

Helsinki, 16 April 2026

Statement of the European Coalition for Civil Preparedness and Resilience

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

The European Coalition for Civil Preparedness and Resilience has convened for the third time. As we approach the one-year anniversary of the Coalition, we welcome the new members who have joined since the first meeting: Poland and Germany. The format remains open to all partners subscribing to the common goals and priorities of the Coalition, to strengthen the civil preparedness and resilience across Europe.

The Coalition's key priorities endorsed in the first ministerial meeting of the Coalition in May 2025 are as follows:

- Empowering citizens as the backbone of societal preparedness and resilience;
- Optimizing and integrating risk and threat assessments for the purpose of an overarching EU comprehensive risk and threats assessment for which a joint input from the Coalition has been presented;
- Improving situational awareness and horizontal crisis management through enhanced information sharing, and strengthening existing instruments;
- Strengthening the protection of critical infrastructure;
- Optimized EU-NATO complementarity.

Recognizing the current volatile security environment and its evolving challenges, we underline the urgent and imminent need to strengthen overall preparedness at all levels, applying a cross-sectoral, all-hazards approach. Preparing for the worst-case scenario strengthens overall preparedness and resilience to counter all types of threats, whether natural or human-made.

Europe is faced with a broad spectrum of threats and an evolving security environment with far-reaching effects, including the instability in the Middle East. Russia's full-scale war of aggression against Ukraine remains the most critical factor for Europe's long-term security, while the geopolitical instability further reinforces Russia's capacity to pursue its objectives. We must continue our strong support for Ukraine for as long as necessary.

Ukraine's lessons learned are invaluable for us and EU as a whole, including insights on hybrid threats and critical infrastructure disruptions. We highlight the need to make full use of these lessons learned in order to achieve practical policy solutions at the European level and are committed to advancing this work.

Preparedness comes with a cost, but the cost of failing to prepare can be far greater. We emphasise the need to advance and ensure that preparedness is duly reflected in future Union financing

instruments and carried through into future work programmes. We also underline the importance of ensuring that hybrid threats are clearly included in Home Affairs financial instruments.

We encourage to reflect the *preparedness by design* -principle highlighted in both President Niinistö's report and the EU's Preparedness Union Strategy also in the European Security Strategy and to discuss the Strategy in the relevant forums, addressing both the internal and external security domain.

We highlight the importance of civil–military cooperation and joint exercising. We promote working towards more structured political discussions within the Council, bringing together civilian and military actors at all levels. We remain committed to strengthening coordination on EU–NATO matters both in capitals and within the Coalition in key areas, including the revision of the 7 Baseline Requirements and the development of the EU minimum preparedness requirements, also taking into account the discussions at the level of Senior National Officials in NATO.

We will continue the work of the European Coalition for Civil Preparedness and Resilience at all levels, ensuring opportunities for more structured discussions at political level both in the EU and NATO. We reaffirm our shared commitment to advancing our common objectives and shaping a better prepared Europe.