



Council of the
European Union

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(OR. en)

6547/18

COHAFA 14
DEVGEN 24
ALIM 1
ONU 19
FAO 7
COAFR 55
MAMA 23
MOG 13
COEST 51
COASI 47
PROCIV 10
RELEX 170

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 17 and 18 January 2018

Delegations will find attached the outcome of proceedings of the Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid held on 17-18 January 2018.

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted (CM 5579/17). An AOB item on the Call to Action on Protection from GBV in Emergencies was added at the request of the Portuguese delegation.

2. Bulgarian Presidency COHAFA work programme

The Presidency provided further details on its COHAFA work programme and the indicative calendar of meetings. Delegations welcomed the choice of priorities and outlined overlaps with their own national priorities.

3. Member State and Commission humanitarian funding priorities for 2018

Delegations exchanged information on their (indicative) humanitarian budgets as well as geographic and thematic humanitarian priorities for 2018.

4. Forgotten crises

The group discussed possible actions for addressing forgotten humanitarian crises at Working Party level. The decisions taken by the group in this regard will guide the Bulgarian Presidency's work on this topic during the coming six months.

5. Response to crises

a) Sahel

The Commission briefed the group about the humanitarian needs and challenges in the Sahel region, which include widespread insecurity, forced displacement and growing food insecurity. Member States shared the deep concern at the humanitarian situation and expressed their support for joined-up humanitarian advocacy efforts.

b) Turkey

The Commission updated the group on the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN), which is financed under the EU Facility for Refugees in Turkey.

c) Ukraine

The Commission provided a brief update on the humanitarian situation and provided information on a high-level outreach event organised together with OCHA in Brussels on 28 February, which will look at the humanitarian situation, the 2018 HRP, and the way ahead for the humanitarian response.

6. Protection and IHL (*incl. an informal exchange of views with ICRC*)

As part of an informal exchange of views, Stéphane Kolanowski, Senior Legal Advisor, and Gilles Hansoul, Senior Advisor, from the ICRC Brussels Office briefed COHAFA on the Compliance Initiative as well as ICRC recommendations to States supporting parties to armed conflict. They also provided examples of how ICRC addresses challenges with regard to the respect for IHL in different settings of armed conflict.

7. Private sector engagement - exchange of best practices

The Commission gave a presentation on the way ECHO engages with the private sector. Member States shared good practice on their engagement with the private sector at the national level, ranging from initiatives to garner funding and in-kind assistance to benefitting from private sector expertise and solutions development.

8. WFP Executive Programme First Regular Session (Rome, 26-28 February)

COHAFA discussed on which agenda items of the forthcoming WFP Executive Board meeting statements should be made on behalf of the EU and its Member States.

9. AOB

a) Yemen

The Commission briefed about the humanitarian situation in the country. The EEAS provided an update on recent developments regarding the political context of this humanitarian crisis.

b) Iraq

The Commission briefed the group about the forthcoming Iraq reconstruction conference (Kuwait, 12-14 February). The EEAS said that the Joint Communication adopted on 8 January, together with the Council conclusions to be adopted at the 22 January Foreign Affairs Council, would form the EU's new strategy for Iraq.

c) Urban crisis settings

The Commission briefed the group about DG ECHO's participation in, and humanitarian-related sessions at, the World Urban Forum (Kuala Lumpur, 7-13 February). The Commission also informed about its forthcoming Urban Report, which will be officially presented in Kuala Lumpur.

d) Call to Action on Protection from GBV in Emergencies

The Portuguese delegation informed the group that Portugal had recently signed the Call to Action (CtA), and encouraged other Member States not yet signatory to the CtA to consider signing up as well.
