



Council of the  
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COHAFA 79  
DEVGEN 280  
ALIM 23  
ONU 142  
FAO 50  
COAFR 319  
MAMA 250  
MOG 121  
COEST 330  
COASI 234  
PROCIV 87  
RELEX 1060

#### 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 10 and 11 November 2016

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Delegation will find attached the outcome of proceedings of the Working Party on Humanitarian  
Aid and Food Aid held on 10 and 11 November 2016.

**1. Adoption of the agenda**

The agenda was adopted. The AOB item on the Food Assistance Convention meeting was postponed until the next COHAFA meeting. Two AOB items were added, on two events organised by delegations.

**2. Response to crises: Ukraine** *(incl. an informal exchange of views with UNHCR)*

As part of an informal exchange of views, Mr Pablo Mateo, UNHCR representative in Ukraine, briefed COHAFA on the humanitarian situation in Ukraine and the needs of the more than 1.7 million IDPs. UNHCR leads the protection and shelter clusters and engages in advocacy efforts with the government to identify systemic development needs. It also cooperates with local and international NGOs in reconstruction efforts. Part of the discussion was centred on the future coordination role of the recently created Ministry of Temporarily Occupied Territories and IDPs.

**3. Global Compact on Refugees** *(incl. an informal exchange of views with UNHCR)*

As part of an informal exchange of views, Mr Daniel Endres, Director of the Task Team on Comprehensive Responses, provided an update on UNHCR's plans to operationalise the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework, including on pilot situations, partnership approaches and key milestones ahead. Mr Endres stressed that the key elements of CRRF include the need to address the drivers of forced displacement through peace-building activities; strengthened efforts in development, to support host countries and to help refugees obtain greater self-reliance; and increased third-country solutions. Simultaneously, work continues on defining of a consultative process leading to the adoption of the consolidated Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in 2018.

#### **4. Response to crises**

##### **a) Haiti**

The Commission briefed COHAFA on the findings of a joint ECHO/DEVCO field mission concerning the humanitarian situation in Haiti following the devastation caused by Hurricane Matthew. Production assets, agriculture facilities and critical infrastructure had been destroyed, resulting in 1.4 million people requiring immediate assistance. The Commission commended Member States for their contributions of assets through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism while noting that the UN Flash Appeal requiring USD 123 million had only been funded at 33%.

##### **b) Mali**

The Commission debriefed about the latest meeting of the "Humanitarian Friends of Mali" that took place on 13 October and invited more delegations to participate in any future such meetings. As regards the humanitarian situation on the ground, increasing insecurity is shrinking the humanitarian space, especially after recent attacks on Government and MINUSMA forces. ECHO decided to prioritise affected populations in northern Mali by providing health, food and nutrition assistance.

##### **c) Syria**

The Commission provided an update on the humanitarian situation in the country. Access to besieged areas remains restricted in many places across Syria, especially in Eastern Aleppo but also along the border area with Turkey. As part of its First Line Emergency Response strategy, ECHO will focus on supporting partners' surge capacity to allow more flexibility and rapid response to the most urgent "emergencies within the emergency". The Commission also presented key features of its Joint Humanitarian and Development Framework.

##### **d) Iraq**

The Commission gave an update on the humanitarian situation following the beginning of the Mosul offensive and debriefed on the ECHO Director of Operations Mission in Iraq. In Mosul, the priority was to assist trapped populations. Humanitarian assistance has reached the eastern part of the city and efforts were underway to re-establish basic services in view of allowing people to come back to their homes. Member States reported about their humanitarian advocacy efforts and discussed further advocacy needs.

**e) Yemen**

The Commission updated on the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Yemen, where food production and food import decreases coupled with economic collapse could result in famine across the country. The situation is exacerbated by a risk of widespread cholera and acute watery diarrhoea, and restrictions of humanitarian access due to very difficult operating environment resulting from insecurity, heavy administrative procedures and the fragmentation of power within the *de facto* authorities. COHAFA also discussed humanitarian advocacy needs in view of these developments.

**5. Area C (incl. an informal exchange of views with NRC)**

As part of an informal exchange of views Mr Renaud Rodier, head of the NRC-led 'West Bank Protection Consortium' composed of INGOs, gave a presentation to COHAFA about the work of the Consortium. In closed format COHAFA also discussed humanitarian advocacy needs in view of ongoing demolitions and confiscations of EU- and Member State-funded humanitarian structures in Area C.

**6. Impact of climate change and El Niño (incl. an informal exchange of views with WFP and FAO)**

As part of an informal exchange of views Mr Dominique Burgeon, Director of the Emergencies with FAO, and Mr Chris Nikoi, Regional Director with WFP, informed about the deepening impact of El Niño on the food and agricultural situation in southern Africa, where 39 million people are estimated to become food-insecure in the 2017 lean season. They analysed underlying vulnerabilities and the adverse effects of droughts and floods on people's resilience and coping mechanisms. WFP and FAO are working hand in hand in the region to provide immediate food security assistance for the most vulnerable as well as asset restoration and joint resilience programming.

**7. AOB**

**a) Debrief informal COHAFA/CODEV meeting**

The Presidency debriefed about this event.

**b) Turkey**

The Commission updated delegations on the state of play of disbursements under the Facility for Refugees in Turkey.

**c) Western Balkans**

The Commission briefed about the humanitarian needs of some 6,300 people stranded in Serbia in view of the upcoming winter.

**d) Food Assistance Convention meeting (London, 10-11 November)**

This item was postponed to the next COHAFA meeting on 8-9 December.

**e) WFP Executive Board Second Regular Session (Rome, 14-18 November)**

Agreement on all five statements to be made on behalf of the EU and its Member States was confirmed.

**f) 7th Annual Meeting of the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction (EFDRR, Helsinki, 3-5 October)**

The Finnish delegation debriefed about this event which brought together representatives from 31 countries as well as the Council of Europe, the European Commission, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) and the Council of the Baltic Sea States.

**g) Event on Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action (Brussels, 7 December)**

The Italian delegation informed delegations about this event, which will be a follow up both to commitments made at the WHS as well as to one of the key priorities for COHAFA under the Italian Presidency in 2014.

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