

EN
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Answer given by Ms Lahbib
on behalf of the European Commission
(4.6.2026)

The Decision¹ establishing the Union Civil Protection Mechanism recognises the primary responsibility of Member States for preventing, preparing for and responding to natural and man-made disasters and therefore Article 15(1) stipulates that when a disaster occurs within the EU, or is imminent, the affected Member State may request assistance through the Emergency Response Coordination Centre². A request for assistance has not been received for the landslide in Niscemi, so the Commission cannot provide a qualitative or quantitative assessment of the question at hand.

The Technical Support Instrument (TSI)³ aims to support Member States' efforts to strengthen their institutional and administrative capacity, including at regional and local level.

According to the TSI Regulation⁴, one objective of the instrument is to assist national authorities in improving their capacity to design, develop and implement reforms. In particular, the TSI can be used to support policies for the mitigation of climate change, the environmental pillar of sustainable development and environmental protection, and for soil protection⁵.

The provision of support via the TSI should be initiated by a request submitted by the Member State, following a call for requests open by the Commission. In line with Article 3 of the TSI Regulation, technical support is provided to effectively address the challenges identified in the country-specific recommendations and to implement EU law.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dec/2013/1313/oj/eng>.

² https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/what/civil-protection/emergency-response-coordination-centre-ercc_en.

³ https://commission.europa.eu/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/technical-support-instrument_en.

⁴ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?toc=OJ%3AL%3A2021%3A057%3AFULL&uri=uriserv%3AOJ.L_2021.057.01.0001.01.EN.G.

⁵ Extract from Article 5(f) of the TSI Regulation: please see footnote 4.