



Council of the
European Union

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COHAFA 58
DEVGEN 127
ALIM 3
ONU 58
ENV 442
PROCIV 76
RELEX 580
COJUR 17
SAN 415

COVID-19 277
COAFR 167
MAMA 105
COWEB 69
COEST 146
MOG 48
COASI 94
COLAC 45

NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid
Subject: Work programme of the Slovenian Presidency for the Working Party on
Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid (COHAFA)
July – December 2021

On behalf of the incoming Presidency, delegations will find in annex the work programme of the Slovenian Presidency for the Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid (COHAFA) for the period July - December 2021.

**WORK PROGRAMME OF THE SLOVENIAN PRESIDENCY FOR THE WORKING
PARTY ON HUMANITARIAN AID AND FOOD AID (COHAFA)**

JULY – DECEMBER 2021

The Slovenian Presidency will continue to pursue the common priorities and the implementation of the trio programme of Germany, Portugal and Slovenia in the field of humanitarian assistance, and build on the work carried out so far, in particular in the following areas: inclusion of the most vulnerable, triple nexus, IHL and humanitarian principles, anticipatory humanitarian action and digitalization. The humanitarian effects of the COVID-19 pandemic will continue to set COHAFA's agenda and influence its working methods.

The Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the EU's humanitarian action: new challenges, same principles and the Council Conclusions on the Communication from the Commission will guide COHAFA's work during the Slovenian Presidency on addressing the challenges the humanitarian action is facing as well as looking at progress made.

Particular importance will be given to water as a main priority and to gender as a crosscutting priority of the Slovenian Presidency.

MAIN PRIORITIES

1. Water and Humanitarian Assistance

No other resource is as important as water in the context of humanitarian aid. Water is a crucial component of the humanitarian response and longer-term recovery. In emergency situations, an improved water supply can make a significant contribution to recovery and self-sufficiency. At the same time, insufficient water and the consumption of contaminated water are usually the primary causes of ill health in populations in emergency situations.

Therefore, the Slovenian Presidency will pay particular attention to water as a main priority.

The Slovenian Presidency of COHAFA will focus on water, complement the work of CODEV, and include the following aspects:

- a) Access to drinking water and WASH in humanitarian crises, related to COVID-19 and conflicts;
- b) Respect for IHL, including safeguarding water infrastructure;
- c) Resilience building and food security;
- d) Triple nexus (humanitarian action – development – peace).

CODEV will prepare the Council Conclusions. With regard to the triple nexus, CODEV will take the lead on drafting the Council Conclusions, and COHAFA will follow and support the process.

2. The most vulnerable and humanitarian assistance

In the spirit of the trio programme, the Slovenian Presidency will pay particular attention to the protection and promotion of vulnerable groups, particularly women, and forcibly displaced people. The Presidency will pursue the following topics:

- a) **Gender sensitive humanitarian action:** Women and girls belong to the groups most affected in emergencies, and the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated their vulnerability significantly. Therefore, the Slovenian Presidency will focus on the importance of including women and girls, not only as receivers of humanitarian aid, but also as important change makers within the humanitarian response.
- b) **Forced displacements:** The Slovenian Presidency will pay particular attention to forced displacements and the role of rehabilitation after humanitarian crises. COHAFA will address these topics just in time to mark the 70th anniversary of the adoption of the UN Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. Additionally, the Slovenian Presidency will focus on forgotten crises.

OTHER PRIORITIES

In addition, the Slovenian Presidency will highlight the following topics:

- a) **Global health:** Because of the unprecedented impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is of the utmost importance to address global health. Therefore, in this respect the Slovenian Presidency will address the planning of the emergency response, the humanitarian development nexus, the work of international actors on the ground, and the mitigation of the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, e g., food insecurity and increasing gender-based violence.
- b) **Digitalization and innovation technologies in humanitarian action:** Digitalization is the thematic priority of the trio Presidency programme and an important topic, highlighted in the *Communication on the EU's humanitarian action: new challenges, same principles*. Addressing this issue, the Presidency will stress the importance of responsible digitalization and using innovation technologies in all aspects of humanitarian action in order to mitigate unprecedented challenges, aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

INDICATIVE SCHEDULE OF WP MEETINGS

Month	Day
July	2 (VTC - morning and afternoon)
September	9-10 (format TBC)
October	13-14 (format TBC)
November	10-11 (format TBC)
December	8-9 (format TBC)

SPECIAL EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Event	Date
Informal CODEV-COHAFA-CONUN VTC Meeting	8 July (TBC)
Informal CODEV-COHAFA Meeting	20-22 September (Bled, Slovenia – TBC)

INDICATIVE CALENDAR OF MAJOR EVENTS

1 July – 31 December 2021

Date	Event
5-7 July	UNHCR Standing Committee
23-27 August	World Water Week (virtual)
14-30 September	UNGA week
15-16 September	UNHCR Standing Committee
September	UN Food Systems Summit
September	UNICEF Executive Board
4-8 October	UNHCR Executive Committee
1-12 November	2021 UN climate change conference (COP26)
15-19 November	WFP Executive Board
24-26 November	European Forum on Disaster Risk Reduction
December (date TBC)	Global Humanitarian Overview launch
7 December (am)	UNHCR Pledging Conference
7 December (pm)	UNHCR ExCom planning meeting
14-15 December	UNHCR High-level officials meeting (Global Refugee Forum)

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