
The general objective referred to in paragraph 1 shall be pursued through the following specific objectives:	The general objective referred to in paragraph 1 shall be pursued through the following specific objectives:
(a) strengthen the understanding and anticipation of disaster risks and threats, including those linked to climate change and public health, and work proactively to prevent or mitigate their potential impacts; ***foster prevention and preparedness;*** and enhance collaboration between civil protection, health and other relevant authorities;	(a) strengthen the understanding and anticipation of disaster risks and threats, including those linked to climate change and public health, and work proactively to prevent***, prepare for*** or mitigate their potential impacts; and enhance collaboration between civil protection, health and other relevant authorities; ***ensure disaster risk assessments consistently integrate climate adaptation projections, social vulnerability indicators, and comprehensive analyses of past impacts across population groups;***
(b) facilitate, notably through the Knowledge Network, capacity building at Union and Member State level, in particular by fostering and increasing the uptake and use of research and innovation results in disaster and crisis, by providing and conducting capacity building programmes such as training and exercises, peer reviews, deployment of experts and EUCP Teams that provide advice on prevention and preparedness measures, as well as other expertise, as well as technical and financial assistance to support strategies, plans and investments, foster prevention, preparedness and resilience;	(b) facilitate, notably through the Knowledge Network, capacity building at Union and Member State***, as well as regional and local*** level, in particular by fostering and increasing the uptake and use of research and innovation results in disaster and crisis, by providing and conducting capacity building programmes such as training and exercises, peer reviews, deployment of experts and EUCP Teams that provide advice on prevention and preparedness measures, as well as other expertise, as well as technical and financial assistance to support strategies, plans and investments, foster prevention, preparedness and resilience;

Text proposed by the European Commission	CoR amendment
(c) enhance preparedness at Member State and Union level, including all levels of society, to respond to disasters, in particular (i) with the support of the ERCC and the Hub, and their communication and information structures for coordination and situational awareness among authorities of the Member States and existing EU crisis management structures, (ii) by supporting the development and maintenance of effective early warning systems to detect and communicate imminent threats of disasters, allowing for timely action to be taken to prevent or mitigate impacts, (iii) by developing and maintaining response capacities, strengthening their interoperability and considering their potential dual use in case of crisis, (iv) by promoting the integration of disaster risk prevention and preparedness considerations into policies and financial frameworks at national and Union level, with the aim of strengthening long-term resilience, (v) by facilitating preparedness and resilience among all actors and stakeholders, including all levels of government, civil and military authorities, civil society, the private sector, and the provision of vital societal functions with a view to strengthening overall population preparedness and societal resilience;	(c) enhance preparedness at ***local, regional,*** Member State and Union level, including all levels of society, to respond to disasters, in particular (i) with the support of the ERCC and the Hub, and their communication and information structures for coordination and situational awareness among authorities of the Member States and existing EU crisis management structures, (ii) by supporting the development and maintenance of effective early warning systems to detect and communicate imminent threats of disasters, allowing for timely action to be taken ***at an appropriate territorial level*** to prevent or mitigate impacts, (iii) by developing and maintaining response capacities, strengthening their interoperability and considering their potential dual use in case of crisis, (iv) by promoting the integration of disaster risk prevention and preparedness considerations into policies and financial frameworks at national and Union level, with the aim of strengthening ***local, regional, national and EU*** long-term resilience, (v) by facilitating preparedness and resilience among all actors and stakeholders, including all levels of government, civil and military authorities, civil society, the private sector, ***the third sector and citizens***, and the provision of vital societal functions with a view to strengthening overall population preparedness and societal resilience;
[...]	[...]
(f) to enhance Member States' and Union efforts in health emergency preparedness and response by:	(f) to enhance Member States' and Union efforts in health emergency preparedness and response by:
(i) strengthening the capability for prevention, preparedness and rapid response to serious cross-border threats to health, in particular by supporting health security policies and solutions, improving data collection, early warning and surveillance systems, and	(i) strengthening the capability for prevention, preparedness and rapid response to serious cross-border threats to health, in particular by supporting health security policies and solutions, improving data collection, early warning and surveillance systems, and
(ii) improving the supply of medical countermeasures by enhancing their availability and accessibility ***of medical countermeasures***, in particular through reservation capacities, procurement, stockpiling and deployment, as well as	(ii) improving the supply of medical countermeasures by enhancing their availability and accessibility, in particular through reservation capacities, procurement, stockpiling and deployment, as well as
(iii) ***coordination*** actions and strengthening capacity building.	(iii) ***coordinating*** actions and strengthening capacity building.

Reason

Many disasters are initially managed by local and regional authorities as well as local or regional professional third-sector entities and emergency services. Explicit mention of the local and regional levels clarifies their role and fosters better integration within the UCPM framework. Information about collecting data for risk assessments as an important factor to prevent the impact on various groups of people could be added.

The other suggested amendments are for editing purposes.

Amendment 9

Article 5

Text proposed by the European Commission	CoR amendment
EU civil-military preparedness and cooperation The Commission shall work jointly with the High Representative to: (a) contribute to the development of measures to enhance civil-military preparedness and coordination of response within the Union, in consultation with the Member States; (b) develop arrangements to clarify roles and responsibilities and lay down priorities for preparing and responding to disasters and crises within the Union as well as Union-wide scenarios to form the basis of Union- level training and exercises, best practices, including standard operating procedures, and mechanisms for effective cooperation and communication in crisis scenarios.	EU civil-military preparedness and cooperation The Commission shall work jointly with the High Representative to: (a) contribute to the development of measures to enhance civil-military preparedness and coordination of response within the Union, in consultation with the Member States, ***with the objective of enhancing the protection, safety and resilience of the population and ensuring that possible military support remains proportionate and complementary to civilian-led crisis response,*** (b) develop arrangements to clarify roles and responsibilities and lay down priorities for preparing and responding to disasters and crises within the Union as well as Union-wide scenarios to form the basis of Union- level training and exercises, best practices, including standard operating procedures, and mechanisms for effective cooperation and communication in crisis scenarios***, (c) ensure that civil-military cooperation within the UCPM remains subject to democratic oversight and the primacy of civilian command if possible***.

Reason

It is essential to safeguard democratic oversight, accountability, and civilian primacy to ensure Union crisis response upholds fundamental rights and public trust.

Amendment 10

Article 13

Text proposed by the European Commission	CoR amendment
The Commission, in cooperation with Member States, shall further develop Union disaster resilience goals in the field of civil protection, and adopt recommendations to define them as a common baseline to support prevention and preparedness actions. Those goals shall be based on current and forward-looking scenarios, including on space data from Copernicus, and those concerned with the impacts of climate change on disaster risks, data on past events and cross-sectoral impact analysis, with particular attention given to vulnerable groups. When developing Union disaster resilience goals, the Commission shall take into account recurrent disasters that hit Member States and suggest that Member States take specific measures, including any measures to be implemented with the use of Union funds, to strengthen resilience to such disasters.	The Commission, in cooperation with Member States, shall further develop Union disaster resilience goals in the field of civil protection, and adopt recommendations to define them as a common baseline to support prevention and preparedness actions***, also taking due account of experience and best practices at local and regional level***. Those goals shall be based on current and forward-looking scenarios, including on space data from Copernicus, and those concerned with the impacts of climate change on disaster risks, data on past events and cross-sectoral impact analysis, with particular attention given to vulnerable groups. When developing Union disaster resilience goals, the Commission shall take into account recurrent disasters that hit Member States and suggest that Member States take specific measures, including any measures to be implemented with the use of Union funds, to strengthen resilience to such disasters. ***Union disaster resilience goals shall be consistent with national plans and the objectives of the European Climate Law, whilst setting specific***

Text proposed by the European Commission	CoR amendment
	resilience benchmarks for communities most exposed to climate-related hazards. Subsidiarity and territorial diversity should always be respected, allowing adaptation to regional and local realities.

Reason

The Union disaster resilience goals must remain flexible to consider regional and local experience and reflect territorial diversity.

Amendment 11

Article 14

Text proposed by the European Commission	CoR amendment
In order to promote an effective and coherent approach to prevention and preparedness within the Union Mechanism, Member States shall:	In order to promote an effective and coherent approach to prevention and preparedness within the Union Mechanism, Member States shall:
(a) further develop disaster risk assessments at national ***or*** appropriate sub-national level and ensure coordination and consistency with other relevant risk assessment processes as well as public availability of their non-sensitive results to support population risk awareness and preparedness;	(a) further develop disaster risk assessments at national ***and*** appropriate sub-national level and ensure coordination and consistency with other relevant risk assessment processes as well as public availability of their non-sensitive results to support population risk awareness and preparedness***. A multilevel and cross-border governance approach shall be developed, ensuring formal consultation with local and regional authorities so that territorial realities are reflected***;
(b) further develop the assessment of disaster risk management capability at national ***or*** appropriate sub-national level;	(b) further develop the assessment of disaster risk management capability at national ***and*** appropriate sub-national level;
(c) further develop and refine disaster risk management planning at national ***or*** appropriate subnational level, including as regards cross-border collaboration and risks with the potential for transboundary effects, taking into account the Union disaster resilience goals and ensure coordination and consistency with other relevant planning processes.	(c) further develop and refine disaster risk management planning at national ***and*** appropriate subnational level, including as regards cross-border collaboration and risks with the potential for transboundary effects, taking into account the Union disaster resilience goals and ensure coordination and consistency with other relevant planning processes.
(d) in line with international commitments, improve the collection and dissemination of disaster loss data at national ***or*** appropriate sub-national level, including by better utilising space data.	(d) in line with international commitments, improve the collection and dissemination of disaster loss data at national ***and*** appropriate sub-national level, including by better utilising space data.

Reason

Emphasising the importance of cross-border and multilevel cooperation in the broader context of cooperation, which is key to combating or preventing crises and their causes, as well as to reconstruction processes.

Amendment 12

Article 15

Text proposed by the European Commission	CoR amendment
To foster the development of a shared understanding of disaster risks and threats at Union level, identify common needs in disaster risk management capability building, support the implementation of the Union disaster resilience goals, and facilitate the exchange of good practices, the Member States, without prejudice to national rules and procedures, shall make available to the Commission a summary in accordance with the guidelines referred to in Article 16(2), by 31 December 2028 and at least once every 5 years thereafter:	To foster the development of a shared understanding of disaster risks and threats at Union level, identify common needs in disaster risk management capability building, support the implementation of the Union disaster resilience goals, and facilitate the exchange of good practices, the Member States, without prejudice to national rules and procedures, shall make available to the Commission a summary in accordance with the guidelines referred to in Article 16(2), by 31 December 2028 and at least once every 5 years thereafter:
(a) risk assessments at national ***or*** appropriate sub-national level, including assessment of risks or disasters with the potential for transboundary effects;	(a) risk assessments at national ***and*** appropriate sub-national level ***depending on geographical variations and territorial specificities within Member States***, including assessment of risks or disasters with the potential for transboundary effects;
(b) assessment of disaster risk management capabilities and response capacities at national ***or*** appropriate sub-national level;	(b) assessment of disaster risk management capabilities and response capacities at national ***and*** appropriate sub-national level;
(c) activities supporting the implementation of the Union disaster resilience goals;	(c) activities supporting the implementation of the Union disaster resilience goals;
(d) investment needs in disaster risk management that require, or could benefit from, support under the relevant Union instruments.	(d) investment needs in disaster risk management that require, or could benefit from, support under the relevant Union instruments.

Reason

The risk assessments also need to involve the regional level to consider territorial specificities.

Amendment 13

Article 18(6)(a)

Text proposed by the European Commission	CoR amendment
The Commission, through the Network, shall in particular:	The Commission, through the Network, shall in particular:
(a) strengthen the collective capacity to prevent, prepare and respond effectively to disasters and to support knowledge sharing and learning, as well as to promote investment in disaster risk management. This includes:	(a) strengthen the collective capacity to prevent, prepare and respond effectively to disasters and to support knowledge sharing and learning, as well as to promote investment in disaster risk management. This includes:
(i) the set-up and management of financial assistance programmes in order to enhance risk management and knowledge sharing and to encourage the development of investments and plans for prevention and preparedness; [...]	(i) the set-up and management of financial assistance programmes in order to enhance risk management and knowledge sharing and to encourage the development of investments and plans for prevention and preparedness***, with dedicated, earmarked funding for programmes that help build the capacity of local and regional authorities and their staff***;

Text proposed by the European Commission	CoR amendment
	(ii) support the development of training programmes and professional standards for civil protection personnel and volunteers, including on the psychosocial dimensions of disaster response; iii) recognise the essential contribution of volunteers in the civil protection ecosystem and call on Member States to ensure that volunteer organisations are adequately supported, insured and recognised in national civil protection frameworks; [...]

Reason

Strengthening the essence of financing from dedicated funds, including initiatives at local and regional level and recognising the essential contribution of volunteers.

Amendment 14

Article 19

Text proposed by the European Commission	CoR amendment
1. Member States shall, on a voluntary basis, develop response capacities in accordance with Articles 20 and 21.	1. Member States***, in collaboration with their local and regional authorities and other legal specialised entities,*** shall, on a voluntary basis, develop response capacities in accordance with Articles 20 and 21.
2. The Commission shall support Member States in raising disaster risk awareness of the population. [...]	2. The Commission shall support Member States in raising ***the*** disaster risk awareness ***and increasing the societal preparedness*** of the population ***and in countering misinformation and disinformation***.
	3. ***Special attention shall be given to reaching persons in vulnerable situations, including people in poverty, older persons, persons with disabilities. The Commission shall support Member States and local and regional authorities in developing community-based preparedness programmes that build on the knowledge, networks and trust of civil society organisations and community leaders***. [...]

Reason

Emphasising the importance of cooperation with specialised units at local or regional level that can effectively support activities due to their knowledge of local aspects.

Emphasising the importance of building social awareness in relation to building social resilience, tackling disinformation and counteracting misinformation. Special attention shall be given to reaching persons in vulnerable situations.

Amendment 15

Article 21(6)

Text proposed by the European Commission	CoR amendment
rescEU capacities shall be hosted by the Member States or the Commission. The Commission and the Member States shall, where appropriate, ensure an adequate geographical distribution of rescEU capacities.	rescEU capacities shall be hosted by the Member States or the Commission. The Commission and the Member States shall, where appropriate, ensure an adequate geographical distribution of rescEU capacities***, taking into account strategic importance, regional diversification needs, specific conditions, accessibility and proximity to specific risks***;

Reason

Emphasising regional diversity and relating it to strategy as a key element.

Amendment 16

Article 23(1)(new point (h))

Text proposed by the European Commission	CoR amendment
	(h) ensure strong collaboration between Member States and local and regional authorities in the design, operation and maintenance of early warning systems, with clear distribution of competences and defined timelines for implementation to guarantee timely alerts and effective coordination.

Reason

The design, operation and maintenance of early warning systems must involve LRAs to ensure territorial specificities and conditions are taken into account.

Amendment 17

Article 23(1)(new point (i))

Text proposed by the European Commission	CoR amendment
	(i) strengthen research into disaster prevention and the development of tools to counteract causes, mitigate effects and reduce the impact of disasters and cataclysms. Research should stimulate the exchange of experiences and the creation of strong European results based on scientific foundations.

Reason

Strengthening the idea related to the essence of scientific development and implementation that can support processes of prevention, protection, counteraction, and reduction of impact.

Amendment 18

Article 23(1)(new point (j))

Text proposed by the European Commission	CoR amendment
	(j) ensure trust based, clear and timely communication to the public on disaster risks and response measures, including harmonised approaches to early warning systems across Member States.

II. **POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS**

THE EUROPEAN COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS (CoR)

1. welcomes the timely revision of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) in the worsening risk and threat landscape driven by natural and human-induced crises, climate change and environmental degradation, and the current geopolitical context, which has clearly demonstrated the need to strengthen Europe's overall preparedness, prevention and response capabilities in an all-hazard, whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, and cooperation in the field of civil protection at Union level specifically;

2. recognises that civil protection policies are primarily the responsibility of the Member States, but reiterates that prevention, societal and health preparedness strategies, and response and relief activities are very often carried out by local actors, cities and municipalities, or regions;

3. stresses that the development of new Union crisis coordination structures should preserve flexibility for Member States and local and regional authorities to respond according to their specific risk profiles;

4. calls on the Member States to fully involve their regions in the development, implementation and governance of disaster prevention, preparedness and response strategies, including health preparedness strategies and cross-border preparedness plans, and provide them with adequate resources in line with the principle of subsidiarity and a multilevel governance approach; calls for this involvement to include formal partnership mechanisms with local and regional authorities and relevant volunteer-based local action groups;

5. calls on the Member States to involve and support NGOs and local civil society formations, volunteer-based local action groups and community safety organisations, including volunteer firefighters, rescue services and community emergency units in the development and support of disaster prevention, preparedness and response strategies;

6. recognises that climate change and environmental degradation are increasing the frequency and intensity of natural disasters; stresses the need for a comprehensive and cross-cutting approach to disaster prevention and preparedness, including the role of nature-based solutions and ecosystem in creation of dual use infrastructure;

7. welcomes the Commission's particular attention on disaster prevention, preparedness and response strategies to explicitly address the needs of vulnerable and marginalised groups; emphasises the importance of maintaining equal access to assistance and support systems, with a particular focus on social resilience; stresses that exposure to disaster risks is not neutral to socio-economic conditions: low-income communities, informal settlements, people with disabilities, older persons and marginalised groups;

On funding

8. welcomes and supports the substantial increase in the indicative financial envelope under the current proposal; finds, however, that the earmarked EUR 10,7 bn spread over seven years and shared with health emergency preparedness and response might not be sufficient in light of the scale and increasing frequency of climate-related, health, resources, social and security crises; stresses that local and regional authorities, as first responders in most crises, must be adequately supported through predictable, accessible and ring-fenced funding, including dedicated support for volunteer-based local action groups and community emergency organisations; calls, in this regard, for civil protection and disaster resilience objectives to be explicitly mainstreamed into the post-2027 cohesion policy framework; stresses that direct access mechanisms for local and regional authorities should be introduced;

9. emphasises that it is imperative to involve local and regional authorities in preparing, implementing and evaluating the national regional partnership plans to ensure a multilevel governance approach in accordance with the subsidiarity principle;

10. emphasises that adequate funding must be ensured for the implementation of the mechanism, but it is also crucial to ensure that these funds effectively reach the local level;

11. repeats its proposal that a bigger emergency fund and an increased general flexibility reserve package be built into the Multiannual Financial Framework Regulation from the outset to respond to unforeseen shocks and emerging challenges ([1]);

12. stresses the importance of ensuring that the public have clear and accessible access to information on the aid and support mechanisms available in the aftermath of a disaster, including financial aid, administrative procedures and assistance services. Special attention should be paid to people in vulnerable situations and to areas with limited connectivity or access to public services;

On the UCPM, rescEU and the Union disaster resilience goals

13. reiterates the need to strengthen the UCPM with faster mobilisation of local and regional modules, streamlined accreditation and better coordination with local, regional and national emergency services, including volunteer firefighters, community safety organisations, rescue services and other volunteer-based local action groups;

14. recognises dual-use infrastructure as an element in the system of preparedness and response to and recovery from a natural or man-made disaster, adversity or armed aggression, also keeping in mind defence considerations while highlighting that such infrastructure should primarily support effective civil protection and crisis response, contributing to the resilience of communities and critical infrastructure; further emphasises that civil-military cooperation can enhance overall crisis response;

15. stresses the key role of volunteers and NGOs in emergencies and underlines the importance of a framework for structured interaction and effective coordination between LRAs, emergency services, and civil society in maximising the value of their contribution involving them as formal strategic partners in resilience building, with influence, resources and long-term support; calls on Member States to establish partnership mechanisms with volunteer-based local action groups, including consultation, training, exercises and access to relevant funding;

([1]) The CoR resolution in view of the post-2027 multiannual financial framework (MFF) (OJ C, C/2025/3473, 16.7.2025, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/C/2025/3473/oj), adopted in May 2025.

16. emphasises the growing importance of psychosocial support and mental health services as an integral component of disaster response and post-disaster recovery; calls on the Commission and Member States to include mental health preparedness in national civil protection strategies, invest in training first responders in psychological first aid; calls for this dimension to be formally integrated into the UCPM framework and into the Knowledge Network's training and capacity-building programmes;

17. calls on the Member States to increase the emphasis on data collection and aggregation, and scientific and research cooperation in the field of crisis response, ensuring that disaster risk assessments integrate the latest climate science, biodiversity considerations and forward-looking projections;

18. emphasises the need for cooperation with the Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) and for preparedness to communicate, support and develop countermeasures;

19. highlights that rescEU has proven its worth and supports the Commission's proposal to continue to increase and expand its strategic reserves;

20. suggests focusing on expanding the range of emergency response items for EU-level stockpiling and developing multi-purpose and multi-use capacities, such as electricity, telecommunications, transport and logistics but also specialised expertise for specific hazards and especially chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) countermeasures, so as to be able to provide support in a variety of situations, including defence considerations; acknowledges that EU stockpiling should be coordinated at EU level, while ensuring that decisions are informed by regional needs, connected to regional partners, and operationalised through regional implementation mechanisms ([2]);

21. suggests focusing on developing own diversified and resilient supply chains, including strengthening EU production capacity resources and capability to manufacture in Member States crucial items needed to prevent, avoid, and take countermeasures against, crises and disasters, while promoting its own economic strength and ensuring a solidarity-based approach to the distribution of resources;

22. emphasises that, in practice, agricultural activity and livestock farming are essential components in maintaining basic services and supply. They should therefore be considered in civil protection and resilience planning, complementing the EU's security and defence policies; stresses the need to ensure a minimum level of agricultural self-sufficiency, including in areas where profitability is limited, by maintaining farms and production infrastructure where this is necessary to ensure continuity of supply, local and regional stability and the ability to respond to crisis situations;

23. supports the further development of Union disaster resilience goals and the requirement for Member States to submit to the Commission, at least every three years, summaries of risk assessments, response capacities and related activities prepared in cooperation with local and regional authorities;

24. notes that the proposal does not mandate a multilevel governance approach for these plans, which risks overlooking local and regional vulnerabilities and thus creating gaps in preparedness and resilience;

25. notes the creation of the Crisis Coordination Hub as support for resilience and expects it to deliver added value in practice;

([2]) Opinion of the European Committee of the Regions – EU stockpiling strategy: Boosting the EU's material preparedness for crises (OJ C, C/2026/3459, 24.7.2026, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/C/2026/3459/oj).

On health emergency preparedness and response

26. calls on the Commission to fully account for the fact that the management of health systems is decentralised to a greater or lesser extent in 19 out of 27 Member States; ensure that the UCPM's health emergency preparedness and response framework meaningfully involves regional and local health authorities, supports their capacity-building through dedicated funding, and remains aligned with existing decentralised governance structures;

27. emphasises that, in terms of medical countermeasures, the EU is still largely dependent on third countries;

28. reiterates its strong warning to the Commission and the Council about the insufficient efforts to enhance Europe's own production of the products and medicines we need to deal with health crises, and about the practices of public buyers;

29. underlines the strategic importance of ensuring resilient supply chains, sufficient connectivity and continued access to essential goods in remote, island and outermost regions, especially during crises or disasters; stresses, in particular, the need to strengthen the security of the medical, pharmaceutical, food, energy and logistics supply, as well as maritime, air and digital connectivity, to ensure a swift response and the continuity of essential services.

Brussels, 2 July 2026.

The President
of the European Committee of the Regions
Kata TÜTTŐ