

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-001841/24
to the Commission
Jacek Ozdoba (ECR)
(26 September 2024)**

Subject: Floods in Poland

In the debate on the impact of the flooding in Central and Eastern Europe that was held on 18 September 2024 during Parliament's plenary session in Strasbourg, Janez Lenarčič, the EU Crisis Management Commissioner, said that the relevant EU bodies had already sent flood warnings to the governments of Member States at risk, including Poland, on 10 September 2024. Those alerts were issued through the Copernicus early warning system. In response to that statement, we have the following questions:

1. When exactly did the Commission pass on the first alerts of a flood risk in Poland? On what date and at what time were those alerts relayed?
2. Did the Polish Government react to those warnings?

Submitted: 26.9.2024

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

The Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) ⁽¹⁾ 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 impact.

In this context, the ERCC daily monitors the forecast estimates for potential flooding across Europe, through the dedicated European Flood Awareness System (EFAS) ⁽²⁾ of the Copernicus Emergency Management Service.

The EFAS complements national systems, contributing to monitoring and raising awareness about floods and related events, while retaining the supporting role that the Commission has in this field.

As of 13 September 2024, due to the heavy rains and strong winds which affected large parts of Central and Eastern Europe, Member States such as Poland, Germany, Slovakia, Hungary and Romania pro-actively activated the Rapid Mapping of the Copernicus Emergency Management Service ⁽³⁾ for floods. Poland activated the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) ⁽⁴⁾ on 18 September 2024.

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 UCPM.

⁽¹⁾ https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/what/civil-protection/emergency-response-coordination-centre-ercc_en

⁽²⁾ <https://www.copernicus.eu/en/european-flood-awareness-system>

⁽³⁾ <https://emergency.copernicus.eu/mapping/ems/rapid-mapping-portfolio>

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