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Answer given by Mr Navracsics
on behalf of the European Commission
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Hydrogeological risk, which mainly includes floods¹ and landslides, is indeed a major hazard. There are no specific programmes to support the establishment of scientific bodies governed by public law to work on the development of scientific methods to predict, prevent and control hydrogeological risks in cohesive (clay) soils, nor EU bodies which intervene in case of hydrological risks.

However, the Commission's Joint Research Centre carries out research and develops tools which support Member States in emergency management, including for hydrogeological risks. The Commission's Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) coordinates the delivery of assistance to stricken countries when a disaster happens. Furthermore, the Copernicus Emergency Management Service provides Member States with the possibility to request the mapping of landslides once these have occurred or to provide a landslide risk assessment for specific areas. Other EU initiatives financed by the Commission exist, such as the development of a landslide susceptibility map of the EU and neighbouring countries as part of the EU Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection, the SAFELAND project on landslide risks in Europe or ARISTOTLE consortium composed of 15 scientific institutes from 13 European countries. This initiative supports the ERCC with multi-hazard scientific analyses in case of ongoing emergencies.

The Commission favours a multi-risk approach and recommends that initiatives aimed at enhancing scientific knowledge in a specific field join the existing, recognised EU initiatives, such as the Disaster Risk Management Knowledge Centre.

¹ The European Commission published on 26 February 2019 its report to the European Parliament and the Council on the assessment of the Member States' first ever Flood Risk Management Plans under the Floods Directive (2007/60/EC, OJ L 288, 6.11.2007, p. 27–34), http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/flood_risk/implementation_reports.htm