

EN

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Answer given by Mr Lenarčič  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(29.4.2021)

When an emergency overwhelms national response capacity, any country in the world can make a request for assistance under the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM)<sup>1</sup>. This requires an official request from a government to the European Commission's Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC)<sup>2</sup>, outlining the precise needs.

Czechia has sought support through the UCPM twice in response to COVID-19, but those requests did not cover emergency medical teams. In October 2020, it requested 150 ventilators and 1,000 high-flow nasal oxygen devices. The request for ventilators was met through a combination of offers from the Commission's rescEU stockpile of critical medical equipment hosted by Romania, and through offers from Austria<sup>3</sup> and the Netherlands<sup>4</sup>. On 5 March 2021, Czechia issued a new request for 15,000 COVID-19 vaccines, which was fulfilled by France.

Czechia is also eligible to apply for financial support under the Emergency Support Instrument (ESI). The Mobility Package within ESI includes three strands, one of which covers the transfer of medical personnel within the EU and from third countries into the EU. The EU can finance up to 100% of the eligible costs of transport and operational costs under this strand. So far, the Commission has not received any application from Czechia for this strand of the ESI Mobility Package.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/echo/what/civil-protection/mechanism\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/echo/what/civil-protection/mechanism_en)

<sup>2</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/echo/what/civil-protection/emergency-response-coordination-centre-ercc\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/echo/what/civil-protection/emergency-response-coordination-centre-ercc_en)

<sup>3</sup> 15 ventilators.

<sup>4</sup> 105 ventilators.