

EU Preparedness Conference

23 & 24 March 2026
Egmont Palace, Place du Petit Sablon 8, 1000 Bruxelles

23 March 2026 (12:30-19:45)

12:30-13:15: *Registration and Welcome Coffee (Atrium)*

13:15-13:30: **Opening Speech Hadja Lahbib, Commissioner for Equality, Preparedness and Crisis Management** (*Europa Room*)

13:30-13:45: **Opening Speech Roxana Mînzatu, Executive Vice-President for Social Rights and Skills, Quality Jobs and Preparedness** (*Europa Room*)

13:45-14:00: **Opening Speech Oleksii Kuleba, Deputy Prime Minister for Restoration of Ukraine, Minister for Communities and Territories Development of Ukraine** (*Europa Room*)

14:00-15:30: **Europe's Preparedness Challenge: From Climate Extremes To Geopolitical Conflict** - High-level Opening Panel and Q&A (*Europa Room*)

Moderator: Jacki Davis

- Alona Shkrum, *First Deputy Minister for Development of Communities and Territories of Ukraine (TBC)*
- Johan Berggren, *State Secretary to Minister of Civil Defence, Ministry of Defence of Sweden*
- Lena Düpont, *Member of European Parliament*
- Professor Georgios Boustras, *UNESCO Chair in Disaster Risk Resilience and Societal Safety in SE Mediterranean, Professor of Risk Assessment at the European University Cyprus*
- Niels Vanlaer, *Harbour Master of the Port of Antwerp*

15:30-16:00: *Coffee Break (Atrium & Mirror Gallery)*



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16:00-18:00: Breakout Session 1 – Gathering Input from Participants (*Breakout Rooms*)

- Civil-Military Cooperation: What Role For The EU?
- Population Preparedness: Lessons From Across Europe
- Preparedness-By-Design: Engagement Across Sectors
- Public-Private Preparedness: Strengthening Cooperation For Crisis Readiness

18:00-18:15: Session Wrap-Up (*Breakout Rooms*)

18:15-18:25: Wrap-Up of the Day Maciej Popowski, Director-General - Directorate General European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) (*Mirror Gallery*)

18:25-18:40: Opening Reception Speech Bernard Quintin, Minister of Security and the Interior (*Mirror Gallery*)

18:40-19:45: Reception and Networking (Mirror Gallery)



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24 March 2026 (9:00 – 14:45)

09:00-09:30: *Arrival of Participants and Coffee (Atrium)*

09:30-10:30: Breakout Session 2 – Expert panels on specific thematic solutions (*Breakout rooms*)

Civil-Military Cooperation: What Role For The EU?

Moderator: Hans Das, Deputy Director-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO)

- Jaroslaw Mokrzycki, *Chief of Staff 2nd Polish Corps Headquarters, Land Component Command, Poland*
- Vasyl Ananyev, *Head of Unit at the Department of Critical Infrastructure Protection, Ukraine*
- Thomas Ramsay Gooch, *Branch Head Civil-Military Cooperation Liaison SHAPE, NATO*
- Charlotte Petri Gornitzka, *Governor of Gotland County, Sweden*

Population Preparedness: Lessons From Across Europe

Moderator: Gaetano Vivo, *Deputy Head of Unit Prevention and Preparedness Capacity Building, Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO)*

- Carlos Mendes, *Deputy Director for Prevention and Risk Management at the Portuguese National Authority for Emergency and Civil Protection, Portugal*
- Dr. Eva Högl, *Senator for the Interior and Sports of the Land Bremen, Germany*
- Andrii Pozniakevych, *Manager of the Emergency Operations Centre, Ukrainian Red Cross*
- Alessandra Laezza, *Communications Expert, Italian Civil Protection Department, Italy*

Preparedness-By-Design: Engagement Across Sectors

Moderator: Claudia Miller, *Deputy Head of Unit Civil Protection Policy, Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO)*

- Jaroslaw Orlinski, *Director of the Department of Infrastructure Programs, Polish Ministry of Funds and Regional Policy, Poland*
- Monica Scatasta, *Head of Division of Regional Development, European Investment Bank*
- Nejc Smole, *Mayor of the Municipality of Medvode, Slovenia (Committee of the Regions)*
- Styliani Karavazaki, *Policy Assistant Smart and Sustainable Growth, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO)*



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Public–Private Preparedness: Strengthening Cooperation For Crisis Readiness

Moderator: Alessandro Carrotta, Policy Officer Civil Protection Policy, Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO)

- *Bertrand Deprez, Head of Governmental Affairs and Policy for Europe, GE Vernova*
- *Olivier Girard, Head of Unit Medical Countermeasures, Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (DG HERA)*
- *Nicola Clare Martin, Global Head of Crisis Management and Business Continuity, A.P. Moller-Maersk*
- *Alexandre Penha, National Operations Assistant, National Emergency and Civil Protection Authority, Portugal*
- *Hajar Zamouri, Adviser of the European Enterprise Network (EEN), Member of the Government of Flanders*

10:30-11:00: Coffee Break (Atrium & Mirror Gallery)

11:00-11:30: Reporting Back From Breakout Sessions *(Europa Room)*

11:30-13:00: From Strategy To Action: One Year Of Preparedness Union - High-level Closing Panel and Q&A *(Europa Room)*

Moderator: Jacki Davis

- *General Seán Clancy, Chairman of the European Union Military Committee*
- *Kristine Joy Nordenson Kallset, Deputy Minister (State Secretary) for the Ministry of Justice and Public Security, Norway*
- *Leena Ylä-Mononen, Executive Director of the European Environment Agency*
- *Maksym Dotsenko, Director-General of the Ukrainian Red Cross*
- *Tero Kiviniemi, General Manager of Colas' Northern Europe Business Unit, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Destia Ltd*

13:00-13:15: Closing Speech Hadja Lahbib, Commissioner for Equality, Preparedness and Crisis Management *(Europa Room)*

13:15-14:45: Farewell Lunch (Mirror Gallery)