

Question for written answer E-003884/2025

to the Commission

Rule 144

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Subject: Lack of standardisation of firefighting equipment as an obstacle to cross-border operations and European preparedness

Despite European integration, national differences persist in the equipment used by fire services. Hose couplings and connector systems are a case in point. While in Belgium DSP couplings using the Guillemin system are standard, in Germany and the Netherlands the Storz system is used. During cross-border operations, special adapters are needed to enable the interoperability of the different systems. Even within the same coupling system, national differences may exist, for instance in the coupling sizes of the hoses used.

Comparable national differences also exist regarding hydrant connections, nozzles, crisis communication networks, vehicle equipment and the training of rescue personnel.

During cross-border operations, divergent national standardisation leads to additional logistical burdens, which cost time and attention.

1. Is the Commission aware of the extent to which technical incompatibilities (such as hose couplings or hydrant connections) hinder and delay cross-border fire service operations in the EU?
2. Does the Commission plan to take measures to promote the standardisation of firefighting equipment and materials in European civil protection?
3. How does the Commission assess the possibility of ensuring greater interoperability of equipment and infrastructure within the framework of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) or through future resilience investments?

Submitted: 3.10.2025