



Council of the  
European Union

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COHAFA 70  
DEVGEN 258  
ALIM 20  
ONU 130  
FAO 47  
COAFR 296  
MAMA 236  
MOG 117  
COEST 308  
COASI 215  
PROCIV 78  
RELEX 976

#### 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 19 May 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 19 May 2016.

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

The agenda was adopted.

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

The Presidency and the Commission briefed on the fourth and last Sherpa meeting, hosted by Sweden in New York on 9-10 May, at which a deal on the "Grand Bargain" (GB) was concluded. They briefed the group about the final GB text, encouraged all delegations to sign up to the GB, and informed that the GB monitoring process would be discussed at a subsequent meeting to be convened by the High-Level Panel in late June.

### **3. World Humanitarian Summit**

Following the adoption of the position of the EU and its Member States for the WHS at the FAC/DEV on 12 May, the group held an exchange of views on support for the political communiqué for the WHS. The Presidency informed delegations that they would be invited to approve the EU's signature of the communiqué by ordinary written procedure, since the deadline for signing the communiqué set by the US was extremely tight (18:00 New York time the following day) and the Council needs to approve any EU signature of third-party statements. The Council Legal Service explained the details of the procedure. The Commission expressed its view that no further Council endorsement was needed for the EU to sign up to the communiqué as its contents would already be covered by existing EU positions. Delegations provided updates on their level of participation in the WHS, their participation in the Roundtables and side events, and their support for the core and individual commitments.

#### **4. Information services and the humanitarian programme cycle (incl. an informal exchange of views with OCHA)**

Andrew Wyllie, leader of the Programme Support Branch in OCHA Geneva, presented the information services which are currently being developed by OCHA to support the humanitarian programme cycle (HPC) in a more flexible and adaptive way. The HPC-Information Services (HPC-IS) component of OCHA's Digital Development Plan is being designed to 'join the dots' between the highly structured information generated in all phases of the cycle and thus improve OCHA's ability to provide accurate, reliable, up-to-date information to global stakeholders including donors, agencies, implementers as well as the affected people.

#### **5. WFP Executive Board Second Session (Rome, 13-17 June)**

The Commission provided an overview of the agenda of the meeting and the group held a preliminary discussion as to the agenda items on which statements should be made on behalf of the EU and its Member States.

#### **6. UNGA 71**

The Commission informed delegations about suggested humanitarian priorities for UNGA 71, and the group held a preliminary exchange of views on these suggestions.

#### **7. Response to crises**

##### **a) El Niño**

The Commission briefed on the effects of this climate phenomenon which were being felt by 40-60 million people, mostly in Africa, where they are most vulnerable due to dependency on agriculture and rainfall. The Commission informed that they had just released a new package of an additional €73m worth of humanitarian aid, which together with the first package of €125m in December as well as €241m mobilised by DEVCO brings total EU funding in response to EL Niño to €539m. Delegations updated each other on their response to El Niño, with some stressing the need to prepare for a possible subsequent La Niña episode.

**b) Early warning**

The issues of food insecurity in South Sudan and of yellow fever outbreak in Africa were raised under this item. The Presidency undertook to follow up on these issues at the next COHAFA meeting.

**8. AOB**

**a) Yemen**

The Commission provided an update on the humanitarian situation in the country stressing the alarming pace of internal displacement and risk of sharp increase in food insecurity. The divide between needs and humanitarian response is growing while donors' funding remains very low. The Commission is looking into the possibility to increase its humanitarian funding allocation for Yemen.

**b) Western Balkans**

The Commission briefed on the humanitarian situation of stranded populations in Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia as a consequence of the closure of the so-called Western Balkans route and the entry into force of the EU-Turkey agreement.

**c) Iraq**

The Commission provided an update on the humanitarian situation in Iraq, with a focus on issues related to the protection of civilians.

**d) Syria**

The Commission briefed on the humanitarian situation of Syrian refugees in Jordan and at the berm.

**e) Informal COHAFA 9-10 June**

The Presidency provided practical information on this meeting.