OPINION

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety


Rapporteur for opinion: Lukas Mandl
PA_Legam
SHORT JUSTIFICATION

Following Decision (EU) 2019/420 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 March 2019, which substantially amended Decision No 1313/2013/EU on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism, this draft opinion of the Committee on Development has a limited scope. It seeks to highlight three important aspects for the Mechanism during the next multiannual financial framework 2021-2027, related to its activation outside the Union, and in the context of humanitarian crises.

First, the draft opinion stresses the need to strengthen the capacity of the Mechanism in relation to climate-related natural disasters, notably forest fires, and to which developing countries are particularly vulnerable.

Second, the proposal seeks to increase the Union financial assistance for capacities pre-committed to the European Civil Protection Pool when used to respond to disasters outside the Union. It is proposed, in line with both the Council’s position and the draft report of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, that up to 75 % of the costs of operating the capacities, including transport, would be financed by the Union – the same level as for activations inside the Union.

Third, a requirement for consultation with humanitarian actors prior to interventions in man-made disasters or complex emergencies is introduced.

AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Development calls on the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, as the committee responsible, to take into account the following amendments:

Amendment 1

Proposal for a decision
Recital 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(1a) Whereas climate change is leading to an increase in frequency, intensity and complexity of natural disasters worldwide, and developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing states, are particularly vulnerable due, on the one hand, to their limited ability to adapt to, and mitigate, the consequences of climate change, and to respond to climate-related disasters,
and, on the other hand, to their geographical exposure to floods, droughts and forest fires.

Amendment 2
Proposal for a decision
Recital 2

Text proposed by the Commission

(2) The Commission proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Decision No 1313/2013/EU seeks to enhance the collective ability to prepare and respond to disasters by bolstering the possibilities offered by the European Civil Protection Pool. This involves establishing a reserve of civil protection capacities for use in Union operations (‘rescEU’) and strengthening the measures applicable in the field of prevention.

Amendment

(2) The Commission proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Decision No 1313/2013/EU seeks to enhance the collective ability to prepare and adequately and promptly respond to disasters by bolstering the possibilities offered by the European Civil Protection Pool. This involves establishing a reserve of civil protection capacities for use in Union operations (‘rescEU’) and strengthening the measures applicable in the field of prevention.

Amendment 3
Proposal for a decision
Recital 2 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

(2a) Forest fires not only threaten or end lives, livelihoods and biodiversity, they also cause high amounts of carbon emissions to be released, and cause the carbon absorption capacity of the planet to decrease, thus further exacerbating climate change. Of particular concern are situations where primary forest is destroyed by fire, as was recently the case in certain equatorial regions. The increase in climate-related disasters, including forest fires, requires a strengthening of the operations of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism
outside the Union.

Amendment 4
Proposal for a decision
Recital 9 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

(9 a) In order to maximise transparency and accountability for Union citizens, including as regards measurement of progress by the Union towards the 0.7% Official Development Aid (ODA) target, the Commission should bring forward guidance on the proportion of spending that it would recommend to be carried out through the modified Union civil protection mechanism and that should qualify as ODA. Such guidance should accurately reflect and fully comply with OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) rules on ODA, and state whether methodologies such as the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) standard should be used;

Amendment 5
Proposal for a decision
Recital 9 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

(9 b) The Union, being a member of the OECD DAC, should continue to comply with the OECD DAC rules on ODA, including when carrying out relevant activities through the Union civil protection mechanism;
Amendment 6

Proposal for a decision
Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point -1 (new)
Decision No 1313/2013/EU
Article 16 – paragraph 2

Present text

2. Interventions under this Article may be conducted either as an autonomous assistance intervention or as a contribution to an intervention led by an international organisation. The Union coordination shall be fully integrated with the overall coordination provided by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), and shall respect its leading role. In the case of man-made disasters or complex emergencies, the Commission shall ensure consistency with the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid (⋆), and respect for humanitarian principles.

Amendment

(-1) in Article 16, paragraph 2 is replaced by the following:

2. Interventions under this Article may be conducted either as an autonomous assistance intervention or as a contribution to an intervention led by an international organisation. The Union coordination shall be fully integrated with the overall coordination provided by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), and shall respect its leading role. In the case of man-made disasters or complex emergencies, the Commission shall consult humanitarian actors prior to the intervention and ensure consistency with the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid (⋆), and respect for humanitarian principles.

Amendment 7

Proposal for a decision
Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 2 a (new)
Decision No 1313/2013/EU
Article 23 – paragraph 2

Present text

2. The amount of Union financial assistance for capacities pre-committed to the European Civil Protection Pool shall not exceed 75 % of the costs of operating the capacities, including transport, in the event of a disaster or imminent disaster within the Union or a participating state.

Amendment

(2a) in Article 23, paragraph 2 is replaced by the following:

2. The amount of Union financial assistance for capacities pre-committed to the European Civil Protection Pool shall not exceed 75 % of the costs of operating the capacities, including transport, in the event of a disaster or imminent disaster inside or outside the Union.
Amendment 8

Proposal for a decision
Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 2 b (new)
Decision No 1313/2013/EU
Article 23 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(2b) in Article 23, paragraph 3 is deleted.

Justification

Amendment 5 is necessary to avoid any inconsistency derived from the potential adoption of amendment 4 regarding financial assistance for capacities pre-committed to the European Civil Protection Pool in the event of a disaster occurring outside the Union.
# PROCEDURE – COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

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<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Amending Decision No 1313/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism</th>
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<td>Committee responsible</td>
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<td>Date announced in plenary</td>
<td>14.3.2019</td>
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<td>Opinion by</td>
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<td>Rapporteur</td>
<td>Lukas Mandl</td>
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<td>Date appointed</td>
<td>20.12.2019</td>
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<td>23.1.2020</td>
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<td>Date adopted</td>
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| Result of final vote | +: 18  
- : 0  
0 : 3 |
| Members present for the final vote | Anna-Michelle Asimakopoulou, Hildegard Bentele, Dominique Bilde, Udo Bullmann, Catherine Chabaud, Gianna Gancia, Charles Goerens, Mónica Silvana González, Pierrette Herzberger-Fofana, Rasa Juknevičienė, Beata Kempa, Pierfrancesco Majorino, Erik Marquardt, Norbert Neuser, Marc Tarabella, Tomas Tobé, Miguel Urbán Crespo, Bernhard Zimniok |
| Substitutes present for the final vote | Caroline Roose |
| Substitutes under Rule 209(7) present for the final vote | Lukas Mandl, László Trócsányi |
**FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION**

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**Key to symbols:**
- + : in favour
- - : against
- 0 : abstention