



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR EUROPEAN CIVIL PROTECTION AND HUMANITARIAN AID
OPERATIONS (ECHO)
Emergency Response Coordination Centre
Emergency Response Operations

Brussels
ECHO.A.1/MG

CORRESPONDENCE SLIP

Addressees: **Permanent Network of National Correspondents Civil Protection (PNNC)**
Civil Protection Contact Points

Subject: **Wildfire Support Team in the ERCC,**
2026 wildfire season: 15 June- 18 September

After many successful years, the ERCC will continue maintaining the ERCC Wildfire Support Team (WFST) throughout the summer 2026. EU Member States and UCPM Participating States (MS/PS) are kindly requested to nominate experts to take part in the team. The experts will support the ERCC during the wildfire season by enhancing operational awareness, monitoring wildfire risk in Europe, conducting operational assessments and supporting ongoing emergencies, and taking an active part in the preparation of reports and documentation.

The composition of the WFST will be as follows: two national experts (subject to this correspondence slip), one scientific expert from the ARISTOTLE partnership, and staff from the ERCC.

In addition to being an opportunity to exchange experiences and best practices among professionals, the selected experts will be able to be part of the ERCC during the summer season and experience first-hand operational coordination through ERCC.

Responsibilities and tasks of the experts include, but are not limited to:

- a) Support with near-real-time monitoring and analysis of the wildfire situation (fire behaviour, fire potential, forecast, etc.), mainly in Europe and in the Mediterranean region,
- b) Provide an overview of the wildfire situation for the information products shared by DG ECHO,
- c) Monitor the availability of firefighting assets of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM), notably the resources registered in the European Civil Protection Pool and rescEU capacities,
- d) Follow-up on the pre-positioned ground forest firefighting teams in wildfire-prone countries under the UCPM,
- e) Follow-up and contribute to the deployment of requested assistance through the UCPM,
- f) Contribute to the preparation and follow-up of the weekly coordination videoconference with the wildfires prone MS/PS,
- g) Contribute to the collection and processing of wildfire statistical data,

- h) Share with DG ECHO colleagues their experience in wildfire management by presenting their respective national authority emergency management plans and/or their involvement in previous emergencies.

The experts will receive training on the ERCC procedures and tools. Two online training sessions will be organized in June.

The Commission would like to welcome and host MS/PS experts in the ERCC for two consecutive weeks. The monitoring cell operations will start from the week of 15 June and will last until 18 September (14 weeks in total). Nominated experts should preferably have attended UCPM training courses. Furthermore, we encourage MS/PS to nominate experts who have background in wildfire analysis. As communicated on 27 February ⁽¹⁾, the ERCC expects Member States to nominate experts who attended the wildfire analysis training under NERO. Nominated experts must be proficient in English, both spoken and written form.

The Commission will cover the costs of economy-class travel as well as accommodation costs.

Nominations should be submitted by completing a [online form](#) by **4 May 2026**. Please indicate in the online form the preferred deployment time for each nominated expert. Experts available for two continuous weeks will have priority.

While not mandatory, preference will be given to candidates who meet the following requirements:

1. Completion of **UCPM courses** (e.g., CMI/UMI, AFFF, ODS).
2. Experience as a member of **wildfire support and/or assessment teams** within a STAFF organization (applicants must specify their role and duration of service).
3. Educational background in **forestry engineering, firefighting, or environmental science**.
4. Operational **experience as a responder in wildfire operations and/or situation room coordination for CP** (applicants must specify their role and duration of service).
5. Completion of the **wildfire analysis training** under NERO project

After filling in the online form, please share the experts' CV with:

- Mr. Mihail GUTAS (Mihail-Marian.GUTAS@ec.europa.eu) and
- Mr. Moisès GALÁN SANTANO (Moises.GALAN-SANTANO@ec.europa.eu).

Member States and Participating States will be informed of the selected experts who will then be contacted by the travel agent who will make the bookings and provide the electronic tickets and accommodation details.

Yours faithfully,

Maria ZUBER
Head of Unit

⁽¹⁾ ref: Ares(2026)2193710