



Council of the
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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 23-24 June 2016

Delegation will find attached the outcome of proceedings of the Working Party on Humanitarian
Aid and Food Aid held on 23 and 24 June 2016.

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as in document CM 3170/16, with additional AOB items on the WFP Executive Board meeting and the Food Assistance Convention mission to Haiti.

2. Humanitarian Innovation

The Working Party had an informal exchange of views with the Dutch Coalition on Humanitarian Innovation (DCHI), which was launched in March 2016 gathering the Dutch government, the business sector, aid organisations and research centres public and private partners who strive for innovative solutions to increase the impact and efficiency of humanitarian action. DCHI facilitates new forms of cooperation in order to reach break-through innovations in the humanitarian field. The DCHI focus themes for the current year are: to assist affected people to be in charge of their own future; and to increase the impact of humanitarian aid through smart use of data.

3. World Humanitarian Summit

The Presidency presented a summary of delegations' reflections on the outcomes and the follow-up of the World Humanitarian Summit at the informal COHAFSA in Amsterdam on 9-10 June.

Delegations and the Commission would opt for a light, inclusive and non-bureaucratic follow-up mechanism, based on existing tools, with higher expectation on the monitoring process of the Great Bargain however. An open platform could be considered, as transparency as such would increase accountability.

4. Consensus Implementation Plan – country cases

The Commission representative debriefed the Working Party on the progress made on the Consensus Implementation Plan for which three pilot cases (Central African Republic, Iraq and Myanmar) had been proposed in the beginning of 2016. A document with consolidated input provided by several Member States was distributed. This will enable the Commission to establish a first overview of EU and Member States actions.

5. Improving EDRIS

The Belgian delegation provided a debrief of the informal teleconference held on 16 March with the participation of five Member States and the Commission. The initiative resulted from an acknowledgement that the way EDRIS worked did not fully correspond to the current structure of humanitarian operations. Discussion had focused on there strands the need to adapt the EDRIS structure to reflect different types of funding, the need to add the possibility of encoding pledges, as well as on possible further improvements of the system's user-friendliness.

6. Area C

The EEAS debriefed the Working Party on the discussion held in the Working Party on Mashraq/Maghreb Working Party (MAMA) on 21 June on possible options for implementing article 10 of the joint MAMA-COHAFA Operational Conclusions on Area C. Consultations with Member States will be continued to identify the points of possible consensus.

7. Commission Staff Working Document on Humanitarian Protection (9509/16)

The Commission presented its Staff Working Document "Humanitarian Protection: Improving protection outcomes to reduce risks for people in humanitarian crises", which aims at enhancing integrated protection consideration in programming, including in other sectorial projects such as WASH or food. The Commission pointed out that humanitarian protection was announced as an individual commitment of the EU by Commissioner Stylianides at the World Humanitarian Summit.

8. Response to crises:

a) Yemen

The Working Party had an informal exchange of views with Johannes van de Klaauw (UNHCR, former Humanitarian Coordinator). The guest speaker provided an update on the humanitarian situation in the country.

The Commission representative briefed the Working Party on the Commission's work in response to the crisis in Yemen.

b) Sahel

The Commission representative updated the Working Party on the current humanitarian situation in the Sahel, focusing on Mali and the Lake Chad region.

The Commission is organising a side event on Lake Chad in the margins of the upcoming ECOSOC meeting in New York.

9. AOB

a) Venezuela

The Commission representative briefed the Working Party on the findings of the ECHO field visit on 7-11 June, which was a follow-up of their first mission in March. The aim was to assess the situation and the possible humanitarian consequences.

b) South Sudan

The Commission representative provided an update on the humanitarian situation in South Sudan, where conflict is spreading and the needs of assistance are growing.

c) Yellow fever

The Commission representative provided a debrief on the EU Yellow Fever mission in Angola on 10-20 May, which was deployed in the framework of the European Medical Corps upon a request of assistance by the government of Angola made through the Union Civil Protection Mechanism made. A team of 8 experts in epidemiology conducted an assessment and advisory mission. The outbreak started in December 2015 with 3 000 cases and 110 deaths estimated so far.

d) Turkey

The Commission representative briefed the Working Party on the state of implementation of the humanitarian strand of the Facility for Refugees in Turkey. On 2 June the Commission had published its 2016 Humanitarian Implementation Plan (HIP) for Turkey, with the deadline for the submission of proposals on 16 June. The received proposals were in the evaluation process.

e) Iraq

The Commission representative provided an update on the humanitarian situation and the Commission's response. Commissioner Stylianides will visit Iraq at the end of July.

f) Ukraine

The Commission representative debriefed the Working Party on the visit of Ambassador Toni Frisch, Head of the Minsk Humanitarian Subgroup, in Brussels on 16 June. The Commission distributed an updated table of EU and Member States funding for response to the Ukrainian crisis.

g) Sendai Framework Action Plan (10415/1/16 REV 1)

The Commission representative presented the Commission Staff Working Document containing an Action Plan on the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, which aims at translating the Sendai priorities into Commission policies. The overall objective is to enhance and integrate disaster risk management in EU policies.

h) ECHO new organigramme

The Commission presented the new structure of DG ECHO, as from 1 July.

i) WFP Executive Board meeting and

The Commission representative provided a debrief on the last WFP Executive Board meeting on 13-17 June. Commissioner Stylianides had given a speech on 13 June and three statements had been delivered on behalf of the EU and its Member States. Some Member States had also delivered their own statements.

j) Food Assistance Convention (FAC) mission to Haiti

The Commission briefed COHAFA on the upcoming Food Assistance Convention mission to Haiti starting on 27 June, which will be related to El Nino. ES, SI, Switzerland, the USA, Canada and ECHO will participate.

The next FAC meeting will be held in London in November, right before the WFP board.

k) Priorities of the Slovak Presidency

The Slovak delegation presented their work programme for COHAFA, which will focus on:

- follow-up to the World Humanitarian Summit,
- implementation of the second Consensus Action Plan (including links with the commitments made at the WHS),
- education in emergencies,
- humanitarian-development nexus,
- gender based violence in emergencies,

and will continue to monitor the ongoing crises.

The first COHAFA meeting will be held on **14 and 15 July**.