



Council of the
European Union

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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 26-27 April 2016

Delegation will find attached the outcome of proceedings of the Working Party on Humanitarian
Aid and Food Aid held on 26 and 27 April 2016.

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted. Two AOB items were added, on follow-up to the London Syria Conference and on the new Instrument for Emergency Support inside the EU.

2. Humanitarian innovation supported by the Member States: Humanitarian Innovation Fund *(incl. an informal exchange of views with Kim Scriven, HIF Manager)*

Under the Netherlands Presidency's innovation series, the group was informally briefed on the Humanitarian Innovation Fund (HIF) by Kim Scriven, HIF Manager. The HIF supports organisations and individuals to develop, test and share new technologies, products and processes that will make humanitarian aid more effective and cost-efficient in the future. In the last five years, 65 projects have been funded across the world. Mr Scriven presented examples of projects funded, such as the development of a disaster micro insurance in India, surface-water drainage projects or music therapy for survivors of GBV. Many delegations commended the HIF's work and enquired about specific aspects of its work such as cooperation with private companies.

3. Call to Action

The UK and Swedish delegations reported about their lessons learned since signing up on the Call to Action Communiqué, which seeks to transform the way gender-based violence is addressed in humanitarian emergencies, and starting to implement its Roadmap. Delegations exchanged views on the initiative. The Presidency and the Commission encouraged all Member States to sign up to the Communiqué. The Presidency welcomed the Roadmap as a tool that can also be useful for follow-up to some of the WHS core commitments.

4. High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing

The UK delegation debriefed on the third Grand Bargain Sherpa meeting, which they hosted in Washington, DC. The Swedish delegation provided an outlook on the last Sherpa meeting, which they will host in New York on 9-10 May.

5. World Humanitarian Summit

The group discussed draft Conclusions on the World Humanitarian Summit on the basis of revised drafts provided by the Presidency. Agreement at Working Party level was to be reached by written procedure following the meeting, with a view to adoption of the Conclusions at the Foreign Affairs Council (Development) on 12 May. The Commission suggested making a statement on behalf of the EU and its Member States at the WHS Plenary Session on the basis of the Conclusions.

6. Area C (COHAFA was joined by MaMa for this item)

The EEAS updated COHAFA on the briefing by the EU Head of Delegation in Tel Aviv at the MaMa meeting on 11 April 2016. On this basis, and in view of suggestions made by the EEAS and Commission services, the two groups held an exchange of views on how to proceed with the implementation of the joint MaMa-COHAFA Operational Conclusions of December 2014.

7. Forced displacement and development

The Commission presented its Communication on Forced Displacement and Development, which had been adopted on 26 April. The Communication aims at putting forward a policy framework to prevent forced displacement from becoming protracted and to gradually end dependence on humanitarian assistance by fostering self-reliance and enabling the displaced to live in dignity as contributors to their host societies. Delegations welcomed the Communication and underscored the link with the World Humanitarian Summit Roundtable on forced displacement.

8. Response to crises:

a) Sudan *(incl. an informal exchange of views with UNICEF and WFP)*

As part of an informal exchange of views, Adnan Khan, Sudan Country Director of WFP, and Geert Cappelaere, UNICEF Representative in Sudan, provided an update on this forgotten humanitarian crisis. Humanitarian needs are on the increase, with 5.8m people now in need of humanitarian assistance, 2.2m people displaced in Darfur, and 3.5m people already affected by El Nino. UNICEF stressed that 2m Sudanese children under the age of five are malnourished, but that there was now a window of opportunity to partner with the Government on nutrition. Other issues addressed included humanitarian access and striking the right balance between responding to new and protracted needs.

b) Early warning: Venezuela

The Commission informed COHAFA about the risks of a major humanitarian crisis in view of the large-scale health emergency and limited access to food and basic services such as water and electricity.

9. AOB

a) CAR

The Commission provided an update on the humanitarian situation in the country reported about a recent mission to CAR by the ECHO Director of Operations. The Presidency strongly encouraged delegations to consider stepping up funding for this crisis as the UN appeal is currently less than 2% funded.

b) Yemen

This item was postponed to the next COHAFA meeting.

c) Western Balkans

This item was postponed to the next COHAFA meeting.

d) Ecuador

The Commission provided an overview of the humanitarian situation in the country following the devastating earthquake on 16 April.

e) Refugee Facility for Turkey

The Commission provided an update on progress in implementing the Facility for Refugees in Turkey, also with a view to the outcomes of a joint ECHO-NEAR programming mission that took place earlier in April.

f) WFP Executive Board Second Session (Rome, 13-17 June)

The Commission and the Presidency provided an outlook on this meeting as well as the preparation of statements to be made on behalf of the EU and its Member States at that meeting.

g) UNGA 71

The Presidency updated the group on the EU preparatory process for UNGA 71 regarding humanitarian matters.

h) Follow-up to the London Conference on Supporting Syria and the Region

The UK and German delegations informed the group about the creation of a tracking process for follow-up to the London Syria Conference and encouraged Member States to look into early implementation of their commitments.

i) Emergency support instrument

The Commission updated delegations on the implementation of work under the new Instrument for Emergency Support inside the EU.