

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004779/25
to the Commission
Sérgio Gonçalves (S&D)
(3 December 2025)**

Subject: Access of outermost regions to the EU Civil Protection Mechanism training programme

The EU Civil Protection Mechanism training programme allocates course places through national quotas and requires participants to be nominated by their national training coordinator, which is designated by each Member State. As a result, regional civil protection services, including those of the outermost regions (ORs), cannot apply directly, despite their operational responsibilities and high exposure to recurring natural disasters.

The Commission has repeatedly acknowledged that ORs such as Madeira and the Azores require reinforced preparedness and response capabilities due to their geographic isolation and specific risk profiles.

In this regard:

1. Given that the Commission monitors participation in the EU Civil Protection Mechanism training programme, what assessment does it make regarding the representation and participation levels of experts from the ORs?
2. Does the Commission consider that current access adequately reflects the particular needs and responsibilities of civil protection authorities in these regions?
3. Will the Commission consider creating specific quotas for civil protection services in the ORs?

Submitted: 3.12.2025

**Answer given by Ms Lahbib on behalf of the European Commission
(23 January 2026)**

Member States hold the primary responsibility for civil protection, while the EU has a supporting competence under the Treaties. The Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) encompasses the entire disaster management cycle and includes a training and exercises programme designed for civil protection and emergency management personnel to enhance coordination, compatibility and complementarity between intervention teams and to improve the competence of experts involved.

The training placements allocation for certain courses is determined by the Council voting percentages, reflecting the population of each Member State. In line with the EU's supporting competence, Member States choose which experts participate in the training programme.

The UCPM legal framework highlights the importance of considering the unique needs of isolated, outermost, and island regions in terms of prevention, preparedness, and response.

The Commission will continue to promote inclusive training activities, which contribute to strengthening knowledge across all territories and reinforce local preparedness building efforts, including in the outermost regions.

For example, the Commission has expanded alternative training formats, such as a broad e-learning offer on the EU Academy to reach a wider geographical audience.
