



Council of the  
European Union

127708/EU XXV. GP  
Eingelangt am 22/12/16

Brussels, 22 December 2016  
(OR. en)

15781/16

COHAFA 80  
DEVGEN 289  
ALIM 24  
ONU 145  
FAO 52  
COAFR 326  
MAMA 256  
MOG 128  
COEST 346  
COASI 247  
PROCIV 91  
RELEX 1096

#### OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Delegations  
Subject: Outcome of proceedings of the Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid on 8 and 9 December 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 8 and 9 December 2016.

**1. Adoption of the agenda**

The agenda (CM 5024/1/16 REV1) was adopted.

**2. World Humanitarian Summit follow-up (*incl. an informal exchange of views with OCHA*)**

As part of an informal exchange of views, Hansjoerg Strohmeyer, Chief of OCHA's Policy Development and Studies Branch, informed COHAFA about the WHS follow-up process, which OCHA envisages as consisting of four strands: a revamped PACT database for self-reporting on progress on commitments by all stakeholders; an annual synthesis report, to be presented to UNGA and drafted by OCHA based on PACT self-reporting and also on the Grand Bargain annual report; a high-level meeting in several years' time; and continued engagement with UN Member States and other WHS stakeholders. The group enquired about and discussed various aspects of reporting on commitments as well as outreach by OCHA to other UN Member States.

**3. Response to crises**

**a) South Sudan**

On the basis of a briefing by the Commission, the group discussed the dramatically worsening humanitarian situation in South Sudan and its impact on neighbouring countries, against the background of warnings of an all-out ethnic conflict and potential genocide. NGOs face continuous obstructions and attacks, have only fragmented access to people in need, and are systematically prevented from accessing opposition-held areas. Most South Sudanese struggle to meet their basic needs, and food insecurity affects half of the population. More than 2.7 million people have been uprooted from their homes. In light of these developments, the group also discussed the need to step up humanitarian funding.

**b) Lake Chad Basin**

The Commission provided an update on the further deteriorating humanitarian situation in this region, where over 2.6 million people have been displaced within their country or had to flee to neighbouring countries due to Boko Haram violence. Around 6.7 million people are facing severe food insecurity in the affected regions around the Lake. The group discussed humanitarian advocacy as well as funding needs.

### **c) Somalia**

The group was briefed about the dramatic humanitarian crisis in the country caused by a combination of climatic shocks, armed conflict, fragility and lack of governance. The recent drought has led to successive crop failures and livestock depletion, aggravating existing food insecurity with potentially disastrous consequences in the near future. The country is also facing the potential return of a large number of refugees currently living in the Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya. Member States discussed the need to step up funding in order to meet urgent needs now and prevent a further deterioration.

#### **4. Humanitarian protection (*incl. an informal exchange of views with ICRC*)**

As part of an informal exchange of views, Walter A. Fuellemann, ICRC Head of Delegation to the EU, NATO and the Kingdom of Belgium in Brussels, presented an assessment of the WHS from an ICRC perspective and also highlights of a recent ICRC Report on Protracted Conflict. Member States commended ICRC's work and exchanged views on how best to ensure funding predictability.

#### **5. Area C**

The group discussed advocacy needs in view of continued demolitions and confiscations of EU- and Member State-funded humanitarian assets in Area C.

#### **6. Education in emergencies**

The Presidency and the Commission debriefed on the Education in Emergencies Forum held in Brussels on 30 November. The Commission also presented the findings and recommendations of the evaluation of its education in emergencies and child protection actions (2008-2015).

#### **7. AOB**

##### **a) Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination Standards**

The Commission briefed the group about the process of drafting standards for operationalising the internationally agreed (yet non-legally binding) humanitarian civil-military guidelines.

#### **b) Central African Republic**

The Commission debriefed on the Brussels conference on CAR (17 November) at which international donors pledged €2.06bn for the country over the next five years. The Commission also briefed on the still-dire humanitarian situation in the country where half of the population is in need of humanitarian assistance and 20% are still internally displaced or have fled to neighbouring countries. Special reference was made to the latest episodes of violence reported in several areas of the country including in the capital, Bangui, and which have significantly increased the number of IDPs.

#### **c) Myanmar**

The Commission debriefed about a field visit to Myanmar. Aid organisations report that the humanitarian situation of the Muslim Rohingya minority has become worse than ever before, with aid organisations being denied access to northern Rakhine. Fighting between the Myanmar army and ethnic armed groups in Kachin and northern Shan States was also a source of concern. Humanitarian access, both in Rakhine State and in Kachin/northern Shan States was increasingly reduced. Member States discussed funding and humanitarian advocacy needs.

#### **d) Priorities for COHAFA under the Maltese Presidency**

The incoming Maltese Presidency informed delegations about their priorities for COHAFA during the period January-June 2017.

#### **e) Iraq**

The Commission updated on the humanitarian situation in and around Mosul, where 80,000 people have been displaced since the beginning of the offensive, and thanked those Member States which had provided assets during the recent activation of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism.

#### **f) European Solidarity Corps (*poss.*)**

The Commission presented the key features of the new European Solidarity Corps (ESC) launched by Vice-President Georgieva on 7 December, explained the differences between the European Solidarity Corps and the EU Aid Volunteers initiative and their complementarity.

**g) EDRIS**

The Commission presented a provisional action plan for the evolution of the EDRIS database in 2017-18, based on the suggestions discussed in COHAFA earlier this year. This includes the establishment (in early 2017) of an informal group of interested Member States for clarifying and fine-tuning some of the specifications.

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

The Commission debriefed on this event. The Commission also informed Member States about a joint ECHO/DEVCO/WFP/FAO initiative on analysing and responding to food crises. Member States were invited to be involved in the preparation of the 2017 report.

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

The Commission debriefed on this event, for which five statements had been prepared by COHAFA.

**j) Humanitarian Cash Transfers Roundtable (Brussels, 8 December)**

The Presidency debriefed on this event.

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