

National Workshop Cyprus - 17th May 2023
“Satellite-based Services for Disaster Risk Management”
Dominique Tilmans

When you come back from a Search and Rescue joint exercise such as today's, I'm more than convince that all decisions-makers, politicians, officials of the EU Members state, should live such an experience.

They would understand that space technology is not only a matter of engineers and technicians but also an important lever for prevention and decision-making.

Today:

I learned a lot about the ability of the Join Research Coordination Center to respond to save lives in distress!

I learned a lot about their professional commitment.

I learned a lot about their work ethic!

And I thank them for their efficiency!!

Dear Rodrigo,
Dear Director Giorgios Komodromos,
Dear Colleagues and experts,

First off all, I want to congratulate the Minister of Defence, the Deputy Minister of Research, Innovation and Digital Policy and their administration for the organization of this important Search and Rescue joint exercise in Cyprus

And I want to thank EUSPA and my Eurisy's team to be part of this relevant event which take part of a large scale multinational civil and military exercise.

But before going further, I will ask you a question. I will reverse the role!

Do you know, over the last 2 years, how many times EU Members States and non-members states required the activation of the '**Union Civil Protection Mechanism**'?

Who can guess the number? Maybe someone knows the number!

According to the European Commission, it has been requested **320** times for both member states and non-member states

= it's more than **13** times per month!

Among the Member States, it has been requested **104** times,

= it's more than **4** times per month, nearly one per week!!

But I have another question.

Do you know the cost of those adverse events?

Well, between 1980 and 2020/ **50 million people** in Europe were affected and the damage is estimated about **12 billion euros** in economic losses **per year!**

Those significant numbers, prove the need for a cooperative mechanism to support EU Member States and beyond to increase Europe's resilience to natural disasters from floods, wildfires, droughts, volcanoes and man-made catastrophes

They are menacing our environment putting in danger our lives/ our economy and impacting properties, flora, fauna and cultural heritage.

We have to face, we have to reduce those numbers, we have to act!

And space technology can help us! This powerful ally, in many domains, also demonstrates its crucial role in optimising the oversight of the responses to emergencies and the other phases of the disaster risk management cycle.

Space technology is a powerful tool that all European countries should use.

At the policy level, the European Commission is making giant steps forward to harmonise how Member States can work together to tackle and reduce the impact of disasters.

On their side, EUSPA and Eurisy, together, are working to facilitate the use of space technology to make them accessible to make them understandable.

Our job is to support and convince countries and regions to adopt satellite technology.

It's a commitment!

We raise awareness of what satellite technology can do to support the national civil protection corps to support search and rescue entities and to save the citizens

Already last year, we started in Greece this national workshop cycle to build a shared understanding among national and regional stakeholders of what satellite-based services can bring in disaster and risk management.

I conclude,

We must never forget that disasters have no friends/ no borders!

We must never forget that space technology is an incredible ally in meeting both solidarity and cooperation between states in the event of a disaster

We must never forget that space technology is incredible ally to meet specific national needs in terms of security and autonomy of a country.

I thank you!