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Answer given by Mr Lenarčič
on behalf of the European Commission
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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 rapid mapping of the Copernicus Emergency Management Service for flood delineation and damage assessment¹.

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, 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 Union Civil Protection Mechanism 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