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To whom it may concern

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BEARBEITET VON Anne-Maria Wegner

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BETREFF **Cooperation Structure in European Civil Protection and Disaster Management**

hier: Review of Relevant Contact Points

AZ Bitte AZ eingeben.

DATUM 30. April 2025

Dear Sir or Madam,

In view of the increasing number and complexity of international crises, close cooperation between the competent civil protection and disaster management authorities across Europe is gaining ever greater importance. Against this backdrop, we – the Federal Agency for Technical Relief (Technisches Hilfswerk, THW) – aim to expand and strengthen our network of European partner institutions in this field, and kindly request your support.

The THW is the civil protection organisation of the Federal Republic of Germany, providing technical assistance as part of disaster relief efforts both nationally and internationally. It operates under the Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community (BMI), and falls within the remit of Division KM 3 (Crisis Management and Civil Protection). The THW consists of a full-time administrative structure, eight regional directorates, and 66 local offices. Its operational strength is built upon more than 88,000 volunteers active in 668 local units.

The organisation is headed by President Sabine Lackner. International deployments of the THW are centrally coordinated by the International Division E2 at THW headquarters. These deployments include emergency response, humanitarian aid, and long-term capacity development as part of international cooperation.

In order to strengthen cooperation within Europe and improve coordination in international missions, we are currently updating our overview of relevant institutions and contact points in your country. We would therefore appreciate your support in identifying or confirming the following contacts:

1. The responsible contact person within the competent ministry for civil protection and disaster management (comparable to Division KM 3 at the German Federal Ministry of the Interior)
2. The head of the national civil protection or disaster management authority (equivalent to the President of the THW)
3. The relevant contact person within this authority for international deployments (comparable to the International Division E2 at THW)
4. A subject-matter expert for safety and security aspects in the context of international operations of the civil protection authority

Should several institutions in your country hold responsibilities in this field, we would be grateful for a corresponding outline and contact recommendations.

This enquiry aims to consolidate existing partnerships, identify new potential for cooperation, and enhance the basis for effective cross-border collaboration – especially with regard to future challenges, joint missions, exercises, and projects.

We would like to thank you in advance for your kind support and look forward to your response.

Yours faithfully  
On behalf of

Klaus Buchmüller  
Head of International Division  
Federal Agency of Technical Relief

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