

General and Specific Objectives of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism

Article 1 of the Decision states that the Union Mechanism's **General objectives** are to:

1. Strengthen cooperation between the Union and the Member States and promote solidarity through practical cooperation and coordination
2. Facilitate coordination in the field of civil protection in order to improve the effectiveness of systems for preventing, preparing for and responding to natural and man-made disasters

The Union Mechanism shall protect primarily people, but also the environment and property, including cultural heritage, against all kinds of natural and man-made disasters, including the consequences of acts of terrorism, technological, radiological or environmental disasters, marine pollution, and acute health emergencies, occurring inside or outside the Union.

Specific objectives are also set out in Article 3(1) of the Decision, which states that the Union Mechanism is intended to "support, complement and facilitate coordination of Member States' action in pursuit of the following common specific objectives:

1. to achieve a high level of protection against disasters by preventing or reducing their potential effects, by fostering a culture of prevention and by improving cooperation between the civil protection and other relevant services
2. to enhance preparedness at Member State and Union level to respond to disasters
3. to facilitate rapid and efficient response in the event of disasters or imminent disasters to increase public awareness and preparedness for disasters