

EN

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Answer given by Ms Lahbib

on behalf of the European Commission

(21.8.2026)

The Commission will publish a follow-up to the recommendations from the Citizens' Panel on Preparedness in a Citizens' Report. It will outline how it intends to respond to the recommendations, and in what time frame. The response will be prepared by the concerned Commission services. It is expected to be published before the Civil Protection Forum in November 2026.

The Commission takes note of recommendation 5.1 (to strengthen volunteer work). The European Solidarity Corps offers cross-border volunteering activities and is identified as a key instrument for building a culture of preparedness. Through Action 30 of the Preparedness Union Strategy¹, preparedness is now a formal priority within EU youth funding. The Commission is working on a set of guidelines for Member States on preparedness education for schools (Action 29), which could help to promote preparedness and volunteering (for example through activities with local organisations and emergency responders). The Commission is currently considering the rest of the suggestions proposed in the recommendations and will provide a response in the Citizens' Report.

The Commission welcomed the citizens' recommendations on the European Preparedness Week, which aligns very well with the spirit of the Preparedness Union Strategy (in particular Action 27). In this context, the EU will propose an annual EU Preparedness Day to raise awareness on the topic. This is expected to be announced at the Civil Protection Forum (3-4 November 2026), with the first edition being held in 2027, at a date to be confirmed.

¹ https://commission.europa.eu/topics/preparedness_en.