

EN
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Answer given by Ms Lahbib
on behalf of the European Commission
(21.8.2025)

The Commission acknowledges the critical need for robust earthquake response measures and has reinforced the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM)¹ to enhance this capability.

The UCPM plays a pivotal role in coordinating emergency assistance among Member States and participating countries. Through its Emergency Response Coordination Centre, it can quickly mobilise in-kind assistance and expertise to help disaster-affected areas.

For earthquakes, the UCPM can ensure the rapid deployment of search and rescue teams, emergency medical teams, medical supplies, and other relief items (e.g. shelter, energy items) based on the needs of the country requesting assistance. These assets can be mobilised as a part of the Member States' offers or under the European Civil Protection Pool and the rescEU² framework.

Complementing what already exists at national level, the EU Stockpiling Strategy³ outlines ways to develop emergency stockpiling in certain areas including for the rescEU strategic reserves (Annex 2 of the Strategy). To further enhance the EU's crises response capabilities, the Commission tabled a proposal to revise the UCPM legal framework⁴ and related budget in view of the next multi-annual financial framework.

The EU Stockpiling Strategy and proposals to enhance the UCPM are vital to maintaining the EU's readiness and ability to assist countries affected by severe earthquakes or other crises.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02013D1313-20231218>.

² https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/what/civil-protection/resceu_en.

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52025DC0528>.

⁴ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52025PC0548>.