



Council of the
European Union

028307/EU XXVI. GP
Eingelangt am 27/06/18

Brussels, 26 June 2018
(OR. en)

10502/18

COHAFA 54
DEVGEN 111
ALIM 5
ONU 63
FAO 24
COAFR 171
MAMA 104
MOG 47
COEST 129
COASI 162
PROCIV 43
RELEX 587

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 7-8 June 2018.

Delegations will find attached the outcome of proceedings of the Working Party on Humanitarian
Aid and Food Aid held on 7-8 June 2018.

Outcome of Proceedings, COHAFA 7-8 June 2018

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as set out in CM 2956/18, with an AOB item added on the recent eruption of the Fuego volcano in Guatemala.

2. Mine action *(incl. an informal exchange of views with UNMAS)*

As part of an informal exchange of views, UNMAS Director Agnès Marcaillou briefed the group about UNMAS humanitarian mine action programmes, stressing the multiple functions they serve, from prevention and protection to stabilisation, post-conflict resolution, peace sustainment and national capacity development.

3. Response to crises

a) Western Balkans

The group discussed the humanitarian situation in the Western Balkans with a particular focus on Bosnia and Herzegovina, which has become part of a new "coastal migration route". Almost 3,000 people on the move are currently present in the country.

b) Ukraine

The group discussed the humanitarian situation in Ukraine, where after three years of conflict more than 3.4 million people remain in need of humanitarian assistance.

c) Cameroon

The group discussed the three-fold humanitarian crisis in Cameroon: the "Anglophone crisis" in the west, the Lake Chad Basin crisis in the north, and the CAR refugee crises in the east.

Lebanon (*incl. an informal exchange of views with UNRWA*)

As part of an informal exchange of views Claudio Cordone, UNRWA Lebanon Director, briefed COHAFA on the humanitarian situation of the 32,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) living in Lebanon, around 90% of whom live below the poverty line.

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

The group discussed three draft statements to be made on behalf of the EU and its Member States at the WFP Executive Board Annual Session.

5. Professional Standards for Protection Work (*incl. an informal exchange of views with ICRC*)

As part of an informal exchange of views, Pilar Gimeno Sarciada, ICRC Head of the Protection Division, briefed COHAFA on the new "Professional Standards for protection work carried out by humanitarian and human rights actors in armed conflict and other situations of violence".

6. Education in Emergencies and Protracted Crises

The Commission gave an overview of the rationale and key elements of its recent Communication on Education in Emergencies and Protracted Crises. Member States welcomed the communication and provided initial comments. The group decided to prepare Council conclusions on the topic under the Austrian Presidency.

7. Education Cannot Wait (*incl. an informal exchange of views with Education Cannot Wait*)

As part of an informal exchange of views, Yasmine Sherif, Director of Education Cannot Wait, presented ECW's new strategic plan and provide an overview of the Fund's current portfolio and future plans.

8. AOB

a) Gaza

The Commission provided an update on the humanitarian situation in Gaza.

b) DRC/Ebola

The Commission updated on the latest developments regarding the recent Ebola outbreak in the DRC.

c) South Sudan

The Commission debriefed on a donors meeting held on 31 May to which EU Member States as well as Norway, Japan, Canada, Switzerland and the US had been invited.

d) Global Alliance for Urban Crises

The Commission debriefed on the latest developments on the urban crisis agenda, including the recent publication of a Commission Staff Working Document on EU Cooperation with Cities and Local Authorities.

e) ECHO disability guidance

The Commission debriefed on the expert consultation (Brussels, 6 June) on its draft guidance for humanitarian partners on disability-inclusive EU-funded humanitarian actions.

f) European Development Days

The Commission debriefed on two humanitarian-related events held during the EDD, on "Education Under Attack: a global call for the protection of education" (5 June) and the "High-Level Panel on Gender-based violence in emergencies" (6 June).

g) Austrian Presidency priorities

The Austrian delegation informed about its priorities in COHAFA for the six months to come, which include responses to humanitarian crises, the humanitarian-development nexus, forced displacement, WHS follow-up, the gender dimension of humanitarian aid, strengthening protection of civilians and compliance with IHL, education in emergencies, and food and nutrition security.

h) Fuego volcano eruption in Guatemala

The Italian delegation invited Member States to share any information about their national response (already provided or yet to be provided) in support of the civilian population in Guatemala following the recent volcano eruption there.