

## Council scales up humanitarian assistance for Syria

In reaction to the continuing deterioration of the situation in Syria, the Council today approved<sup>1</sup> the increase of humanitarian and development assistance.

The Council backed a Commission proposal ([12055/14](#)) to increase humanitarian assistance by 50 million €, bringing the total humanitarian support for Syria to 150 million € in 2014. This is to address the most pressing needs of the most vulnerable persons inside Syria and in the neighbour countries. The additional support is notably aimed at helping health care services, providing medicines and scaling up water supply.

The Council also approved a Commission proposal ([12056/14](#)) to increase development assistance in order to address the more medium-term needs in neighbouring countries, dealing with the unprecedented flow of refugees. 125 million € in commitments are made available in addition to the 75 million € already made available under the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI), bringing the total development aid support from ENI to 200 million € in 2014.

The Syrian conflict has caused the world's largest humanitarian crisis, in terms of the number of people affected and in need of assistance. With the conflict entering its fourth year, around 9.3 million people inside the country and further 2.8 million refugees are currently in need of vital assistance.

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<sup>1</sup> The decision was taken by written procedure.