

Statement of the European Coalition for Civil Preparedness and Resilience

Ministers responsible for the internal security, civil preparedness and resilience of the Kingdom of Belgium, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Finland, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and the Kingdom of Sweden declare the following:

We underline the immediate urgency to ensure a prepared and resilient European Union and support Special Advisor to the President of the European Commission, former President of Finland Sauli Niinistö's conclusions that the EU Member States and the European Union must individually and collectively take additional measures to strengthen preparedness and resilience to counter increasing threats, including military, hybrid, terrorist and criminal threats, foreign manipulation and interference, and other disruptions caused by natural or human-made disasters, also in the context of geopolitical and climatologic developments. We need to ensure a whole-of-society approach, which is established on collaboration and shared responsibility among all sectors and members of society.

The responsibility for preparedness and resilience rests with the individual Member States. However, as crises have become increasingly cross-border, cross-sectoral and grow in complexity, the need for urgent, European coordinated action has become both evident and pressing, whereby the pace of our actions should align with the urgency of the challenges before us. Increasing the preparedness and resilience of the EU as a whole in this imperative context requires efforts from Member States and the EU's institutions. Therefore, we commit to further strengthen our efforts both nationally and at the European level, while being cognizant of the division of competences between the Union and the Member States.

Together we will work towards a coordinated multidisciplinary approach within our Member States and the EU by developing and implementing a Joint Coalition Agenda, encompassing joint initiatives and collaborative activities aimed at furthering our common goals and at effectively implementing the Preparedness Union Strategy, thereby fully applying the Preparedness by Design principle. As Ministers responsible for the internal security, civil preparedness and resilience we will focus our efforts in particular on:

- Empowering citizens as the backbone of **societal preparedness and resilience**. Our ultimate focus is the protection of our citizens. Increasing civil preparedness and resilience in Member States requires a cross-sectoral, all-hazards approach, that brings together a wide range of tools aimed at warning, protecting and raising awareness among our population.
- Optimizing and integrating our risk and threat assessments with the aim to feed into the development of an overarching **EU comprehensive risk and threats assessment**, leading to a common threat perception and better prepared and resilient societies across Europe.
- Improving **situational awareness** and horizontal crisis management within our countries and at EU-level through enhanced information sharing, and strengthening existing instruments, such as the *Single Intelligence Analysis Capacity* (SIAC) and the *Emergency Response Coordination Centre* (ERCC), and to promote a security culture within the EU institutions.

- Strengthening the **protection of critical infrastructure**, including critical entities, communication, undersea infrastructure and cyber, as well as by a strategic and coordinated stockpiling approach to help ensure sustainable and equitable allocated resource management.
- Exploring new ways to help bolster the coordination of civilian and military efforts, both at the national and international level, including **optimized EU-NATO complementarity** as a crosscutting element.

Our strength is not only measured in our ability to defend ourselves militarily, but in the resilience of our communities, our institutions, and our people, irrespective of the crisis or threat. It is time for the EU and its Member States to build a robust and resilient society to protect our citizens and to help them protect themselves, now and in the future.

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