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Answer given by Mr Kubilius
on behalf of the European Commission
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The EU GOVSATCOM¹ provides satellite communication services for crisis management, natural and man-made disasters, humanitarian crises and maritime emergencies. Operations started in January 2026. Member States have now access to a wide catalogue of services from existing governmental systems that have already been used by civil protection agencies in events of crisis. The service catalogue will be further extended with additional existing services coming from commercial systems.

GOVSATCOM does not include services for direct connections with personal devices and between citizens. The Commission is exploring the ways for providing direct to device services under the Infrastructure for Resilience, Interconnectivity and Security by Satellite (IRIS²) system², including considerations on radio spectrum requirements. At the same time, the Galileo Early Warning Satellite Service to be available by end-2026, will transmit alerts directly to smartphones, or to any other navigation devices of citizens located in areas threatened by a looming natural or manmade disaster.

GOVSATCOM resources are already available for all Member States since January 2026 irrespective of the Digital Networks Act (DNA)³. In this regard, the DNA proposal aims at establishing an EU authorisation regime for satellite networks and services, including for civil protection and disaster relief and foresees as a task of the Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications to adopt a ‘Union Preparedness Plan for Digital Infrastructures’ that should include crisis management practices and for which the role of GOVSATCOM and IRIS² could be assessed.

¹ https://defence-industry-space.ec.europa.eu/eu-space/govsatcom-satellite-communications_en.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/588/oj/eng>.

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52026PC0016>.