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Answer given by Ms Lahbib
on behalf of the European Commission
(2.5.2025)

In the most recent climate risk assessments of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)¹ and the European Environment Agency², regarding coastal flooding no reference is made to the potential role of either melting of glaciers or increased sea level rise on earthquakes or volcanic activity and the subsequent risk of tsunamis. It is however generally recognised that sea level rise itself is directly relevant for the impact of a tsunami on coastal areas.

At national level, Member States have the primary responsibility to evaluate risks³, including climate change impact, and more generally prepare for and respond to disasters. The Commission complements and supports Member States' efforts under the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM)⁴ through the European Climate Risk Assessment, and through funding and technical assistance for climate resilience and preparedness⁵.

The Commission funded the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) project CoastWave⁶ to enhance the resilience of coastal communities against tsunamis. As part of the project, partner countries, including Cyprus, participate to the 'Tsunami Ready' programme⁷, which aims at developing inundation maps, evacuation plans and public awareness programmes.

In addition, since 2007, the Commission closely works with UNESCO to establish and further develop the North-Eastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean and Connected Seas Tsunami Warning Systems (NEAMTWS), which includes strategies and protocols to ensure the readiness of Member States in case of tsunamis.

The Preparedness Union Strategy⁸, adopted on 26 March 2025, and the European Climate Adaptation Plan, to be proposed in the second half of 2026, will help the EU to better anticipate, prevent and prepare for crises.

¹ 6th Assessment Report IPCC (2023), <https://www.ipcc.ch/assessment-report/ar6/>

² European Climate Risk Assessment (2024), <https://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/en/eu-adaptation-policy/key-eu-actions/european-climate-risk-assessment>

³ Such as under the Floods Directive, 2007/60/EC. Based on Cyprus' assessment of coastal flooding risk and the assessment of historical flooding, it was concluded that although there is some risk of coastal flooding very close to the coast, particularly on the west coast, the risk of coastal flooding is not significant compared to other sources of flooding in Cyprus see <https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/9ab5926d-bed4-4322-9aa7-9964bbe8312d/library/64790b4b-7ad6-4fae-ade5-a6ff5d6c5963/details>. Cyprus is currently updating this assessment and may conclude differently.

⁴ https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/what/civil-protection/eu-civil-protection-mechanism_en#:~:text=The%20Mechanism%20aims%20to%20strengthen%20civil%20protection%20cooperation,beyond%2C%20can%20request%20emergency%20assistance%20through%20the%20Mechanism

⁵ For instance, this includes the funding of projects such as SAVEMEDCOASTS that integrates climate change scenarios into disaster risk management of the most exposed coastal Mediterranean areas, or TSUMAPS that provides an evaluation of tsunami's impact according to all available earthquake scenarios.

⁶ <https://tsunami.ioc.unesco.org/en/articles/coastwave>

⁷ <https://www.ioc.unesco.org/en/tsunami-ready-programme>

⁸ https://commission.europa.eu/topics/preparedness_en