

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001481/25
to the Commission
Marcin Sypniewski (ESN)
(9 April 2025)**

Subject: Financing civil defence in Poland

Poland, as a border state of the European Union and the target of hybrid actions from Russia, is particularly vulnerable to attacks that could have an impact on the civilian population. In addition, last year's flooding also revealed serious infrastructural deficiencies. Owing to the neglect of the civil defence infrastructure and the limited resources of local authorities, it is extremely difficult to establish an effective civil defence system.

In the light of the foregoing:

1. Does the Commission plan to allocate funds for the construction of civil defence facilities, such as shelters? If so, under what mechanism and in what amount?
2. Can funds under the energy transition programmes be used to adapt mine facilities to serve as shelters?

Submitted: 9.4.2025

**Answer given by Ms Lahbib on behalf of the European Commission
(7 July 2025)**

In the preparedness union strategy ⁽¹⁾, one of the key actions is to 'embed preparedness by design into EU policies and actions'. This means that preparedness and security considerations will be integrated and mainstreamed across EU legislation, policies and programmes.

Under the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) ⁽²⁾, the Commission provides funds for emergency shelter capacities through rescEU ⁽³⁾. These reserves consist of high-quality emergency shelter units, including light prefabricated structures, flat-pack containers, and emergency tents.

In addition, the Commission co-finances the voluntary commitment of national shelter capacities to the European Civil Protection Pool ⁽⁴⁾ under the UCPM.

Furthermore, under 2021-2027 cohesion policy programmes, investments for civil preparedness including shelters may be eligible subject to the compliance with the specific objectives set out in EU legislation, including in former coal mine sites.

On 1 April 2025, the Commission tabled a legislative proposal ⁽⁵⁾ allowing Member States to adjust their 2021-2027 cohesion policy programmes during their mid-term review, by incorporating new strategic priorities to incentivise defence-related investments, which would also include the construction of shelters.

The Commission endorsed a targeted revision of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan for Poland which will allow for financing shelters.

The support is in the context of the Security and Defence Fund which will cover four areas: (i) protective buildings and civil protection infrastructure, (ii) dual-use infrastructure, (iii) cybersecurity and (iv) enterprise modernisation including research and development support.

⁽¹⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/topics/preparedness_en.

⁽²⁾ https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/what/civil-protection/eu-civil-protection-mechanism_en.

⁽³⁾ https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/what/civil-protection/resceu_en.

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

⁽⁵⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/communication/mid-term-review-2025/communication-mid-term-review-2025_en.pdf.