



Council of the  
European Union

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(OR. en)

11450/17

COHAFA 61  
DEVGEN 180  
ALIM 14  
ONU 108  
FAO 33  
COAFR 218  
MAMA 152  
MOG 64  
COEST 205  
COASI 101  
PROCIV 66  
RELEX 677

#### **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 6 and 7 July 2017

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Delegations will find attached the outcome of proceedings of the Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid held on 6-7 July 2017.

**1. Adoption of the agenda**

The agenda was adopted as set out in CM 3420/17, with an AOB item added on Ethiopia.

**2. Presentation of the Estonian Presidency priorities and COHAFA work programme**

The Presidency presented their overall priorities for the coming six months as well as the specific priorities in the field of humanitarian assistance as set out in the Presidency's COHAFA work programme (ST 7289/17).

**3. Aid effectiveness and localisation** (*incl. an informal exchange of views with IFRC*)

The Commission debriefed on the Grand Bargain (GB) Annual Meeting that had taken place in the margins of this year's ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment. Subsequently, as part of an informal exchange of views, Elise Baudot, IFRC Director of Policy, Strategy and Knowledge, briefed on the implementation of the GB work-stream on localisation, of which IFRC is a co-convenor together with Switzerland. She touched upon the four objectives of 1) increasing the share of humanitarian funding given to local and national responders as directly as possible to 25% by 2020; 2) strengthening local capacities; 3) better coordination with and involvement of local/national responders; and 4) making funding streams more transparent. Member States commented on issues concerning localisation, stressing aspects such as the role of country-based pooled funds and enhancing local organisations' capacities to access them, the capacity of donors to engage with local actors, and accountability mechanisms for engaging with local NGOs.

**4. Draft Council conclusions on addressing the risk of famine**

Delegations provisionally agreed the draft text at Working Party level. The Presidency informed that following final agreement within the group by written procedure, the draft would be submitted to Coreper on 12 July, with a view to adoption at the Foreign Affairs Council on 17 July.

## **5. Joint Communication on a Strategic Approach to Resilience in the EU's External Action** *(COHAFA was joined by CODEV for this item)*

The EEAS and the Commission presented to the groups the key aspects of the Joint Communication, highlighting the broadening of the resilience concept and the need for the EU to be able to adapt its programmes according to pressures affecting its partner countries. Delegations provided feedback from both the development and humanitarian perspectives. The Presidency undertook to ensure that these perspectives would be reflected in the wider process within the Council in response to the Joint Communication.

## **6. Towards the Global Compact on Refugees**

The CONUN Chair briefed COHAFA on work underway in CONUN to support and shape the process at UN level of agreeing a Global Compact on Refugees next year, referring in particular to the first thematic consultation, in Geneva on 10 July, on "Past and current burden- and responsibility-sharing arrangements". The Presidency noted that the second and third consultation meetings (on 17-18 October and 14-15 November) were of particular relevance from a humanitarian perspective.

## **7. Response to crises**

- a) Central America *(with a specific focus on the implementation of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework – incl. an informal exchange of views with UNHCR)*

As part of an informal exchange of views, Reem Alsalem, UNHCR Senior Policy Officer of the Americas Bureau, gave an overview of the CRRF implementation process in Central America, stressing the all-of-society approach and outlining the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (CRPSF) to be rolled out in Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico.

b) Afghanistan

The Commission updated on the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, where a lack of government control over large parts of the territory makes humanitarian response considerably more difficult. The Commission presented its Emergency Response Mechanism (ERM) involving seven INGOs, each of which delivered humanitarian assistance in a different part of the country, and invited Member States to use the ERM for additional funding of humanitarian projects in Afghanistan.

c) Democratic Republic of the Congo (*incl. an informal exchange of views with UNHCR*)

As part of an informal exchange of views, MSF programme manager Bertrand Perrochet briefed COHAFA on humanitarian needs caused by the Kasai complex regional emergency. He stressed the particular threats to civilians posed by armed groups, and the fact that assessing humanitarian needs was extremely difficult due to limited access to people in need.

## **8. Follow-up to the Brussels Syria Conference (4-5 April)**

The Commission gave an overview of suggested humanitarian follow-up actions for implementing the operational recommendations agreed following the ECHO-organised thematic event on “Humanitarian Aid Inside Syria – Needs, Challenges and the Way Forward” on 4 April. Member States were invited to communicate in writing which actions they had taken or intended to take, and on which ones they would be willing to take the lead. The Commission also briefed on the humanitarian situation in Raqqa, including on key challenges and constraints and actions implemented via ECHO's First Line Emergency Response.

## **9. Cooperation between civil protection and humanitarian actors in emergencies outside the EU**

The Presidency invited Member States to share information on their follow-up to the list of actions for strengthening cooperation between civil protection actors in emergencies outside the EU, agreed between PROCIV and COHAFA in December 2015 (14896/15).

## 10. AOB

### a) Possible COHAFA field trip to Ukraine

The Presidency informed delegations about the possible organisation of a field trip to Ukraine in the second half of 2017 in order to assess persisting humanitarian needs. The Commission also provided an update about the current humanitarian situation in Ukraine.

### b) Informal COHAFA-CODEV meeting (Tallinn, 24-25 July)

The Presidency provided practical information about this joint informal meeting.

### c) Estonian Presidency at the European Parliament's Development Committee (Brussels, 12 July)

The Presidency informed that Mr Sven Mikser, the Estonian Minister of Foreign Affairs, was going to present the Estonian Presidency's priorities in the field of humanitarian aid at the European Parliament's Development Committee on 12 July at 15.00.

### d) Ethiopia

The Commission provided an update on the humanitarian situation in the country.

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