



Civil Society Department
Director

Warsaw, 14.01.2025.

Łukasz Jachimowicz

Mr Margo Klaos
Director General
Directorate of the Estonian Rescue Board
Estonian Rescue Board

Dear Sir,

Within the framework of the presidency of Poland of the European Union Council in the first half of 2025, coming at a time of uncertainty and concern, the Polish Government decided to focus on activities strengthening European security in all its dimensions: external, internal, information, economic, energy, food, and health.

The Minister for Civil Society, member of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Poland, decided to undertake a new initiative within the framework of European cooperation, aiming at strengthening and highlighting the role of civil society in building preparedness and resilience to crises. This important role has already been pointed out in Chapter 4 of the Report commissioned by the European Commission '*Safer Together: Strengthening Europe's Civilian and Military Preparedness and Readiness*', by Sauli Niinistö, published on October 30th, 2024. It will be further explored by authors of the special opinion by the European Economic and Social Committee that is being prepared on request of the Polish Government for the presidency proceedings. In order to make impact, the expert work must be completed (and challenged) by bringing this key topic into practical discussion and exchange between practitioners on decision-making level.

Taking into account the above facts, I am pleased to invite you to participate in **the High-Level Meeting on Civil Society and Crisis Preparedness**, which will take place on **February 4th and 5th, 2025, in Warsaw, Poland.**



The purpose of this meeting is to bring together public administration senior officials from EU Member States to exchange experiences and identify key challenges in cooperation between public administration and civil society organizations (CSOs) in times of crisis. This initiative, first time bringing together representatives of Member States on the social dimension of the internal security topic, represents a corner-stone for launching a multi-sectoral debate at European level on **'Civil Society as a Crisis Readiness Factor in the Present EU'**.

(for more information please check: www.poland25.eu)

The event will gather 2 delegates by each country: a representative of government administration of the EU Member States, at the decision-making level, responsible for the cooperation with civil society and civil society organisations during crisis situations¹ and a representative of government administration specializing in inter-sectoral/inter-ministerial/international coordination of civil protection and crisis management.

The proceedings will be conducted in English. Attached, you will find the draft agenda for the meeting.

Upon the confirmation of the name, position and email address of Your Institution's representative, a **separate email will be sent with the link to the official Polish Presidency Accreditation Platform** along information about logistics.

10 days before the meeting, an analytical document will be shared, presenting results of the initial survey, that was circulated to EU MS earlier in summer 2024. Based on information shared by each Member State through the survey, a mapping of relevant structures in EU MS has been prepared and will be shared with meeting participants.

¹ For countries where there is no particular structure responsible for dialogue with civil society it can be a representative of government administration with expertise in the area of cooperation with NGO during crisis situations such as migration crisis/natural disasters/energy crisis.



In order to prepare meeting discussions, we would like to ask to share insights into your country's institutional and administrative structures related to cooperation with civil society within the resilience building and crisis preparedness context, possibly with examples of good practices or relevant experiences. We expect 4-5-minute interventions by each of counties.

Please confirm the participation as soon as possible on both email addresses at: marta.radosz@kprm.gov.pl and cc civil.society@kprm.gov.pl , in order to receive the link to the presidency accreditation platform. Note, that for security reasons, the accreditation platform, will admit registration of delegates only by **January 22nd, 2025**.

For any additional logistical details, please contact Ms. Marta Radosz at marta.radosz@kprm.gov.pl and cc civil.society@kprm.gov.pl.

We do look forward to welcoming You personally or your Institution's representative to this important meeting and to engaging in fruitful discussions that will help shape our shared response to crisis challenges in the European Union.

Yours sincerely,

Łukasz Jachimowicz
Director