

**Question for written answer E-002618/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Lars Patrick Berg (ECR)

Subject: EU Civil Protection Mechanism

Many regions in the EU are seeking to cooperate with their neighbours under the auspices of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism.

In the case of Baden-Württemberg in Germany, the authorities wish to work more closely with Switzerland, but this is hampered by the current regulations, under which participants in programmes relating to the mechanism must be members of both the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) and the European Economic Area (EEA).

In order to consolidate cross-border cooperation, does the Commission have any plans to amend the regulations so that membership of either EFTA or the EEA is sufficient for eligibility with regard to the mechanism?

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