

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001712/26
to the Commission
Geadis Gead (ECR)
(27 April 2026)**

Subject: Strengthening EU civil protection in view of the escalation in the Middle East

The ongoing and dangerously escalating instability in the Middle East, marked by the exchange of missile strikes and a heightened risk of regional instability, is deepening concerns about the safety and preparedness of the European Union. These developments highlight the need to strengthen Member States' resilience, particularly when it comes to informing and protecting the civilian population against modern threats, including drone attacks.

As civilian protection is a responsibility that lies primarily with the Member States, with the EU nevertheless playing a key support and coordination role, including through the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM), it is now necessary to evaluate and reinforce existing tools.

In view of the above, can the Commission answer the following:

1. What specific measures have been taken or are being planned to strengthen the UCPM, particularly as regards prevention, rapid response and protection of the civilian population in crisis situations?
2. Does it intend to provide targeted financial and technical support for the development or upgrade of civil protection infrastructure, especially in frontline Member States?
3. What concrete measures are being taken to bring about the EU-wide strengthening of citizen information, education and preparedness?

Submitted: 27.4.2026

**Answer given by Ms Lahbib on behalf of the European Commission
(6 July 2026)**

In the context of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2028-2034 the Commission proposed a regulation on the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) and EU support for health emergency preparedness and response ⁽¹⁾, with the aim to equip the EU with means to prepare for and respond to current and future crises.

This will be achieved through increased situational awareness, public warning ⁽²⁾ and simplified operational procedures. With this, the Commission proposes to allocate EUR 10.7 billion to the future crisis management framework.

The Commission introduced the concepts of 'preparedness by design' and 'security by design' to ensure that preparedness and security considerations are mainstreamed in EU legislation, policies and programmes.

Within the UCPM, technical and financial assistance is available to national authorities of Member States to support the review of preparedness plans and address knowledge gaps.

Population preparedness is in the core of the EU preparedness union strategy ⁽³⁾. The Commission works with Member States to raise public awareness of risks and threats.

An example is the development of guidelines on communicating disaster risks effectively, promoting 72 hours of self-sufficiency for the population, and integrating preparedness into childhood and primary school curricula.

Under Cohesion Policy, over EUR 19 billion are allocated to enhance disaster prevention and preparedness in EU regions, with investments in civil protection infrastructures.

Following the mid-term review, an additional EUR 11.9 billion were reallocated to defence and civil preparedness measures and the Cohesion for Transitions (C4T) Community of Practice ⁽⁴⁾ supports managing authorities in the implementation of these investments.

⁽¹⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:a65e66da-630b-11f0-bf4e-01aa75ed71a1.0001.02/DOC_1&format=PDF.

⁽²⁾ Which can be improved with the support of the EU space and secure connectivity programmes: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/EN/legal-content/summary/eu-secure-connectivity-programme-2023-2027.html>.

⁽³⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/topics/preparedness_en.

⁽⁴⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/policy/communities-and-networks/cohesion-4-transition_en.