



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

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: Outcome of proceedings of the Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and
Food Aid on 19 May 2016

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.