

Civil Protection



**Analytical
examination of the
acquis – Screening
of Chapter 27**

DG ENV A5 Civil Protection Unit
<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/civil/index.htm>

Community Action Programme in the field of civil protection

- established by the Council Decision 1999/847
- intends to support and supplement Member States' efforts at national, regional and local levels by implementing actions for the protection of persons, property and environment in the event of natural and technological disasters;
- provides financial support - in the form of grants - for activities such as major projects of general interest for several Member States, workshops, conferences, as well as information and other support actions;
- examples of financed projects: Virtual Academy (networking of civil protection training centres), involving citizens in civil protection, training of trainers in landslide management.
- instrument expires at the end of 2006;
- it will be continued in the framework of the Rapid Response and Preparedness Instrument proposed by the Commission in April 2006.

The Community framework for cooperation in the field of accidental or deliberate marine pollution (2000-2006)

Objectives

- Support and supplement Member State's efforts in the field of preparedness
- Improve Member State's response
- Promote efficient mutual assistance and cooperation

Current actions

- Management of a three-year rolling plan (workshops, pilot projects...)
- Community Information System (CIS)
- Response to emergencies (via the Mechanism)

THE COMMUNITY CIVIL PROTECTION MECHANISM

- **Legal base:** created by Council Decision of 23 October 2001
- **Participating states:** EU-25 + 3 EEA + Romania, Bulgaria, possibility open for Candidate Countries on the basis of Memoranda of Understanding



Preparedness: training, exercises, database of experts



Response: facilitating and supporting European civil protection assistance and solidarity in the event of a major disaster

Preparedness

- Simulation exercises
- Training
- Exchange of experts

Simulation exercises

- accelerate response
- contingency planning
- decision-making procedures
- provision of information
- identify further training needs

Preparedness

Training

- Community Mechanism Induction Course (CMI)
- Operational Management Course (OPM)
- Assessment Mission Course (AMC) & Staff Management Course (SMC)
- High Level Co-ordination Course (HLC) & High Level Co-ordination - Refresher Courses (HLCR)

Preparedness

Exchange of experts

- secondment of national civil protection experts
- different national systems
- familiarise with other techniques
- study other approaches
- attend or give courses

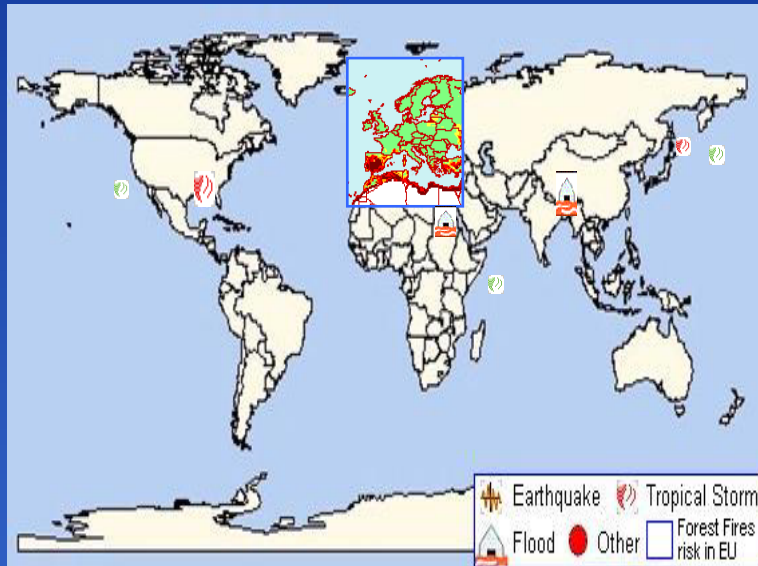
HOW IT WORKS: THE MONITORING AND INFORMATION CENTRE (MIC)

- Based in the Commission, on duty 24/7
- Entry point for requests for assistance
- **Information** role: analysing and distributing reliable info to MS during disasters
- Supports **coordination**: dispatching expert EU teams, matching requests for aid to offers from MS
- **Technical support** role, e.g. satellite images and access to other EC resources

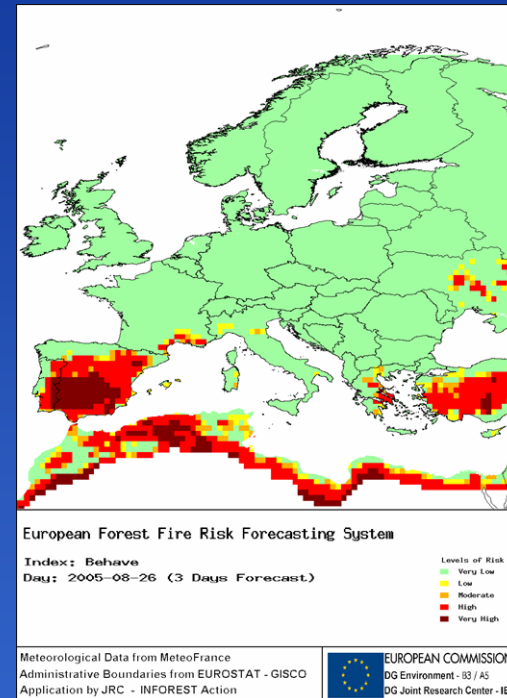


A one-stop shop for civil protection assistance

Preparedness.... monitoring

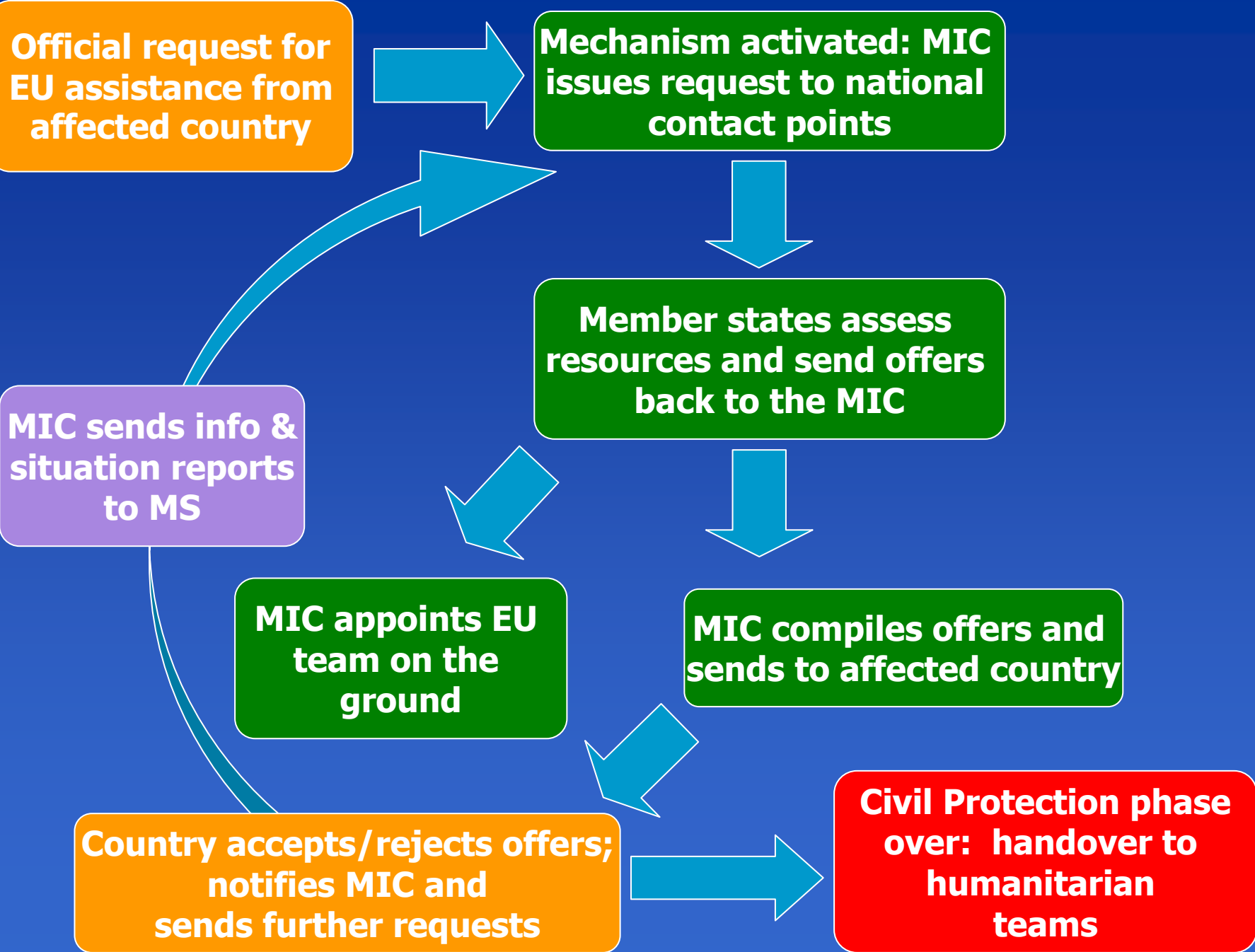


MIC daily -
monitoring disasters



Fire forecasting

Activating the Mechanism



European added value

- Avoiding duplication: ensuring 2 countries don't send the same aid
- Maximising efficiency: targeted aid where most needed
- One contact point only between EU member states and affected country
- Coordination on site: ensuring teams from the EU work together

The future for European civil protection

- Commission presented legislative proposals to take EU civil protection response to a new level:
- Proposal for a Council Regulation establishing the Rapid Response and Preparedness Instrument for major emergencies – comprehensive financing of civil protection actions 2007-2013.
- Proposal for a Council Decision recasting the Mechanism – ambitious attempt to strengthen the Mechanism

Main issues:

- Transport
- Equipment
- Early warning
- Co-ordination

The future for European civil protection

■ Transport

- Responsibility of national civil protection authorities
- **Not always available, insufficient or viable**
- Commission will have the right to hire the necessary transport means

■ Equipment

- Equipment provided by national authorities
- **In simultaneous or large-scale disasters, some equipment might not be readily available**
- Commission will be allowed to mobilise additional equipment

The future for European civil protection

- Early warning
 - assess & upgrade existing early warning systems
 - improve link between detection systems & alert mechanisms
 - make systems more accessible to decision-makers
- Strengthening co-ordination in 3rd country operations - develop roles of:
 - Presidency → political
 - Commission (MIC) → operational
 - MIC on-site teams → operational

europa.eu.int/comm/environment/civil/index.htm

Thank you