



Council of the  
European Union

Brussels, 22 July 2015  
(OR. en)

11167/15

COHAFA 80  
DEVGEN 143  
ALIM 17  
ONU 102  
FAO 31  
COAFR 230  
MAMA 116  
MOG 69  
COEST 235  
COASI 105  
PROCIV 38  
RELEX 637

#### 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 1 July 2015

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Delegation will find attached the outcome of proceedings of the Working Party on Humanitarian  
Aid and Food Aid held on 1 July 2015.

## **1. Adoption of the agenda**

The agenda was adopted. An AOB item on Burundi was added. The Presidency informed the group that a representative of MSF would be invited for an informal exchange of views on the situation in Yemen.

## **2. Area C (COHAFA was joined by MaMa for this item)**

The two groups held an exchange of views on the implementation of their operational conclusions of December 2014 (ST 16639/14). Work on this will be resumed in a joint format at a subsequent COHAFA meeting.

## **3. Presentation of the Luxembourg Presidency's work programme**

The Luxembourg Presidency gave an overview of the priorities of its work programme for the group for the six months to come (ST 10348/15), and a provisional indication of a key thematic priority of each subsequent meeting.

## **4. Response to crises**

### **a) Niger**

The Commission provided an update on the humanitarian crisis in Niger, which is linked to the regional food and nutrition crisis in the Sahel and exacerbated by the refugee and displacement crisis resulting from conflicts in Northern Mali and North-Eastern Nigeria. The Commission encouraged Member States to continue supporting resilience-strengthening measures through the AGIR initiative.

### **b) Ukraine**

The Commission provided an update on the humanitarian situation, notably in terms of access to rebel-held areas. The Member States and the Commission discussed advocacy needs in order to further de-politicise aid and to help improve the conditions for principled humanitarian assistance in Ukraine.

**c) Syrian refugees**

Member States and the Commission discussed advocacy needs in view of the shrinking protection space in neighbouring host countries in an effort to help safeguard the rights and humane living conditions of Syrian refugees.

**5. Implementation of the Consensus**

The outgoing Latvian Presidency provided an overview of the results of the discussions on this topic at the informal COHAFA meeting in Riga on 25-26 June. Member States shared views on the scope and shape of a successor implementation plan for the Consensus. Work on this issue will be resumed at a subsequent COHAFA meeting.

**6. AOB**

**a) Yemen** (*incl. an informal change of views with MSF*)

As part of an informal exchange of views, a representative from MSF provided an update on the humanitarian situation in the country, highlighting notably the collapse of the health system and the dire need for halting the bombing of civilian and medical infrastructure. Member States and the Commission echoed the need for the provision of principles humanitarian assistance in order to reach all people in need, and for diplomatic efforts aimed at a permanent halt of military action.

**b) Ebola**

The Commission provided information on a number of forthcoming meetings related to lessons learned from the Ebola response and to preparedness measures in order to better carry out the responses to future epidemics.

**c) South Sudan**

The Commission debriefed the group on the 16 June pledging conference organised in Geneva in the margins of the ECOSOC Humanitarian Segment.

**d) Nepal**

The Commission debriefed the group on the reconstruction conference organised on 25 June,

**e) International agenda**

The Director-General of DG ECHO, Claus Sørensen, debriefed the group on a number of recent events and developments. He also announced that as of 1 September he would be the Commission's Senior Adviser for Resilience, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response, and that Monique Pariat would be his successor at DG ECHO. Several delegations took the floor to thank Mr Sørensen for his dedicated work and commitment over the past years and wished him success in his new role.

**f) Eurobarometer**

The Commission presented the findings of a recent Eurobarometer survey on awareness of and attitudes towards EU humanitarian assistance, which confirmed consistently high rates of approval of EU-funded humanitarian assistance.

**g) Burundi**

At the request of the Belgian delegation, the Commission and Member States exchanged views on coordination between humanitarian actors in Burundi.

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