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Committee on Regional Development

2011/2023(INI)

30.5.2011

AMENDMENTS

1 - 41

Draft opinion
Georgios Stavrakakis
(PE464.790v01-00)

Towards a stronger European disaster response: the role of civil protection and humanitarian assistance
(2011/2023(INI))

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United in diversity

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Amendment 1
Zigmantas Balčytis

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. Invites the Commission, when setting up the European disaster response, to take into account the Solidarity Clause and its implementation arrangements, ***which are due to be adopted;***

Amendment

1. Invites the Commission, when setting up the European disaster response, to take into account the Solidarity Clause and its implementation arrangements, ***which need to be adopted as a matter of urgency and which will ensure a more effective and coherent response to disasters within and outside the European Union;***

Or. It

Amendment 2
Juozas Imbrasas

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. Invites the Commission, when setting up the European disaster response, to take into account the Solidarity Clause and its implementation arrangements, which are due to be adopted;

Amendment

1. Invites the Commission, when setting up the European disaster response, to take into account the Solidarity Clause and its implementation arrangements, which are due to be adopted; ***considers that there is room to improve the overall effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and visibility of the assistance provided; considers that an integrated all-hazards approach linking disaster prevention (including mitigation and risk reduction), preparedness, response and recovery is the most effective strategy for dealing with disasters;***

Or. It

Amendment 3
Franz Obermayr

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. Invites the Commission, when setting up the European disaster response, to take into account the Solidarity Clause and its implementation arrangements, which are due to be adopted;

Amendment

1. Invites the Commission, when setting up the European disaster response, to take into account the Solidarity Clause and its implementation arrangements, which are due to be adopted; ***nevertheless opposes the creation of a permanent EU Civil Protection Force; stresses, instead, the principle of helping others to help themselves, and the necessary exchange of best practice in areas such as developing volunteer fire brigade structures similar to those that have been operating successfully for hundreds of years in the German-speaking countries in particular;***

Or. de

Amendment 4
Zigmantas Balčytis

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 – subparagraph 1 (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

Points out that the current ad hoc coordination arrangements cannot guarantee appropriate and sufficient assistance in the event of disasters; considers that a shift is needed to a system of forward planning, entailing the preparation of reference scenarios for the main types of disaster within and outside the EU, and that available and necessary resources need to be identified and their intended use determined;

Amendment 5
Elie Hoarau

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1a. Asks the Commission, in setting out the major principles for the establishment of a rapid disaster mobilisation capacity, to take up the ideas outlined in its report entitled 'For a European civil protection force', particularly in relation to natural disasters such as major fires, floods, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, hurricanes and tidal waves, and also to accidents at sea and protection against oil spills and nuclear risks;

Or. fr

Amendment 6
Alain Cadec, Marie-Thérèse Sanchez-Schmid

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1a. Calls for the establishment of a European civil protection force capable of intervening swiftly and effectively at regional and local level, as part of the effort to achieve territorial cohesion in the EU;

Or. fr

Amendment 7
Elie Hoarau

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1b. Asks the Commission to address the question of establishing bases to pre-position rapid mobilisation capacity in the Outermost Regions and the Overseas Countries and Territories (although not exclusively there), as their geographic location would make for more effective delivery of aid to those countries most often affected not only by natural disasters but also by humanitarian, health and medical emergencies;

Or. fr

Amendment 8
Elie Hoarau

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

Amendment

2. Calls on the Commission to aim towards an additional EU involvement in terms of resources and capacities for disasters taking place *within* the EU and *directly* affecting its citizens ***and, incidentally, EU taxpayers;***

2. Calls on the Commission to aim towards an additional EU involvement in terms of resources and capacities for disasters taking place ***throughout*** the EU, ***including in the Outermost Regions and islands,*** and affecting its citizens;

Or. fr

Amendment 9
Markus Pieper

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

2. Calls on the Commission to aim towards an **additional** EU involvement in terms of resources and **capacities** for disasters taking place within the EU and directly affecting its citizens and, incidentally, EU taxpayers;

Amendment

2. Calls on the Commission to aim towards an EU involvement in terms of resources, **capacities** and **coordination** for disasters taking place within the EU and directly affecting its citizens and, incidentally, EU taxpayers;

Or. en

Amendment 10
Juozas Imbrasas

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

2. Calls on the Commission to aim towards an additional EU involvement in terms of resources and capacities for disasters taking place within the EU and directly affecting its citizens and, incidentally, EU taxpayers;

Amendment

2. Calls on the Commission to aim towards an additional EU involvement in terms of resources and capacities for disasters taking place within the EU and directly affecting its citizens and, incidentally, EU taxpayers, **and to ensure that appropriate and effective assistance reaches the people affected by disasters without delay;**

Or. It

Amendment 11
Elżbieta Katarzyna Łukacijewska, Lambert van Nistelrooij

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2a. Takes the view that the main focus should be on making full use of the financial resources available, as well as on simplifying all the administrative procedures involved in mobilising those

resources;

Or. pl

Amendment 12
Juozas Imbrasas

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. In this context, reiterates its call to use existing EU resources such as the EU Solidarity Fund; urges the Commission to present a new proposal enabling the EU's Solidarity Fund to increase its flexibility and to simplify its administrative rules, while keeping in mind its original objective of allowing 'a rapid decision to be taken to commit specific financial resources and mobilise them as quickly as possible';

Amendment

3. In this context, reiterates its call to use existing EU resources ***and pool the requisite resources for providing emergency humanitarian assistance to disaster victims***, such as the EU Solidarity Fund; urges the Commission to present a new proposal enabling the EU's Solidarity Fund to increase its flexibility and to simplify its administrative rules, while keeping in mind its original objective of allowing 'a rapid decision to be taken to commit specific financial resources and mobilise them as quickly as possible'; ***underlines the need to simplify the functioning of the current European disaster response and to optimise the available resources, in the common interest, whilst encouraging all Member States to contribute and thus guarantee European solidarity; endorses the need for a qualitative shift from the current ad hoc coordination to a predictable and pre-planned system within the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, based on pre-identified assets available for immediate deployment in EU disaster relief operations;***

Or. It

Amendment 13
Elie Hoarau

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Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3a. Emphasises the importance of identifying and mapping the resources available in the Member States and, alongside measures aimed at improving coordination and availability, to use the results of this exercise to identify shortcomings and pinpoint where the EU needs to provide the Member States with practical help to optimise and offset their positioning; considers that a mobile European rapid response unit could be set up to assist the Member States in their response to disasters by providing supplementary resources; considers that this type of mobile European unit, capable of responding rapidly to risks of flooding, major fires and natural disasters (seismic and volcanic threats, hurricanes, tidal waves and storms) as well as accidents at sea, could prove to represent genuine European added value, the symbolic force of which would be all the greater for the fact that it would offer European citizens support in their hour of need;

Or. fr

Amendment 14
Elżbieta Katarzyna Łukacijewska, Lambert van Nistelrooij

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3a. Calls for administrative procedures to be simplified in order to speed up payments from the Solidarity Fund, thereby ensuring that those in need receive payments immediately;

Amendment 15
Georgios Stavrakakis

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3a. Recalls that the Lisbon Treaty has introduced the concept of Territorial cohesion, and extended the subsidiarity principle to the regional and local authorities and that in that respect, any assessment of an European disaster response should take into account the crucial role they play in the disaster management cycle, especially given that in a large number of Member States' legislative powers are organised on a local or regional basis;

Or. en

Amendment 16
Viktor Uspaskich

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3a. Supports the aim of European Commission for a better utilization of the existing resources in order to avoid additional financial and administrative red tape, especially in the context of regional and local administration;

Or. en

Amendment 17
Elie Hoarau

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3b. Explicitly adheres to the principles of solidarity and mutual assistance in the event of disaster, as laid down in numerous multinational and bilateral agreements and given expression in the many cases of practical inter-regional intervention; sees the many facets of interregional cooperation across national borders as evidence of the particularly important contribution made by the regions with regard to rapid assistance for purposes of civil protection; considers that this fruitful cooperation extends, inter alia, to the shared aim of mapping risks and assessing potential threats;

Or. fr

Amendment 18
Viktor Uspaskich

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3b. Underlines that the structured analysis of primary situation and potential defects is the starting point; therefore it is a very important task to identify available resources of Member States and to map them. It is also important to identify defects in resources, to clarify how EU precisely could contribute to Member State's efforts to improve their stand-by;

Or. en

Amendment 19
Franz Obermayr

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. *Supports the Commission's efforts to include* prevention aspects in *its* disaster response *since* the very beginning; points out, therefore, that regional and local authorities play a key role in disaster prevention by implementing, through the Cohesion Policy, risk prevention strategies at territorial level;

Amendment

4. ***Declares itself in favour of*** prevention aspects ***being included*** in disaster response ***from*** the very beginning; points out, therefore, that regional and local authorities play a key role in disaster prevention by implementing, through the Cohesion Policy, risk prevention strategies at territorial level; ***points to the need for timely cross-border cooperation in disaster prevention, particularly in connection with incidents in nuclear power stations or extensions to their life span, and the final storage of nuclear waste in border regions;***

Or. de

Amendment 20
Juozas Imbrasas

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. Supports the Commission's efforts to include prevention aspects in its disaster response since the very beginning; points out, therefore, that regional and local authorities play a key role in disaster prevention by implementing, through the Cohesion Policy, risk prevention strategies at territorial level;

Amendment

4. Supports the Commission's efforts to include prevention aspects in its disaster response since the very beginning; points out, therefore, that regional and local authorities play a key role in disaster prevention by implementing, through the Cohesion Policy, risk prevention strategies at territorial level; ***endorses the need for a qualitative shift from the current ad hoc coordination to a predictable and pre-planned system within the EU Civil***

Protection Mechanism, based on pre-identified assets available for immediate deployment in EU disaster relief operations;

Or. It

Amendment 21
Petru Constantin Luhan

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. Supports the Commission's efforts to include prevention aspects in its disaster response *since* the very beginning; points out, therefore, that regional and local authorities play a key role in disaster prevention by implementing, through the Cohesion Policy, risk prevention strategies at territorial level;

Amendment

4. Supports the Commission's efforts to include prevention aspects in its disaster response *from* the very beginning; points out, therefore, that regional and local authorities play a key role in disaster prevention by implementing, through the Cohesion Policy, risk prevention strategies at territorial level; ***calls on the Commission to identify fresh solutions for providing direct support for regional and local authorities;***

Or. ro

Amendment 22
Seán Kelly

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. Supports the Commission's efforts to include prevention aspects in its disaster response since the very beginning; points out, therefore, that regional and local authorities play a key role in disaster prevention by implementing, through the Cohesion Policy, risk prevention strategies

Amendment

4. Supports the Commission's efforts to include prevention aspects in its disaster response since the very beginning; points out, therefore, that regional and local authorities play a key role in disaster prevention by implementing, through the Cohesion Policy, risk prevention strategies

at territorial level;

at territorial level, *calls on the Commission to play close attention to the implementation of the Floods Directive at regional and local level, which will play a central role in future disaster prevention in flood-prone areas;*

Or. en

Amendment 23

Vasilica Viorica Dăncilă

Draft opinion

Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. Supports the Commission's efforts to include prevention aspects in its disaster response *since* the very beginning; points out, therefore, that regional and local authorities play a key role in disaster prevention by implementing, through the Cohesion Policy, risk prevention strategies at territorial level;

Amendment

4. Supports the Commission's efforts to include prevention aspects in its disaster response *from* the very beginning; points out, therefore, that regional and local authorities play a key role in disaster prevention by implementing, through the Cohesion Policy, risk prevention strategies at territorial level, ***including common intervention applications with teams from different countries;***

Or. ro

Amendment 24

Markus Pieper

Draft opinion

Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. Supports the Commission's efforts to include prevention aspects in its disaster response since the very beginning; points out, therefore, that regional and local authorities play a key role in disaster prevention by implementing, ***through the***

Amendment

4. Supports the Commission's efforts to include prevention aspects in its disaster response since the very beginning; points out, therefore, that regional and local authorities play a key role in disaster prevention by implementing risk

Cohesion Policy, risk prevention strategies at territorial level;

prevention strategies at territorial level;

Or. en

Amendment 25
Michail Tremopoulos

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 – point 1 (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

(1) Calls for investing in the prevention of catastrophes and climate change, in more efficient prevention policies and adequate legislation on conservation of water management and efficient risk management;

Or. en

Amendment 26
Georgios Stavrakakis

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4a. Recalls the extreme vulnerability of certain areas because of their geography, such as coastal, insular and mountainous areas, and calls for a special attention to be given to these areas;

Or. en

Amendment 27
Elżbieta Katarzyna Łukacijewska, Lambert van Nistelrooij

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4a. Takes the view that there needs to be more of a focus on prevention, which is one of the most effective ways of providing protection, reducing the effects and impact of disasters as well as meaning that savings can be made where financial resources are concerned;

Or. pl

Amendment 28
Franz Obermayr

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5

Draft opinion

Amendment

5. Points to the key role of the regional and local authorities, which are in the front line when disasters occur **and whose involvement can raise the EU's visibility among its citizens;**

5. Points to the key role of the regional and local authorities, which are in the front line when disasters occur, **whereby the EU should make a contribution towards increasing the social visibility in particular of voluntary and honorary activities in this area;**

Or. de

Amendment 29
Juozas Imbrasas

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5

Draft opinion

Amendment

5. Points to the key role of the regional and local authorities, which are in the front line when disasters occur and whose

5. Points to the key role of the regional and local authorities, which are in the front line when disasters occur and whose

involvement can raise the EU's visibility among its citizens;

involvement can raise the EU's visibility among its citizens; ***calls for a comprehensive communications strategy, involving all EU institutions and Member States, that will improve the overall visibility of the European actions;***

Or. It

Amendment 30
Georgios Stavrakakis

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5

Draft opinion

5. Points to the key role of the regional and local authorities, which are in the front line when disasters occur and whose involvement can raise the EU's visibility among its citizens;

Amendment

5. Points to the key role of the regional and local authorities, which are in the front line when disasters occur and whose involvement can raise the EU's visibility among its citizens; ***therefore calls the Commission to ensure that the Member States involve their regional and local authorities in the early stages of the set up of the disaster response, building upon the multi-level governance model applied in Cohesion policy, through a win-win communication strategy for all the actors part of the response mechanism;***

Or. en

Amendment 31
Vasilica Viorica Dăncilă

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5

Draft opinion

5. Points to the key role of the regional and local authorities, which are in the front line when disasters occur and whose

Amendment

5. Points to the key role of the regional and local authorities, which are in the front line when disasters occur, ***above all in the case***

involvement can raise the EU's visibility among its citizens;

of cross-border disasters, and whose involvement can raise the EU's visibility among its citizens;

Or. ro

Amendment 32
Maurice Ponga

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 – subparagraph 1 (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

Points out that the Union's Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories offer relay points on all the oceans of the world, and that disaster response could, therefore, be swifter if capacity and resources were pre-positioned there;

Or. fr

Amendment 33
Markus Pieper

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6

Draft opinion

Amendment

6. Underscores the importance of the EU's commitment to supporting the measures taken by Member States, especially when several Member States are affected by a common disaster; therefore advocates making use of the valuable experience acquired in this field through projects implemented in the past under the Community's INTERREG initiative.

6. Underscores the importance of the EU's commitment *on the exchange of best-practice and* to supporting the measures taken by Member States, especially when several Member States are affected by a common disaster; therefore advocates making use of the valuable experience acquired in this field through projects implemented in the past under the Community's INTERREG initiative;

Or. en

Amendment 34
Petru Constantin Luhan

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6a. Notes that the European regions situated on the EU's borders may be affected by disasters occurring in regions belonging to non-member states, when intervention is even more difficult; proposes that specific measures be developed to support these regions;

Or. ro

Amendment 35
Georgios Stavrakakis

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6a. Considers that further exploitation of the opportunities offered in the context of the European Territorial Objective is of crucial importance; believes in this connection that the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) can constitute an important instrument for further strengthening transnational, cross-border and interregional cooperation, even with countries which are not EU Member States. It is here that the EU can make a valuable and visible contribution to even more effective and efficient cooperation, above all by improving coordination;

Or. en

Amendment 36
Viktor Uspaskich

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6a. Thinks that only after creating the appropriate prevention measures network at national, regional and local level it would be possible to fight against disasters faster and more efficiently;

Or. en

Amendment 37
Viktor Uspaskich

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6b. Notes that it is worth to create the map of risks and possible threats, which would be very useful for those regions and remote places who share common risks;

Or. en

Amendment 38
Viktor Uspaskich

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 c (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6c. Pays attention that in the European Year of Volunteering, it would be symbolic and useful to support those countries which seek to promote such

activities and organisations;

Or. en

Amendment 39
Viktor Uspaskich

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 d (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6d. Stresses that very often disasters are caused by people or by the industrial breakage, therefore asks to pay attention to those disasters where different strategies of managing have to be applied;

Or. en

Amendment 40
Viktor Uspaskich

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 e (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6e. Encourages the Commission and Member States to promote their role in disaster prevention and management, in order to increase visibility and good active image of the EU;

Or. en

Amendment 41
Viktor Uspaskich

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 f (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6f. Notes that it is extremely important to enhance education on civil society and on disasters prevention.

Or. en