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Cooperation and risk reduction A Strategy to face Natural Disasters

Adopted during YEPP Council Meeting – Athens, 23rd November 2024

Presented by: Junge Mitte Switzerland

Supported by: BM Ukraine, ONNED Grece, MSi Slovenia, MHDZ Croatia, JSD Portugal, NN.GG Spain, TOP tým Czech Republic, ML Czech Republic, JVP Austria, GDC San Marino, JONG CD&V Belgium, JFG Ireland, FIG Italy, JG SVP Italy, TNL Romania, Youth Forces Union of VMRO-DPMNE, KNL Finland, JU Germany, CDJA Netherlands, MIERT Romania, KDMS Slovakia, CSJ Luxembourg, JR France

Recognizing that:

- The global system is transitioning from a relatively stable to an increasingly unstable state¹.
- Natural disasters occur more frequently and, above all, with greater intensity. Economic losses caused by natural disasters in the EU over the three-year period 2021-2023, corresponding to EUR 162 billions, represent 22% of the total economic losses from 1980 to 2023.²
- The great challenges of our time such as climate change show that it is no longer possible to deal with situations using a conventional or traditional risk management and governance approach.³
- The first Priority objective of the 8th Environment Action Programme to 2030 of the 6th of April 2022 is to increase “resilience to climate change,

¹ Jana Sillmann and others, ISC-UNDRR-RISKKAN (2023) *Briefing note on systemic risk. Review and Opportunities for Research, Policy and Practice from the Perspective of Climate, Environmental and Disaster Risk Science and Management*. Paris, ISC. p. 4

² European Environment Agency (2024) Economic losses from weather- and climate-related extremes in Europe, <https://www.eea.europa.eu/en/analysis/indicators/economic-losses-from-climate-related>, accessed 5 November 2024

³ UNDRR (2023). *The Report of the Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030*. UNDRR: Geneva, Switzerland, p. 108

weather- and climate-related disasters and other environmental risks” by 2050 at the latest.⁴

- In 2023, 1.6 million people in Europe were affected by floods, while 500,000 ha of land were burnt by fires, which is the fourth highest result ever recorded in Europe.⁵

Acknowledging that:

- The EU Civil Protection system and the European Solidarity Corps are important tools within the European integration strategy.
- The 2019 update of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism has been an important step in the right direction. Indeed, it led to the creation of the rescEU, a reserve System financed by the European Commission, comprising medical stocks, a fleet of aircraft, helicopters, shelters, transport and logistical means.⁶
- 2021 EU Adaptation Strategy aims to increase resilience and improve the EU's response capacity to lessen the impacts of economic damage caused by natural disasters.⁷
- Member states' civil protection structures vary from country to country and are often difficult to integrate. The evaluation of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism conducted in 2024 clearly shows the need for more integration of individual crisis management systems between the different Member States.⁸
- Institutional structures within the European Union, such the European solidarity Fund, although well established, often fail to provide the needed help in useful time due to lengthy bureaucratic procedures.⁹

⁴ Decision (EU) 2022/591 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 April 2022 on a General Union Environment Action Programme to 2030

⁵ European State of the Climate (ESOTC) 2023

⁶ European Commission (2024) *European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations*, https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/what/civil-protection/resceu_en, accessed 6th of November 2024

⁷ European Commission (2021), *COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS Forging a climate-resilient Europe - the new EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change*

⁸ Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) (2024), *Evaluation of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism*

⁹ European Parliament (2021), European Parliament resolution of 18 May 2021 on the review of the



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YEPP calls on:

- The European Commission and European Parliament to make the European Solidarity Corps more attractive by increasing the maximum age of entry into service (currently 30 years old).
- The European Commission and European Parliament to Improve promptness of administrative procedures for applications to the European Union Solidarity Fund.
- The European Commission to promote the participation of all available Member States in the EU Civil Protection Mechanism.
- The European Commission to determine the added value to increasing the financial means available to rescEU.
- The European Commission and European Parliament to facilitate common minimum standards in terms of procedure and approach to large scale emergencies, together with the strengthening of the interoperability of the national civil protection body through the sharing of best practices and international maneuvers and exercises.
- The European Commission and European Parliament to Reinforce the role of the Union civil protection Mechanism as a platform of coordination and exchange of best practices in the field.
- The European Commission and the EU Parliament to develop dedicated programs for youth preparedness and education in disaster management, recognizing the essential role of youth in immediate and post-disaster response efforts.