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COHAFA 1

NOTE

From: HR delegation
To: Delegations
Subject: Work programme of the Croatian Presidency for the Working Party on
Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid (COHAFA) - January-June 2020

Delegations will find attached the work programme of the Croatian Presidency for the Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid (COHAFA) for the period January-June 2020.

**Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid (COHAFA) work programme of the
Croatian Presidency of the Council of the European Union**

1 January – 30 June 2020

The Croatian Presidency will continue the work on the common priorities of the Trio programme of Romania, Finland and Croatia. In the Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid (COHAFA), the Croatian Presidency will focus on those issues which chime with the general programme of the Croatian Presidency – A strong Europe in a world of challenges – as well as matters in which Croatia has experience both as a recipient and a donor of humanitarian assistance.

Main priorities

Nexus

In line with the work of previous Presidencies, the Croatian Presidency will stimulate the discussion with the aim of achieving more cohesion and greater complementarity between the actors of the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, by addressing the root causes of instability while at the same time covering humanitarian needs.

Our focus will be on sharing knowledge, experience and lessons learnt from our partners in the field as well as the EU institutions. Humanitarian organisations will be invited to share their knowledge, based on findings in their work, in order to identify the areas where more efficiency is required and where donors and implementers can work better together in order to achieve the best possible nexus synergy in the field. The Commission and the EEAS will be invited to regularly update the group on the nexus implementation with a particular focus on the six pilot countries, so as to enable Member States to be actively involved both in headquarters and in the field. Where appropriate, discussions will be held jointly with the Working Party on Development.

Disaster Risk Reduction

Following the global targets and priorities set out by the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction as well as the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid, the Croatian Presidency will place particular emphasis on Disaster Risk Reduction and on strengthening resilience in countries prone to natural hazards, in order to enhance disaster preparedness and help reduce humanitarian needs.

Using the informal exchanges of views with humanitarian partner organisations, the Presidency will prompt discussions on how to better manage the risk of humanitarian crises caused by natural hazards. Strengthening the capacities of institutions and non-governmental actors is essential for increasing local resilience; this not only helps communities and countries to deal better with crises when they occur, but, more crucially, reduces the likelihood of natural hazards turning into crises in the first place. Furthermore, in connection with the next priority outlined below, the Presidency will focus on the role of the most vulnerable groups in Disaster Risk Reduction.

Protection of the most vulnerable groups with a focus on youth in emergencies

The Croatian Presidency will put the emphasis on protection of the most vulnerable groups in emergencies, with a focus on youth. Discussions will be dedicated to better addressing the needs, concerns and aspirations of adolescents and youth affected by humanitarian crises, and to enabling partners, Member States, the Commission and the EEAS to share best practices and ideas for improving the protection of this section of the population during the humanitarian response.

Psychosocial support

Health problems stemming from both disasters and violent conflicts can have severe psychosocial consequences for the affected populations. The psychological wounds may be less visible than the destruction of homes, but it often takes far longer to recover from the psychological impact than to overcome material losses.

The Croatian Presidency will open discussions on various forms of psychosocial assistance, addressing the violence, insecurity and instability in crisis and post-crisis situations ranging from armed conflicts to natural disasters, in order to help affected societies to help themselves, while at the same time providing psychosocial support directly to victims as part of the humanitarian response.

Humanitarian partners will be invited to share their best practices in providing psychosocial support. These will include, in particular, prevention and reduction of the negative impact of crisis situations on the mental health of children and their families, support to victims of gender-based violence, and PTSD rehabilitation of war veterans as well as civilian victims of war.

Responses to humanitarian crises

COHAFA will continue to discuss the humanitarian needs arising from, and the responses to, the world's emerging, protracted and 'forgotten' humanitarian crises. These include Bosnia and Herzegovina and the humanitarian situation of migrants and refugees in the Western Balkans, Yemen, Syria and Syrian refugees, Venezuela, the Eastern and Southern Neighbourhood, forced displacement in the Sahel, Ebola in DR Congo, Sahrawi refugees, and the aftermath of Cyclone Idai. The practice of formulating common humanitarian advocacy messages on specific crises will be continued. Discussions will also touch upon relevant thematic issues such as the use of cash-based assistance.

Other topics

COHAFA will prepare the statements to be made on behalf of the EU and its Member States at the World Programme Executive Board's First Regular Session (February) and Annual Session (June). The group will also be kept up to date on the negotiations on the European Solidarity Corps, for which the Youth Working Party will remain in the lead.

Indicative schedule of meetings

Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid

COHAFA

January – June 2020

			AM	PM
COHAFA	January 14	Tuesday		x
	January 15	Wednesday	x	x
COHAFA	February 13	Thursday		x
	February 14	Friday	x	x
Informal COHAFA	March 18	Wednesday	x	x
	March 19	Thursday	x	
COHAFA	April 7	Tuesday		x
	April 8	Wednesday	x	x
COHAFA	May 5	Tuesday		x
	May 6	Wednesday	x	x
COHAFA	June 4	Thursday	x	x
	June 5	Friday	x	

INDICATIVE CALENDAR OF MAJOR EVENTS

3-7 February	Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week (HNPW) in Geneva
11-13 February	UNICEF Executive Board – First regular session
24-28 February	WFP Executive Board – First Regular Session
10-12 March	UNHCR Standing Committee
22-27 March	Food Assistance Convention mission to Ethiopia
15-16 April	World Humanitarian Forum, London
18-23 May	WHO World Health Assembly
9-11 June	UN ECOSOC Humanitarian Aid Segment
Mid-June	OCHA Donor Support Group (ODSG) meeting in Madrid
12 June	Grand Bargain Annual Meeting (after ECOSOC) in New York
29 June - 2 July	UNICEF Executive Board – Annual session
29 June - 2 July	WFP Executive Board - Second Regular Session

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