ERCC Operations
CEOS WG

Spyros Afentoulidis, DG ECHO
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The ERCC's three main functions

1. Coordination of disaster response within the framework of Union Civil Protection Legislation

2. Coordination platform for humanitarian aid and civil protection operations

3. Commission and EU Crisis Coordination platform, including Solidarity Clause and the Integrated Political Crisis Response (IPCR) arrangements
Types of disasters covered by UCPM

- **Natural disasters**
  - Floods, earthquakes, forest fires, cyclones

- **Manmade disasters**
  - Environmental disasters
  - Complex emergencies (Iraq, Syria)

- **Health emergencies**
  - Ebola epidemic
  - Yellow Fever

- **Assistance to consular support**
  - Terrorist attacks (medical evacuation)
  - Evacuation of EU citizens
CIVIL PROTECTION

In May 2013, we launched the Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC).

- Monitors disasters around the globe 24/7
- Maps disaster risks
- Provides real-time information
- Coordinates joint European response operations

Since its creation in 2001, the EU Civil Protection Mechanism was activated for 300 emergencies including the Ebola outbreak (2014), the earthquake in Nepal (2015), forest fires in Europe and tropical cyclones Irma and Maria in the Caribbean (2017).
EU Civil Protection Mechanism Activation

Natural or man-made disaster inside and outside the EU

Affected country requests assistance from the Mechanism through the Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC)

Participating States offer assistance: experts, teams, and equipment

EU Civil Protection Mechanism is activated

Once the affected country has accepted the offers...

...ERCC coordinates the deployment and delivery of assistance

ERCC may deploy an EU Civil Protection team of experts.

Assistance delivered, experts return. End of the emergency response.

EU Civil Protection Mechanism

32 activations in 2017

- Tropical cyclones
- Floods and landslides
- Yellow fever outbreaks
- Advisory and preparedness missions
- Refugees
- Earthquakes
- Forest fires
UCPM Response
– Dominica

**EU RESPONSE**
- € 250,000 humanitarian assistance (for logistic support and food assistance)
- DG ECHO Offices: 1 Humanitarian expert deployed
- UCPM Team (25/09 - 15/10): Team Leader (NO), 1 Coordination/operation expert (PK), 1 WASH expert (DK), 1 Logistics Expert (SE), 1 ERCC Liaison Officer
- 1 EU CR expert on disaster waste management (RO) seconded to UNDAC
- Copernicus EMS activated and 8 maps produced

**Relief assistance UCPM**: 1 Water purification module, water purification cubes, aquatabs, buckets, Silverline water filtration system, UNICEF water bladders, medical supplies kits, hygiene kits, blankets, tents, kitchen sets, boxes of rations, ropes rolls, tarps, raincoats, gloves, chain saws, picks, shelter kits, lumber, solar lights and 2 vessels for strategic sea transportation.

*Source: Copernicus, DG DCD, EN, GCDS, LogCluster, NOAA, UNOCT*
How does ERCC build its situational awareness?

- EU Civil Protection Teams
- ECHO Offices and EU Delegations
- Early Warning Systems (e.g. GDACS, EFAS, EFFIS)
- Scientific advice (e.g. ARISTOTLE, JRC)
- Copernicus Emergency Management Service (satellite maps)
- External reports (UN Agencies, Regional Agencies, National authorities)
- Analytical Team products
- Media
ERCC: Entry focal point

- For all Authorized Users
- For all Associated users
- For third parties' activation enquiries

+ interrelation with stakeholder upstream and downstream in the workflow
…but it also acts as a user as well, mainly:

• Based on requests from the field (e.g. EUCPT, ECHO field offices)

• Based on early warning systems
Main benefits of the EMS service

- Rapid and credible support to national authorities and other enquiring parties
- Preliminary assessment of situation in short time (especially when impact-based information is not abundant or reliable)
- Adaptation to end user's requirements
Main steps to be taken by ERCC duty officers

• Check validity of a request (Authorized User, scope, sensitivity, completeness, feasibility, duplication)

• Request service provider to order imagery when request is validated

• Inform relevant stakeholders

• Check products before giving green light for dissemination
Scientific advice to operations

ARISTOTLE EMERGENCY REPORT

HURRICANE MARIA

MAIN DETAILS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>LATIN AMERICA and CARIBBEAN</th>
<th>Operation mode</th>
<th>Reactive</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
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<td>19 September 2017, 09:20 UTC</td>
<td>Event end</td>
<td>24 September 2017, 12:00 UTC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Report created</td>
<td>19 September 2017, 09:26 UTC</td>
<td>Report finalized</td>
<td>19 September 2017, 12:50 UTC</td>
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Hurricane Maria crossed Dominica during the early hours of Tuesday morning causing widespread devastation from a combination of hurricane force winds, torrential rain and storm surge.
- It is expected that Maria will remain a category 5 hurricane (253km/h or more sustained winds) over the next 12-18 hours as it moves west-northwestwards and remain a major hurricane (category 3 or higher) for at least the next 4.5 days.
- Through the rest of today (Tuesday), Maria is expected to move very close to Montserrat, with significant destruction expected across these islands.
- Maria is then expected to continue to move west-northwestwards, moving towards the US Virgin Islands, reaching there by around 03-06 UTC Wednesday. Due to the strength of the storm, the US and British Virgin Islands as well as parts of Puerto Rico are likely to see considerable destruction.
- Impacts will be typical of a major hurricane and include destructive winds, dangerous waves, storm surge, torrential rains and enhanced risk of landslides.
- A combination of these hazards will lead to a risk of fatalities and severe impacts to local infrastructure and transport.

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN: 20.02 -67.52

OVERALL IMPACT

High

LACK OF COPING CAPACITY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Score</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Bahamas</td>
<td>VERY LOW</td>
<td>(2.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turks and Caicos</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>(N/A)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Puerto Rico</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>(N/A)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montserrat</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>(N/A)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>VERY LOW</td>
<td>(2.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominican Republic</td>
<td>LOW</td>
<td>(4.5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>United States Virg</td>
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<td>(N/A)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
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<td>(1.2)</td>
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<td>British Virgin Isl</td>
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<td>(N/A)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saint Kitts and Nevis</td>
<td>LOW</td>
<td>(3.5)</td>
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ALERT LEVEL

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<tr>
<th>Likelihood of Impact</th>
<th>National</th>
<th>International</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Medium</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Low</td>
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Required Resources

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<th>Sub-national</th>
<th>National</th>
<th>International</th>
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Analytical team support

1. Description of the emergency situation

1.1. Situational Analysis

- On 19 September, Category 5 Hurricane Maria made landfall in Dominica, one of the poorest countries in the Caribbean. The island faced the full force of hurricane Maria with maximum sustained wind speeds of 260 km/h.
- The hurricane tore through the entire island, damaging or destroying power lines and water pipelines. The main hospital in the island does not have power and critical cases are being evacuated. An estimated 90% of the buildings have sustained some damage - most of the houses have lost at least some roof covering with a significant portion showing major structural damage. First assessments report that the damage in the east coast was significantly worse.
- At least 15 people have died in Dominica, with the number of fatalities expected to rise as large areas of the island remain inaccessible.
- At least 80% of the island's population has been affected and needs support with shelter and water, according to the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA).
- On 21 September, Dominica activated the UCPM asking for assistance consisting of water purification tablets, medical supplies, first aid kit, mosquito repellent, household items, construction equipment, generators and transport capacity.
- A team comprising officials from CDEMA, United Nations Disaster Assessment Coordination (UNDAC), the British Armed Forces and the Department for International Development (DFID) arrived in Dominica by a helicopter on 20 September.
- A search and rescue team from the neighbouring Martinique island has arrived. Cuba and Venezuela are bringing a plane load of relief supplies each to Dominica on 22 September.

1.1.1. Historical Data

Dominica was still recovering from Hurricane Erika, which struck the island in August 2015. Erika left hundreds of homes uninhabitable, thousands of people displaced and 30 people dead.
INFO AND STATISTICS
EU Civil Protection Mechanism - Requests for Assistance in 2017

Total number of activations: 32

Requests for Assistance inside/outside EU
- 21 Internal assistance
- 11 External assistance

Request type:
- Environmental Accident
- Epidemic
- People Displacement
- Disaster Preparedness Mission
- Flood
- Tropical Cyclone
- Earthquake
- Forest Fire
- Consular Support

Requesting Country:
- Albania
- Algeria
- Armenia
- Bangladesh
- Belgium
- Brazil
- Chile
- Dominica
- Ecuador
- Egypt
- El Salvador
- France
- Georgia
- Germany
- Greece
- Guatemala
- Haiti
- Iraq
- Italy
- Jordan
- Korea
- Lithuania
- Nepal
- Nepal
- Nigeria
- Norway
- Panama
- Peru
- Philippines
- Portugal
- Russia
- Senegal
- South Africa
- South Korea
- Sweden
- Sint Maarten
- Spain
- Sri Lanka
- Sudan
- Tunisia
- Turkey
- Ukraine
- USA
- Uzbekistan
- Venezuela
- Vietnam
- Yemen
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

Activations by Month:
- January
- February
- March
- April
- May
- June
- July
- August
- September
- October
- November
- December
The European Emergency Response Capacity is commonly referred to as the "voluntary pool". It consists of a range of emergency response capacities that countries participating in the EU Civil Protection Mechanism make available for EU emergency response operations. Since the establishment of the voluntary pool in October 2014, 21 Participating States have brought together 92 civil protection capacities which are now available (or will eventually become available) for EU operations worldwide, following a request for assistance through the European Commission’s Emergency Response Coordination Centre.

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EMS Copernicus Activations 2017

- Forest Fires: 27
- Storm/TC: 16
- Floods: 14
- Civil unrest/ refugee camps/ IDP/ conflicts: 3
- Earthquake: 4
- Preparedness: 2
- Landslides/ mudflows: 2
- Environmental/ Weather: 1
- Man made (exp, acc): 1
- Epidemics: 0
- Volcano Eruption: 0

EMS COPERNICUS ACTIVATIONS INTERNAL/ EXTERNAL EU

- External: 27 (39%)
- Internal: 42 (61%)

Legend:
- Blue: Internal
- Red: External
Number of operations* of the EUCP Mechanism

*Operations = any event open in CECIS (request for assistance, early warning (pre-alert), monitoring)
Requests for assistance inside and outside EU
Number of missions and experts deployed