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9804/18

COHAFA 40
DEVGEN 89
ALIM 4
ONU 49
FAO 19
COAFR 150
MAMA 84
MOG 33
COEST 111
COASI 146
PROCIV 34
RELEX 518

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 15-16 May 2018.

Delegations will find attached the outcome of proceedings of the Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid held on 15-16 May 2018.

Outcome of Proceedings, COHAFA 15-16 May 2018

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted (CM 2716/18). AOB items were added on the EU Network of contact points on private sector and innovation, ECHO's Quality and Capacity in Humanitarian Health event (Brussels, 19 April), the Emergency Medical Teams (EMT) European Regional Meeting (Brussels, 17-18 April), the Czech Development Strategy and the June COHAFA.

2. Mine action

The EEAS presented the 2018 Joint Staff Document "The European Union's support for mine action across the world", and the Commission briefed delegates on the EU's humanitarian mine action, which covers risk education, survey & clearance, victim assistance, and advocacy. It recalled the heavy toll that mines and unexploded ordnances have on humanitarian workers and forced displaced persons.

3. Response to crises

a) South Sudan

The group discussed the worsening situation in South Sudan. Around 7 million people are in need of assistance as violence between government and opposition forces continues, but humanitarian access in South Sudan is halted by bad infrastructure, bureaucratic impediments and attacks on humanitarian staff

b) Mali regional crisis

The group discussed the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Mali, which it considers as a forgotten crisis. Some 1.5 million people in Mali depend on humanitarian assistance as a result of conflict and wider Sahel food security and nutrition crises, compounded by an agro-pastoral crisis.

4. WFP Executive Board Annual Session (Rome, 18-22 June)

The Commission proposed a selection of agenda items of the forthcoming WFP Executive Board Annual Session for which EU statements could be prepared. Delegations offered initial comments on the proposed selection.

5. Grand Bargain

The Commission briefed the delegations on the implementation process of the Grand Bargain in view of the upcoming annual conference of Grand Bargain signatories, and gave an update on the progress of the needs assessment work stream.

The Danish delegation gave an update on the integration of the humanitarian-development nexus work stream into the other work streams, and the Swedish delegation provided an update on the progress made in the work stream on reduced earmarking. The Dutch delegation updated on the work stream on transparency.

6. Sudan (*incl. an informal exchange of views with UN-OCHA*)

As a part of an informal exchange of views, the group was briefed on the humanitarian situation in Sudan by Matthew Hollingworth, Acting RC/HC for Sudan and Representative/Country Director WFP Sudan, as well as Ruth Mukwana, OCHA Deputy Head of Office Sudan.

7. Syria / Brussels II Conference

The EEAS and the Commission debriefed delegations on the humanitarian as well as the political results of the Brussels II Syria Conference. Brussels II reaffirmed international support for the Geneva process, and EUR 3.5 billion was pledged for resilience and humanitarian needs in Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey for 2018 (EUR 6.2 billion including 2019 and 2020).

8. AOB

a) Report on the EU Guidelines on Promoting Compliance with IHL

On behalf of the Chair of the COJUR Working Party, the COJUR Secretariat presented the first annual report on the EU Guidelines on Promoting Compliance with IHL.

b) Czech Development Strategy

The Czech delegation presented the new Czech Development Cooperation Strategy, which includes a humanitarian aid strategy.

c) Emergency Medical Teams (EMT) first European Regional Meeting (Brussels, 17-18 April)

The Commission debriefed the group on the first WHO Europe Regional Meeting, which was hosted by the WHO, Belgium and ECHO.

d) Humanitarian Health Event (Brussels, 19 April)

The Commission debriefed the group on the Quality and Capacity in Humanitarian Health event, which discussed quality and capacity in healthcare during emergency assistance.

e) EU Network of humanitarian focal points for innovation and the private sector

The Commission presented its proposal for an EU Network of contact points on private sector engagement and innovation.

f) June meeting

The Belgian delegation suggested that the recent events in Gaza should be addressed at the next meeting.
