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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 12-13 July 2018.

Delegations will find attached the outcome of proceedings of the Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid held on 12-13 July 2018.

Outcome of Proceedings, COHAFA 12-13 July 2018

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as set out in CM 3571/18.

2. Presentation of the COHAFA work programme of the Austrian Presidency

The Presidency gave an overview of their priorities for COHAFA in the coming six months, and provided logistical information on the informal COHAFA/CODEV meeting in Vienna on 19-20 September. The Presidency also reminded delegations that the meeting of EU Directors-General for Humanitarian Aid will take place in Vienna on 2 October 2018, back-to-back with the EU Directors-General for Development meeting which is scheduled for 3 October 2018 and will also be held in Vienna.

3. Information on humanitarian-related instruments in the context of the new MFF

The Commission informed delegations about the rationale of their proposals for the instruments related to humanitarian aid under the new Multiannual Financial Framework (Humanitarian Aid Instrument and Emergency Aid Reserve).

4. Proposed integration of the EU Aid Volunteers into the European Solidarity Corps

The Commission gave an overview of their legislative proposal for incorporating the current EU Aid Volunteers initiative into the European Solidarity Corps (ESC). The Presidency informed that COHAFA would examine the articles of the proposal related to the proposed humanitarian strand of the new ESC, and explained how this would feed into the work of the Youth Working Party, which is in the lead on handling the overall ESC proposal within the Council.

5. Response to crises

a) Sahel (incl. an informal exchange of views with Action Against Hunger)

As part of an informal exchange of views, Lucia Prieto, Operational Desk for the Sahel Region with Action Against Hunger, briefed COHAFA on the deteriorating food insecurity situation in the wider Sahel region. The Commission complemented the presentation, identifying key challenges for donors and humanitarian organisations regarding the Sahel humanitarian crisis. The Commission also informed that the first meeting of a new *Humanitarian Friends of the Sahel* group would be organised in early September.

b) Yemen (incl. an informal exchange of views with Lise Grande, UN RC/HC in Yemen - MOG delegates were invited to join COHAFA for this item)

As part of an informal exchange of views, UN RC/HC Lise Grande briefed COHAFA and MOG delegates about the catastrophic humanitarian situation in Yemen.

c) Gaza (incl. an informal exchange of views with UNRWA)

As part of an informal exchange of views, Mathias Schmale, UNRWA Director of Operations in Gaza, briefed COHAFA on the dire living conditions in the Gaza Strip and on the situation following the mass demonstrations in May.

6. Education in Emergencies

The group discussed key elements to be included in draft Council conclusions on the topic of education in emergencies and protracted crises. On the basis of this discussion, the Presidency will prepare a draft for discussion at the COHAFA meeting on 3-4 September 2018.

7. GP20 (incl. an informal exchange of views with UNHCR)

As part of an informal exchange of views, Nadine Walicki, GP20 Coordinator with UNHCR, briefed COHAFA on the scope, content and envisaged rollout of the plan of action on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (GP20). Ms Walicki outlined a number of ways in which the EU and Member States were invited to get involved in the actions around the GP20.

8. AOB

a) Nicaragua

The EEAS and the Commission updated on the political and humanitarian crisis unfolding in Nicaragua, where at least 264 people have been killed and 1 800 injured during social unrest in response to a change in the social security system.

b) Debriefing on the Good Humanitarian Donorship High-Level Meeting (New York, 22 June)

The Commission briefed on their plans for the coming two years under the EU's co-chairmanship of the GHD initiative together with Switzerland. The German delegation debriefed on the latest results of their joint chairmanship together with Australia.

c) Debriefing on the ECOSOC Humanitarian Segment (New York, 19-21 June)

This debriefing by the Commission focused on side events in which ECHO or the EU were involved, an analysis of the main outcomes, and insights into the dynamics of the negotiations of this year's Resolution.

d) Debriefing Presidency appearance at European Parliament Development Committee (Brussels, 11 July)

The Presidency debriefed on the presentation of their humanitarian and development priorities by Karin Kneissl, Austrian Federal Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs.