

Ordinary Resolution Nr. 7

**"For an EU ready to respond to climate emergencies"** - tabled by Partido Popular (Spain)  
GAMARRA RUIZ-CLAVIJO, María Concepción; GONZÁLEZ PONS, Esteban; MONTSERRAT,  
Dolors; ARIAS ECHEVERRÍA, Pablo

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In recent years, **Europe has experienced a significant increase in the frequency and intensity of climatic emergencies.** Extreme events such as floods, droughts, forest fires, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, storms and heat waves have caused serious human, material and environmental losses that have resulted in high economic losses and have generated real public health problems.

**A recent example of a climate emergency is the DANA (upper-level isolated depression storm) that struck Valencia on October 29, 2024, a tragedy that caused the death of more than 220 people and had a devastating impact on the region.** Moreover, total material damages are estimated at over €17 billion, and Valencia's provincial GDP may have declined by 1.6 points in the last quarter of 2024.

Such disasters highlight **the urgent need to strengthen European mechanisms for preparedness against climate emergencies, both to anticipate these events as much as possible and to ensure an immediate and coordinated response to mitigate their impact and facilitate the recovery of affected areas.** This analysis was included in the report by former Finnish President Sauli Niinistö, which outlines how lack of foresight and inefficient security and coordination protocols exacerbate the consequences of these crises.

The political will of the EPP is clear and firm, as expressed by European Commission Executive Vice-President Henna Virkkunen during her hearing: **"It is our collective responsibility to learn from these tragic events."** The time has come for the EPP to take on this responsibility and act accordingly.

**Therefore, we advocate for the development of a more advanced early warning system to better anticipate and respond to climate emergencies.** We call for enhanced coordination between early-warning systems at the European level to ensure that critical information on natural disasters reaches national, regional, and local authorities, as well as the public, in a timely, accurate, and accessible manner.

**We believe that Europe must count with sufficient financial resources to respond to climate emergencies.** Therefore, we advocate for a significant increase in the budget of the European Solidarity Fund and the Emergency Aid Reserve, along with a reform of the application procedures. We call on the European Commission to prioritise this issue when drafting the Multiannual Financial Framework and Cohesion Policy. Additionally, we also suggest studying possible ways of financing works or actions aimed at adapting both new and existing

infrastructure to extreme-weather events in order to improve their response to these phenomena.

**We are committed to strengthening Europe’s operational capacity to deal with disasters resulting from climate emergencies.** To do this, it is essential to expand the European Civil Protection Reserve with more means and essential resources. Drones, which are key to rescue and supply deliveries in inaccessible areas after disasters, must be integrated to improve crisis response.

We call for **strengthening cross-border cooperation in civil protection and climate emergency management across the European Union**, recognising that natural disasters do not respect borders and require a coordinated response. Furthermore, we advocate for improving the training of all professionals involved in disaster prevention and response through the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism.

Climate emergency preparedness strategies **must place citizens at the centre, as their active participation is key to an effective response.** At the same time, **people should be empowered to take more responsibility for their own preparedness in the face of emergencies.** Involving citizens in different roles and capacities will strengthen social cohesion during crises. To this end, local and regional authorities, civil organisations and associations can play a key role in raising awareness, providing information, anticipating, preventing, and managing the response to climate emergencies, due to their proximity to local communities.

**We urge putting technology at the service of citizens** through models such as CitiVERSE, which improve urban sustainability and interaction with authorities, and the DestinE initiative, a high-precision digital model to forecast the impact of natural phenomena and human activities. Expanding these tools across the EU will enable smarter planning, better climate adaptation, and greater resilience to disasters.