

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-001773/24
to the Commission
Anna Bryłka (NI)
(20 September 2024)**

Subject: Activities of the Emergency Response Coordination Centre

During a plenary debate in Strasbourg on the subject of floods on 18 September 2024, Janez Lenarčič, Commissioner for Crisis Management, stated explicitly that:

‘In Central and Eastern Europe, we have been monitoring the situation closely since 9 September. Providing regular updates from the Emergency Response Coordination Centre, our 24/7 operational crisis hub in Brussels, whilst in close collaboration with the Joint Research Centre [...] we provided early warnings to areas in danger from 10 September onwards, liaising with national authorities to raise awareness of the situation and to offer help, as well as sending over 100 warnings to authorities across the region by 13 September.’

1. At what point did the Emergency Response Coordination Centre increase monitoring in the part of Europe at risk of flooding?
2. For what reason was monitoring increased on 9 June, and what did this early warning consist of for the areas at risk?
3. Could the Commission please list the Member States that received such an early warning?

Submitted: 20.9.2024

**Answer given by Mr Lenarčič on behalf of the European Commission
(17 October 2024)**

Central and Eastern Europe has been affected by heavy rains and strong winds. As of 13 September 2024, Poland, Germany, Slovakia, Hungary, and Romania pro-actively activated the rapid mapping of the Copernicus Emergency Management Service for flood delineation and damage assessment ⁽¹⁾.

The Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) ⁽²⁾ works on a 24 hours /7 days basis to carry out its mandate that includes, among other tasks, monitoring of unfolding or potential disasters and their impacts.

In this context, the ERCC daily monitors the forecast estimates for potential flooding across Europe, through the dedicated European Flood Awareness System (EFAS) ⁽³⁾ of the Copernicus Emergency Management Service. EFAS complements the national systems to raise awareness.

From the onset, the ERCC was in contact with the national civil protection authorities of Austria, Croatia, Czechia, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia to raise awareness about possible upcoming floods and offered support through the Union Civil Protection Mechanism ⁽⁴⁾.

⁽¹⁾ <https://emergency.copernicus.eu/mapping/ems/flood-delineation>

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

⁽³⁾ <https://european-flood.emergency.copernicus.eu/en>

⁽⁴⁾ https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/what/civil-protection/eu-civil-protection-mechanism_en