

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001899/26  
to the Commission  
Juan Fernando López Aguilar (S&D)  
(7 May 2026)**

*Subject:* European Union coordination and support to the Canary Islands following the activation of the Civil Protection Mechanism due to the hantavirus outbreak

The detection of several confirmed cases of hantavirus on a cruise bound for the Canary Islands and the activation of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism have created a logical concern in an outermost territory particularly exposed to international flows. In view of the need to ensure a rapid, coordinated and solidarity-based response for the Canary Islands, as an external border of the European Union, can the Commission answer the following questions:

1. What concrete assistance is the Emergency Response Coordination Centre coordinating to support Spain and the Canary Islands authorities following the activation of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism?
2. Does the European Union have — through rescEU or other EU health preparedness instruments — strategic reserves of antivirals, protective equipment or medical equipment that can be quickly mobilised to the Canary Islands if necessary?
3. Does the Commission intend to adopt specific support and coordination measures for outermost regions, such as the Canary Islands, in the face of health risks associated with international maritime traffic?

Submitted: 7.5.2026

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

On 6 May 2026, Spain activated the EU Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) <sup>(1)</sup> with a request for medical evacuation and transport support, to ensure the safe and coordinated transfer of passengers and crew members from Tenerife.

The Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) <sup>(2)</sup> coordinated the organisation of six flights under the UCPM by five Member States and mobilised the rescEU <sup>(3)</sup> air ambulance hosted by Norway for prepositioning in Tenerife from 9 to 12 May 2026 as a precautionary measure, should any passengers develop symptoms and deteriorate rapidly.

An ERCC Liaison Officer was deployed to Tenerife from 9 to 13 May 2026 to coordinate with the relevant authorities and provide on-site support for the UCPM operation.

In total, the ERCC coordinated the evacuation of over 70 people, including 43 citizens from Member States and two from UCPM Participating States.

The EU maintains strategic medical countermeasures reserves, including certain antivirals, protective equipment, and medical equipment, under rescEU.

These could be quickly mobilised in case of health crisis. The ERCC would then assess the precise needs and coordinate the delivery of rescEU or other stockpiles, as necessary.

The ERCC stands ready to provide support should any Member State activate the UCPM in need of assistance, including in outermost regions.

While there are currently no medicines nor vaccines approved for hantavirus treatment or prevention, the European Medicine Agency considered the benefit/risk balance of favipiravir to be favourable on the basis of available information.

The Commission has been in constant contact with Member States to ensure rapid access and secured the delivery of 1 400 tablets of favipiravir at the request of France, Spain and the Netherlands.

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<sup>(1)</sup> [https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/what/civil-protection/eu-civil-protection-mechanism\\_en](https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/what/civil-protection/eu-civil-protection-mechanism_en).

<sup>(2)</sup> [https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/what/civil-protection/emergency-response-coordination-centre-ercc\\_en](https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/what/civil-protection/emergency-response-coordination-centre-ercc_en).

<sup>(3)</sup> [https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/what/civil-protection/resceu\\_en](https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/what/civil-protection/resceu_en).