



Council of the
European Union

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13523/17

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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 12 and 13 October 2017

Delegations will find attached the outcome of proceedings of the Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid held on 12-13 October 2017.

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted (CM 4265/17). An AOB item was added on the Workshop on the Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination Standards held in Brussels on 29 September.

2. Palestine¹ (*incl. an informal exchange of views with Robert Piper, UN Coordinator for Humanitarian and Development Activities for the Occupied Palestinian Territories – COHAFa was joined by MaMa for this item*)

I. Exchange of views on the humanitarian situation

As part of an informal exchange of views, Mr Piper updated the groups on the humanitarian situation in both Gaza and the West Bank within the wider political context.

II. Demolitions of EU- and Member State-funded humanitarian structures in Area C

The EEAS presented key trends and figures set out in the latest six-month report on demolitions. After a record number of demolitions in 2016, figures had come down again to the previous annual average. The Commission complemented this presentation highlighting the focus of demolitions on East Jerusalem, where numbers remained high.

3. Resilience in practice: the operationalisation of the humanitarian-development nexus (HDN), including in forced displacement situations (*COHAFa was joined by CODEV for this item*)

The EEAS and the Commission updated on preparations for operationalising the Humanitarian-Development Nexus in the six pilot countries Iraq, Chad, Myanmar, Nigeria, Sudan and Uganda. The Commission provided a broad outline of relevant specifics of the situation in each of the six countries.

¹ This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the Member States on this issue.

4. Response to crises

a) Bangladesh/Myanmar (*incl. an informal exchange of views with UNICEF*)

I. Informal Exchange of views with UNICEF

As part of an informal exchange of views Philippe Cori, Deputy Director of UNICEF's Regional Office for East Asia, briefed the group on the humanitarian situation of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, 80% of whom are children and women. He warned there was a need to prevent radicalisation and that the consequences of this humanitarian crisis could be global. He said it was important to ensure that all those having fled Myanmar would be registered as refugees in Bangladesh, which was key to a coordinated response. A UNICEF cholera vaccination campaign targeting 600,000 people should be completed in the coming days. The global appeal for this crisis was still underfunded.

II. Humanitarian situation update

The EEAS provided a look at the political context to the crisis and recalled that there were humanitarian situations in Myanmar beyond Rakhine state. The Commission added that another 200,000 Rohingya prepared to flee from northern Rakhine so that by the end of the year all Rohingyas may have left the region. The Commission warned that hosting all Rohingya refugees on a Bangladesh island without any livelihood prospects would mean they would remain aid-dependent for a long time.

b) Ukraine

The Presidency provided additional details on the COHAFSA field mission to Ukraine (22-25 Oct). The Commission informed about the consolidated funding figures provided by Member States and debriefed on a mission to Kyiv undertaken the previous week. The Commission also outlined key elements of the draft EU Joint Humanitarian-Development Framework for Ukraine. The group also discussed revised draft common messages on the humanitarian situation in Ukraine.

5. **Forgotten Crisis Index**

The Commission presented the methodology and indicators used to establish their annual list of 'forgotten crises'– INFORM (vulnerability index); media coverage; public aid per capita and a qualitative assessment by DG ECHO experts, highlighting that ECHO had a target of allocating 15% of its funding to forgotten crises each year.

The Commission invited Member States to coordinate funding and response to forgotten crises. Several delegations highlighted the importance of keeping forgotten crises high on the agenda.

6. **WFP Executive Board Second Annual Session (Rome, 13-17 November)**

The Commission proposed that four to six statements could be made on behalf of the EU and its Member States at the forthcoming WFP Executive Board. The group will agree both the selection of topics as well as the text of the statements by written procedure.

7. **Data protection in humanitarian action** (*incl. an informal exchange of views with ICRC*)

As part of an informal exchange of views, Marie-Elena Ciccolini, ICRC Deputy Data Protection Officer for Europe and Central Asia, presented key aspects of the Handbook on Data Protection in Humanitarian Action as well as practical examples of data protection issues from the field.

8. **Response to crises: DRC**

The group discussed a set of draft COHAFAs common messages.

9. **AOB**

a) Yemen

The Commission debriefed on the field visit by ECHO Director Jean-Louis De Brouwer to Riyadh and Sana'a, undertaken within the framework of ECHO's co-chairmanship of the Yemen donor coordination group. The EEAS provided an overview of political aspects relevant to the Yemen humanitarian crisis.

b) EU Civil Protection

The Commission presented elements of the mid-term evaluation report of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism that are relevant to emergency response outside the EU.

The Commission also gave a brief overview of recent activations of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism in emergencies outside the EU.

c) Debriefing on the humanitarian DGs meeting (Brussels, 2 October)

The Commission debriefed on this meeting.

d) Debriefing on the event to mark 10 years of European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid (Brussels, 11 October)

The Presidency debriefed on this event.

e) Workshop on Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination Standards (Brussels, 29 Sep)

The Commission debriefed on this event.
