

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002780/26
to the Commission**

Ruggero Razza (ECR), Alberico Gambino (ECR), Chiara Gemma (ECR), Giuseppe Milazzo (ECR), Daniele Polato (ECR), Francesco Torselli (ECR), Mariateresa Vivaldini (ECR)
(3 July 2026)

Subject: Extreme heatwaves and bolstering health resilience and civil protection in the EU

According to the World Health Organisation, extreme temperatures have caused more than 1 300 excess deaths in Europe since 21 June, confirming the escalating impact of heatwaves on public health and health and social care systems.

They are also increasingly affecting Mediterranean Member States, including Italy, Spain, Greece and Portugal, where they are growing in frequency and length, causing ramifications for the health of society's most vulnerable, and for electricity grids, water resources, farming, forest fires and civil protection.

In the light of the above:

1. Will the Commission, together with the Member States, support follow-up to the preventive measures and social and health assistance taken during the summer period to protect the elderly and the most vulnerable?
2. Does it believe that the European preparedness and resilience strategy gives sufficient priority to the risk posed by extreme heat waves?
3. Does it think that the current Union civil protection mechanism is sufficient for the increase in extreme weather events or will it propose that the mechanism be strengthened?

Submitted: 3.7.2026

Answer given by Ms Lahbib on behalf of the European Commission
(20 August 2026)

The Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) ⁽¹⁾ coordinates disaster response and supports Member States in implementing prevention and preparedness activities.

To address growing wildfires, fuelled by heatwaves, the Commission proposed an integrated wildfire risk management approach ⁽²⁾, covering prevention, preparedness, response and recovery; and reinforced UCPM capacities.

The Preparedness Union Strategy ⁽³⁾ adopts an all-hazards approach. This includes strengthening resilience to heatwaves through early warning, prevention, resilient infrastructure, healthcare preparedness and community action, with particular attention to vulnerable populations' needs. The Commission is exploring further heatwave preparedness actions to complement Member State efforts.

The European integrated framework for climate resilience ⁽⁴⁾, which will include a legal proposal and a communication, will prioritise heatwave risks. It will address all major climate risks identified in the European Climate Risk Assessment ⁽⁵⁾. Heat stress is a top ranked risk, requiring action.

The European Climate and Health Observatory ⁽⁶⁾ provides evidence on adapting to climate change-induced health impacts. Its partner, World Health Organisation Europe, published guidance on heat-health action plans ⁽⁷⁾, covering preparedness, warning, populations at risk, health system resilience, etc.

The regulation on Serious Cross-Border Threats to Health ⁽⁸⁾ strengthens prevention, preparedness and response planning, also for climate-related threats such as extreme heat.

The Commission's UCPM/HER Proposal ⁽⁹⁾ aims to strengthen the UCPM to tackle extreme weather events by improving coordination, forward planning, crisis monitoring and cross-sectoral preparedness.

⁽¹⁾ https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/what/civil-protection/eu-civil-protection-mechanism_en.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52026DC0330>.

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52025JC0130>.

⁽⁴⁾ https://climate.ec.europa.eu/eu-action/adaptation-and-resilience-climate-change/european-climate-resilience-and-risk-management-integrated-framework_en.

⁽⁵⁾ European Environment Agency, European Climate Risk Assessment, EEA Report 01/2024.

⁽⁶⁾ <https://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/en/observatory>.

⁽⁷⁾ <https://www.who.int/europe/publications/i/item/9789289062930>.

⁽⁸⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L:2022:314:FULL&from=EN>.

⁽⁹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025PC0548>.