



Council of the  
European Union

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#### OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Delegations

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Subject: Outcome of proceedings of the Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and  
Food Aid on 11-12 February 2016

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Delegation will find attached the outcome of proceedings of the Working Party on Humanitarian  
Aid and Food Aid held on 11 and 12 February 2016.

## **1. Adoption of the agenda**

The agenda was adopted.

## **2. Exchange with CODEV on joint response in protracted crises (*COHAFA was joined by CODEV for this item*)**

### **a) Debrief Syria Conference (London, 4 February)**

The UK and German delegations debriefed the groups about the successful outcome of the conference which had generated \$11 billion worth of pledges, the biggest amount of money ever raised for a humanitarian crisis on a single day. The Commission added that the total EU pledge for 2016 was €3 billion, with €1 billion coming from the EU budget. The Presidency and a number of delegations highlighted the need for a close follow-up to the implementation of the conference outcome to ensure that humanitarian assistance would effectively reach those in need.

### **b) Debrief Partners and Member States consultations on Forced Displacement and Development (Brussels, 22 January)**

The Commission debriefed about the consultations held with experts from implementing partners (21 January) and Member States (22 January) respectively in view of a Commission Communication on Forced Displacement and Development being prepared jointly by ECHO, DEVCO and NEAR.

## **3. High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing**

The Presidency gave an overview on the process that should lead to an agreement at the World Humanitarian Summit on the recommendations from the High-Level Panel and particularly the 'Grand Bargain' between donors and humanitarian implementing partners. The group then held an exchange of views on the HLP report, which had been officially launched in Dubai on 17 January, and the recommendations made therein.

**4. World Humanitarian Summit** (*incl. and informal exchange of views with Robert Smith, Head of the WHS Secretariat's Geneva office*)

The Presidency gave an introduction to the UNSG Report for the WHS and the suggested commitments to be made by all stakeholders at the WHS (Istanbul, 23-24 May).

**a) Presentation on UNSG Report and follow-up**

As part of an informal exchange of views, Robert Smith, Head of the WHS Secretariat's Geneva Office, briefed delegations about the organisational details of the WHS, including on the set-up and topics of the leaders' roundtables, the side events and other specific sessions for leaders.

**b) Discussion on commitments and way forward**

The Presidency presented elements for discussion of the EU's possible expectations from the summit and the collective commitments the EU and its Member States might be willing to make.

**c) Outreach strategy and Council Conclusions**

The Commission and the EEAS informed an outreach strategy ahead of the WHS. The Presidency provided information on the preparatory process of draft Council Conclusions to set out the EU position for the WHS.

**5. Humanitarian innovation supported by the Member States: Belgium – mVAM** (*incl. an informal exchange of views with WFP*)

The Belgian delegation informed the group about their humanitarian innovation strategy, which includes funding for WFP's mVAM project. As part of an informal exchange of view Jean-Martin Bauer, mVAM project manager within WFP, presented the project's design and benefits as well as the specific results achieved in contexts such as DRC, Iraq and Yemen.

## **6. Response to crises:**

### **a) Iraq**

The Commission debriefed on various recent Iraq-related events. The group then held an exchange of views on the need for the protection of civilians in Iraq, and the respective roles of the humanitarian and political-military response.

### **b) Key humanitarian updates: Ukraine and Western Balkans**

Ukraine: The Commission updated on the humanitarian situation and key humanitarian challenges, debriefed on a mission to Kiev by their Director of Operations, and informed about the forthcoming mission to Ukraine by Commissioner Stylianides.

Western Balkans: The Presidency debriefed the group about the ongoing implementation of the IPCR (Integrated Political Crisis Response arrangements) in the context of the European refugee crisis. The Commission provided an update on the recently launched IOM/ UNHCR appeal and on the humanitarian situation along the Western Balkans route, with a focus on Serbia and FYRoM.

### **c) Early warning (potential emerging needs)**

Member States addressed potential emerging needs which might require further (collective) action, such as the potential threat of increased food insecurity in southern Africa due to El Niño. The Presidency stressed the need to keep a close eye on developments regarding the Zika virus in South America.

## **7. AOB**

### **a) Debrief WFP EB First Regular Session**

The Commission debriefed about this event.

**b) Debrief Consensus Implementation Task Force**

The Commission provided a debrief on the state of play of setting up the Task Force which is expected to guide and drive the implementation of the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid up until mid-2017 under the new Consensus Implementation Plan.

**c) Burundi**

The Commission updated the group on the humanitarian situation and the opening of an OCHA office in Burundi as part of the wider political and security situation, and more specifically on protection needs. They also provided an update on the humanitarian situation in Tanzania in the context of the Burundi crisis.

**d) Turkey**

The Commission provided an update on the humanitarian situation of Syrian refugees close to the Turkish border. They also briefed about the setting up of the €3-billion Facility for Turkey.

