



Council of the
European Union

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13365/18

COHAFA 84
DEVGEN 174
ALIM 10
ONU 89
FAO 46
COAFR 260
MAMA 167
MOG 73
COEST 201
COASI 253
PROCIV 70
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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 3-4 September 2018.

Delegations will find attached the outcome of proceedings of the Working Party on Humanitarian
Aid and Food Aid held on 3-4 September 2018.

Outcome of Proceedings, COHAFA 3-4 September 2018

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as set out in CM 3846/18 COR1.

2. Humanitarian-Development Nexus (*CODEV delegates were invited to join COHAFA for this item*)

The Commission and the EEAS updated the groups on the progress made in rolling out the nexus in the six pilot countries. The presentation also touched upon the role of the nexus in strengthening resilience in third countries.

3. Instruments related to humanitarian emergencies in the context of the new MFF

The Commission provided an overview of the rapid response component of the proposed Neighbourhood, Development, and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI), and explained how this new instrument would tie in with, and be complementary to, the existing Humanitarian Aid Instrument.

4. Education in emergencies

The group discussed draft Council conclusions on "Education in Emergencies and Protracted Crises".

5. UN reform

The Commission made a presentation on the recent reform of the UN Development System following the adoption of UNGA Resolution A/RES/72/279. The ensuing discussion focused on issues arising from the rollout of the reform, particularly regarding the consequences and challenges for the humanitarian system.

6. European Solidarity Corps – humanitarian strand

The group examined the articles and definitions concerning the humanitarian strand of the proposal for a new European Solidarity Corps (ESC) regulation. The Presidency concluded that further discussion of the estimated benefits and drawbacks of the proposed integration of the existing EU Aid Volunteers initiative into the ESC would be required.

7. Response to crises

a) Syria (incl. an informal exchange of views with ICRC – MaMa delegates were invited to join COHAFA for this item)

As part of an informal exchange of views, Valerie Petitpierre, ICRC Operations Coordinator, Near and Middle East, provided an overview of the humanitarian situation in Syria, with a particular focus on Idlib. Following the informal exchange of views, the Commission and the EEAS discussed with Member States in a closed setting the follow-up activities to the commitments made at the Brussels II Conference on Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region.

b) Rohingya refugee crisis (incl. an informal exchange of views with UNICEF)

As part of an informal exchange of views, Edouard Beigbeder, UNICEF Representative in Bangladesh, briefed the group about the humanitarian situation of the Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar. The presentation focused on challenges such as the health and nutrition conditions, the lack of education opportunities, and the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence.

c) Afghanistan

On the basis of briefings by the Commission and the EEAS, the group discussed the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan and the humanitarian challenges faced by Afghan refugees in Pakistan and Iran.

8. AOB

a) Humanitarian side events at UNGA 73

The Commission informed about two EU-led humanitarian side events at UNGA 73: a high-level event with Commissioner Stylianides and UNICEF on the Call to Action on Combating GBV; and a joint event with Belgium and OCHA on the protection of civilians and IHL. The EEAS informed that they were organising a side event on Syria to be chaired by HRVP Mogherini.

b) Financial situation of UNRWA (incl. an informal exchange of views with UNRWA)

The group held an informal exchange of views with Matthias Burchard, UNRWA Representative to the EU, on the budgetary challenges faced by UNRWA following the withdrawal of US funding. The discussion of the issue continued in a formal setting in closed format.

c) Venezuela

The Commission briefed the group on the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Venezuela.
