



Council of the
European Union

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9491/16

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ALIM 9
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COEST 137
COASI 97
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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: Outcome of proceedings of the Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and
Food Aid on 7-8 April 2016

Delegation will find attached the outcome of proceedings of the Working Party on Humanitarian
Aid and Food Aid held on 7 and 8 April 2016.

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

2. Response to crises

a) **Gaza** (*including an informal exchange of views with UNRWA*)

As part of an informal exchange of views Bo Schack, UNRWA's Director of Gaza Operations, gave an update on the humanitarian, economic and security situation in the Gaza strip. He said that the current state of calm was fragile and the young Gazan generation had no positive outlook on the future. Easing the economic blockade and boosting economic activity was essential for improving people's livelihoods. Mr Schack highlighted the need to provide sufficient, predictable funding as UNRWA activities such as education were some of the few measures affording Gazans a sense of stability.

b) **Area C** (*including an informal exchange of views with OCHA*)

As part of an informal exchange of views Robert Piper, the Coordinator for Humanitarian and UN Development Activities for the occupied Palestinian territory, gave an update on the trends of demolitions and confiscations of humanitarian structures by the occupying power in the West Bank. Since the beginning of the year, the number of demolitions and confiscations has almost reached the same level as during the whole of 2015. Mr Piper stressed that a clear pattern was emerging: demolitions happen next to settlements that are expanding, or next to so-called "firing zones", many of which had not seen any military activity.

Delegations held an exchange of views on the situation and expressed their concern at the increased number of demolitions. They also exchanged views on the follow-up to the joint MaMa COHAFA Operational Conclusions on Area C. This item will be further discussed in a joint session of the two groups during the COHAFA meeting on 26-27 April.

c) **Libya**

The Commission briefed about the dire humanitarian situation in Libya, where in particular food insecurity and the collapse of the healthcare system are causes for grave concern, whereas the UNHRP remains underfunded. The need for supporting both refugees as well as Libyans themselves was stressed, as was the need for increased UN coordination.

d) **Yemen** (*including an informal exchange of views with the UN Humanitarian Coordinator*)

As part of an informal exchange of views Jamie McGoldrick, the UN RC/HC, briefed the group on the further deteriorating humanitarian situation in Yemen and the challenge to ensure sufficient funding for the UN Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) given that Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the Yemeni Government in exile have set up three parallel response plans. The discussion with Member States touched upon humanitarian advocacy needs, support for the UN HRP, the UN Verification and Inspection Mechanism, and the need to promote the provision of principled humanitarian assistance according to the Good Humanitarian Donorship principles.

e) **Early warning**

The Belgian delegation drew Member States' attention to the fact that the trends regarding the humanitarian situation in CAR were worrying and that the humanitarian appeal was strongly underfunded.

3. Linking humanitarian and development assistance: World Humanitarian Summit
(*COHAFA was joined by CODEV for this item*)

The groups held an exchange of views on the two WHS concept notes and suggested core commitments for the Roundtables focusing on cooperation between development and humanitarian actors ("Leave No One Behind: A Commitment to Address Forced Displacement" and "Changing People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need"). The Commission provided information on their forthcoming communication on Forced Displacement and Development.

4. Debrief of the gender workshop (Brussels, 2 March)

The Presidency and the Commission debriefed on this event.

5. High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing

The Presidency, the Commission and several delegations co-leading specific work streams debriefed on the state of discussions under the Grand Bargain negotiations, whose latest Sherpa meeting was hosted by ECHO in Brussels on 18 March.

6. World Humanitarian Summit *(including an informal exchange of views with Loretta Hieber Girardet, Thematic Sessions Team Leader-World Humanitarian Summit)*

Ms Hieber provided the latest information on the Roundtables (RTs) and suggested core commitments for each RT, and also explained how the commitments to be made in the context of the Grand Bargain would feed into the WHS. The Commission and the EEAS informed about their outreach efforts on the WHS towards non-EU countries. The group discussed draft Council Conclusions on the World Humanitarian Summit.

7. AOB

a) Ukraine

The Commission provided an update about the humanitarian situation and debriefed on a recent visit to Ukraine by Commissioner Stylianides.

b) Syria

The Commission debriefed about the state of discussions within the International Syria Support Group (ISSG). They also informed that Commissioner Stylianides had recently announced €445 million worth of EU humanitarian assistance for Syria and the region for 2016.

c) **EDRIS**

The Belgian delegation informed the group about an informal teleconference held with interested delegations and the Commission on ways to improve the EDRIS database for tracking EU and Member States' humanitarian financing.
