



Council of the  
European Union

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(OR. en)

13494/17

COHAFA 79  
DEVGEN 233  
ALIM 15  
ONU 141  
FAO 46  
COAFR 281  
MAMA 175  
MOG 72  
COEST 277  
COASI 170  
PROCIV 83  
RELEX 883

#### 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 14 and 15 September 2017

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Delegations will find attached the outcome of proceedings of the Working Party on Humanitarian  
Aid and Food Aid held on 14-15 September 2017.

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

The agenda was adopted (CM 3864/17 REV1). An AOB item was added on the Humanitarian DGs meeting on 2 October.

## **2. Humanitarian innovation** (*incl. an informal exchange of views with the Rahul Chandran, Director of the Global Alliance for Humanitarian Innovation, GAHI*)

Mr Chandran presented GAHI's purpose and objective, which is to help scale innovative products and processes so that they can make a bigger impact. He identified four fields in which he saw particular opportunities for scaling innovation (migration and displacement; urban response; block chain technology; disaster risk reduction) while stressing that GAHI was not 'evangelical' about specific ideas or products but open to supporting any humanitarian innovations with a potential for scale-up.

## **3. First report on the implementation of the Gender Action Plan 2016-20**

The Commission gave an overview of the findings from the first report on the implementation of the GAP II. More specifically, the Commission presented key findings on Objectives 9, 12 and 13, which have a specific humanitarian dimension. The EEAS elaborated on the main conclusions and achievements of the report as well as potential next steps.

## **4. Priorities for the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies**

The Commission gave an overview of the Call to Action (CtA) and its Roadmap, and informed Member States about their priorities for the CtA leadership, which they took over from Sweden in June. These include increasing advocacy; a focus on prevention; bringing the CtA to the field; and implementing the Roadmap commitments.

**5. Cooperation between civil protection and humanitarian actors in emergencies (COHAFA was joined by PROCIV for this item)**

A joint session was held with PROCIV in order to take stock of the progress made in implementing actions to strengthen cooperation between civil protection and humanitarian aid, which had been jointly agreed between COHAFA and PROCIV in 2015 (ST 14896/15). The Presidency presented the results of a survey they had conducted among Member States and the Commission. The Presidency concluded that the actions had been widely implemented, and that there was a commitment to continue this work in the months to come.

**6. Response to crises**

a) Afghanistan

The EEAS provided an update on the difficult political and worsening security situation. The Taliban now controlled a territory of almost half the country where a quarter of the population lives.

The Commission updated on the humanitarian situation. Increased conflict had caused a rise in the number of casualties and had displaced more than 200,000 people so far this year. This also made delivery of humanitarian assistance more difficult, with already 15 humanitarian workers killed since January.

On the basis of these presentations, COHAFA discussed a set of draft common humanitarian messages on the situation in Afghanistan.

b) Syria

The Commission updated on the humanitarian situation in Raqqa, where there were strong concerns regarding protection, water and hygiene, and in Idlib, where the main concerns include protection and health.

c) Yemen

The EEAS briefed about recent diplomatic efforts with relevant stakeholders aimed at improving the humanitarian situation in the country.

The Commission briefed about the further deterioration of the humanitarian crisis in Yemen which affects two-thirds of the population. There were 7 million people at the risk of famine, and a cholera outbreak had caused more than 2,000 deaths. The HRP was only funded at 40%.

## **7. EU Guidelines on promoting compliance with international humanitarian law**

The Chair of the Public International Law (COJUR) Working Party briefed COHAFA on preparations underway in COJUR for compiling a first-ever annual report on the implementation of the EU guidelines for promoting compliance with IHL.

## **8. AOB**

a) State of play of the comprehensive evaluation of the European Commission's humanitarian aid, 2012-2016

The Commission briefed on the state of play of this project.

b) Debriefing informal exchange on the humanitarian situation in Venezuela (Brussels, 6 September)

The Commission debriefed on this meeting.

c) Debriefing informal FAC/DEV (Tallinn, 11 September)

The Presidency debriefed on the informal ministerial meeting.

d) Democratic Republic of the Congo (Kasai crisis)

The group was briefed about the latest humanitarian developments in the DRC, which had become the world's biggest displacement crisis, with 7.7 million food-insecure people. Protection, health, a risk of epidemics, limited humanitarian access and lack of respect for IHL were issues of grave concern. The HRP was only 28% funded, leaving a gap of \$600 million. The group discussed advocacy needs and agreed to prepare common humanitarian messages.

e) COHAFA field trip to Ukraine

The Presidency provided additional information regarding the programme and logistical aspects of the field trip (22-25 October). The Presidency announced that in preparation of the field visit COHAFA would be invited to discuss common messages at the October COHAFA meeting.

f) Humanitarian side events at UNGA 72

The Commission briefed on relevant humanitarian side events in the margins of UNGA 72.

g) ECHO workshop on Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination Standards (Brussels, 29 September)

The Commission recalled UN-OCHA-led work on the development of new humanitarian civil-military coordination standards and briefed about the Commission's upcoming event.

h) Humanitarian DGs meeting (Brussels, 2 Oct)

The Commission provided information on this meeting.

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