



Council of the
European Union

140868/EU XXV. GP
Eingelangt am 25/04/17

Brussels, 25 April 2017
(OR. en)

8487/17

COHAFA 33
DEVGEN 68
ALIM 3
ONU 61
FAO 8
COAFR 105
MAMA 79
MOG 27
COEST 88
COASI 51
PROCIV 38
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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 9 and 10 February 2017

Delegation will find attached the outcome of proceedings of the Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid held on 9 and 10 February 2017.

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted (CM 1362/1/17 REV1). An AOB item was added on the humanitarian situation in Mosul, Iraq.

2. Humanitarian-Development Nexus (*incl. an informal exchange of views with UNHCR – COHAFA joined CODEV for this item*)

As part of an informal exchange of views Ewen Macleod, Special Advisor on Development Cooperation and Solutions to the High Commissioner, gave a presentation on the humanitarian-development nexus in situations of forced and protracted displacement, based on a study conducted together with the World Bank, which was published in September 2016

Also under this agenda item, the Danish Delegation gave a presentation on Denmark's new strategy for development policy and humanitarian action.

Lastly, the group held an exchange of views on ideas presented by the Commission regarding the wider application and operationalisation of the Humanitarian-Development Nexus. On the basis of this discussions the groups decided to jointly prepare draft Council conclusions on the topic.

3. Follow-up to World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) Core Responsibility #2: Uphold the norms that safeguard humanity

The EEAS and the Commission briefed on progress in implementing the EU commitments made under this Core Responsibility, notably in terms of promoting and advocating for compliance with international humanitarian law (IHL), EU support to and engagement with the International Criminal Court, and promoting and funding humanitarian protection. The Spanish delegation debriefed on key humanitarian issues of Spain's work as non-permanent member of the UN Security Council in 2015-16.

4. Response to crises

a) Myanmar/Burma

The Commission updated on recent developments regarding the humanitarian situation in the country as well as the plight of Rohingya refugees in neighbouring Bangladesh. Delegations identified key advocacy needs and agreed for COHAFA to prepare common humanitarian advocacy messages on this crisis.

b) Afghanistan / Pakistan

On the basis of an update by the Commission, the group discussed the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, which is being exacerbated by escalating conflict, a growing number of people internally displaced for increasing periods of time, and Afghan refugees returning from Pakistan. The Commission also debriefed from Commissioner Stylianides' mission to Iran, which hosts a considerable number of Afghan refugees, and stressed the need to provide additional funding for Afghan refugees in Iran.

c) Chad

The Commission updated on the humanitarian situation in Chad, where a growing food insecurity crisis is exacerbated by three refugee and displacement crises in the west (Boko Haram), the east (Darfur) and the south (CAR) of the country as well as an economic and financial crisis the country is struggling to deal with. The Commission also reported about funding shortfalls and the need to step up support for the response to this crisis. Delegations echoed this presentation and stressed the need to ensure close links with development actors and funding.

5. Follow-up to the COHAFA meeting in January: Yemen

The group was updated by the Commission on the latest developments regarding the humanitarian situation in the country as well as the launch of the Humanitarian Response Plan on 8 February 2017. Also based on previous discussions of the humanitarian crisis in Yemen, the group discussed draft common humanitarian advocacy messages.

6. Food and nutrition security (incl. an informal exchange of views with WFP and FAO)

As part of an informal exchange of views Dominique Burgeon, Director, Emergency and Rehabilitation Division, Strategic Programme Leader, Resilience, FAO, and Denise Brown, Director of Emergencies, WFP briefed the group about the biggest food insecurity crises in Africa, notably in north-eastern Nigeria, Somalia, and South Sudan. While the key common denominator to these crises was conflict, they were exacerbated by climatic effects as evidenced in Somalia, which had experienced a lack of rain for several consecutive seasons. Indicators for South Sudan looked set to exceed WFP's and FAO's worst expectations, while in Nigeria Boko Haram appeared to be using starvation as a means against the civilian population. The group discussed various aspects of humanitarian interventions in these contexts, including cash transfers, the need for strong cooperation between humanitarian and development partners, and the need for scaling up the overall response.

7. WFP Executive Board First Regular Session (Rome, 20-24 February)

The group discussed revised versions of draft statements to be made on behalf of the EU and its Member States at the WFP Executive Board First Regular Session.

8. Humanitarian resolutions adopted by UNGA 71

The Commission gave an overview of the humanitarian resolutions adopted by the last UN General Assembly. The Presidency informed delegations on the way forward regarding the preparation of the EU's humanitarian priorities for UNGA 72.

9. AOB

a) Eastern Ukraine

The Commission informed about the humanitarian situation in eastern Ukraine after the recent escalation of violence especially in the triangle of Avdiivka/Yasynuvata/Donetsk. The Commission also informed about the mission of Commissioner Stylianides to Ukraine on 19-21 February.

b) Debriefing presentation of the Maltese Presidency priorities at the DEVE Committee

The Presidency debriefed on the intervention by the Maltese Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr George Vella, at the European Parliament's Development Committee, where he presented the Presidency's priorities in the field of humanitarian aid.

c) ECHO Cash Guidelines

The Commission gave a brief presentation on their new internal guidelines on multi-purpose cash-based assistance, which were developed as a follow-up to the "10 common principles for multi-purpose cash-based assistance to respond to humanitarian needs" annexed to Council conclusions on the same topic adopted on 22 June 2015

d) Senior Officials' Meeting, Valletta 8-9 February 2017

The Presidency informed about the outcome of this meeting, which was held following the informal Malta Summit of 3 February.

e) Panel Debate on Protracted Conflict and Humanitarian Aid, Brussels, 7 March 2017

Delegates were informed about this event which will be co-organised by Enrique Guerrero Salom, Standing Rapporteur for Humanitarian Aid (European Parliament Committee on Development) and the ICRC, with the participation of ECHO and DEVCO.

f) Mosul, Iraq

The Commission provided an update on the humanitarian situation in western Mosul, where hundreds of thousands of civilians remain trapped ahead of an imminent operation aiming to liberate the city.
