



Council of the  
European Union

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#### 'I/A' ITEM NOTE

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1)/Council

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Subject: Participation to the Union Civil Protection Mechanism by Ukraine  
- Approval of the mechanism and authorisation of the date of application

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1. On 15 March 2023, the Commission has informed of the latest steps undertaken to ensure the participation of Ukraine to the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) established by Decision No 1313/2013/EU<sup>1</sup>.
2. According to Article 28 of Decision No 1313/2013/EU, the UCPM is open to the participation of acceding countries, candidate countries and potential candidates. The participation in the UCPM includes participation in its activities in accordance with the objectives, requirements, criteria, procedures and deadlines provided for in that Decision.

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<sup>1</sup> Decision No 1313/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism, OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 924.

3. The integration of eligible third countries into the UCPM has been a long-standing Union priority, with currently Norway, Iceland, Turkey, Serbia, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Albania taking part in the UCPM.
4. It is noted that once the European Council granted it candidate status on 23 June 2022, Ukraine expressed its interest to become a Participating State in the UCPM on 28 June 2022. This was followed up by an official request to join the UCPM. Since February 2022, the country has been a major beneficiary of assistance received through the UCPM, but has also significantly improved its own civil protection system and shown a clear commitment in the area of disaster management. The Commission assesses that the country significantly improved its civil protection system and is mature enough with regard to the national organisation of its civil protection capabilities to join the UCPM.
5. Against this background, the Commission agreed with Ukraine on a mechanism with a view to its participation to the UCPM as a full member. The signature of that mechanism is scheduled for the second half of April 2023. Following the notification by Ukraine of the completion of the national ratification procedure, it is envisaged that the mechanism be retroactively applicable as of 1 January 2023, subject to Council authorisation.

6. The form in which the Commission agrees the participation of eligible countries to the UCPM is dictated by the provisions of Decision No 1313/2013/EU as well as by the provisions of the respective Framework Agreements and Association Council Decisions, or similar agreements concluded with each participating country. The Commission has developed a template for setting out the mechanism for participation, which ensures no obligations are incumbent on the Union and participation is subject to a financial contribution paid by the participating country.
7. In view of the above, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to recommend that the Council:
- approve the mechanism ensuring the participation of Ukraine to the UCPM;
  - agree that the date from which participation by Ukraine becomes effective is 1 January 2023 [provided Ukraine has completed the necessary internal procedures].
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