

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001762/24
to the Commission**

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(19 September 2024)

Subject: Flood risk information provided to Poland via the Copernicus European alert system

Janez Lenarčič, the EU Crisis Management Commissioner, has said that the Commission has been using the Copernicus European Flood Alert System to warn Member States about the risk of flooding since 10 September.

In this context:

1. When exactly was flood risk information provided to the Polish institutions via the Copernicus European Flood Alert System?
2. Have Polish institutions given any feedback or asked for clarification of the information provided? If so, when, and which institutions got in touch about flood risk in Poland? To which bodies did they send this information/these queries?

Submitted: 19.9.2024

Answer given by Mr Lenarčič on behalf of the European Commission
(15 November 2024)

Central and Eastern Europe have been affected by heavy rains and strong winds. As of 13 September 2024, Poland, Germany, Slovakia, Hungary, and Romania pro-actively activated the Copernicus Rapid Mapping for flood delineation and damage assessment ⁽¹⁾.

The Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) ⁽²⁾ works on a 24 hours/7 days basis to carry out its mandate that includes, among other tasks, monitoring of unfolding or potential disasters and their impacts.

In this context, the ERCC daily monitors the forecast estimates for potential flooding across Europe, through the dedicated European Flood Awareness System (EFAS) ⁽³⁾ of the Copernicus Emergency Management Service. EFAS complements the national systems to raise awareness, while retaining the supporting role that the Commission has in this field.

From the onset, the ERCC was in contact with the national civil protection authorities of Austria, Croatia, Czechia, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia to raise awareness about possible upcoming floods and offered support through the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) ⁽⁴⁾.

On 18 September 2024, Poland activated the UCPM and requested support to strengthen its response to the floods.

⁽¹⁾ <https://emergency.copernicus.eu/mapping/node/157182>

⁽²⁾ https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/what/civil-protection/emergency-response-coordination-centre-ercc_en

⁽³⁾ <https://european-flood.emergency.copernicus.eu/en>

⁽⁴⁾ https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/what/civil-protection/eu-civil-protection-mechanism_en