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COHAFA 63
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CONUN 124
COJUR 40
FIN 1027
CSDP/PSDC 477
MIGR 194
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NOTE

From:	Presidency/General Secretariat of the Council
On:	7 July 2026
To:	Delegations

Subject:	Ireland – Lithuania – Greece Presidency Trio Work priorities for the Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid (COHAFA) 1 July 2026 – 31 December 2027
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Following the COHAFA Directors' meeting on 7 July 2026, delegations will find in annex the work priorities of the Irish-Lithuanian-Greek Presidency Trio for the COHAFA Working Party for the period of July 2026 to December 2027.

IRELAND – LITHUNIA – GREECE PRESIDENCY TRIO
WORK PRIORITIES
FOR THE WORKING PARTY ON HUMANITARIAN AID AND FOOD AID
(COHAFA)

1 JULY 2026 – 31 DECEMBER 2027

The global humanitarian outlook remains extremely bleak. While humanitarian needs have reached alarming levels, humanitarian funding has significantly reduced and needs are hyper-prioritised. The severity of crises has worsened owing to climate change, the proliferation of and prolongation of conflict, and the compounding impact of global price shocks. As a result, hundreds of millions are suffering the consequences of complex drivers of need. Growing disregard for the international rules based order, violations of IHL broadcasted daily and a deepening undermining of the humanitarian principles are driving a significant increase in food insecurity, forced displacement, protection need and incidents affecting the safety and security of aid workers. This immense stress on the humanitarian system and frontline partners comes against a backdrop of falling overall levels of ODA, and disproportionate cuts to emergency response in particular. The result of this is that as immediate needs remain high, we are confronted with a growing inability to sustainably reduce humanitarian needs over the medium and long term.

The EU and its Member States are now the largest humanitarian actor in the world, and remain the foremost donor advocate for principled and needs based humanitarian action. The Commission and the EEAS have recently published their joint Communication *‘Defending values, driving reform, delivering impact: The EU humanitarian action in a shifting global order’*, which outlines an ambitious and principled case for robust, coherent and effective Team Europe humanitarian action.

There is immense potential in leveraging the true impact of a Team Europe approach to humanitarian action, and identifying concrete measures that can be taken to shape the future of humanitarian assistance among the Commission and Member States. The European Union is evolving its approach to working in fragile and conflict affected contexts, and ongoing discussions on the MFF bring opportunities to shape the future direction of the EU’s humanitarian action in coordination with development and peace actors across the Triple Nexus.

As incoming Presidency Trio, Ireland, Lithuania and Greece commit to work collaboratively to ensure continued focus and momentum on key priorities over the period July 2026 – December 2027. These shared priorities will include, *inter alia*:

- To lead the development of tailored and timely Team Europe positions on humanitarian reset and reform discussions, and evolutions in the humanitarian funding ecosystem;

- To take concrete actions to advance (and implement) Council Conclusions on the European Commission's Communication on Humanitarian Aid *Defending values, driving reform, delivering impact: the EU's humanitarian action in a shifting global order*;
- To bring a renewed focus to the role of Team Europe in reducing humanitarian need through the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Triple Nexus in fragile settings, with a focus on the linkages between the humanitarian aid and recovery/reconstruction, particularly visible in Ukraine, including with other Working Parties where relevant (eg on Resilience with CODEV, on external action financing with the AHWP MFF Global Europe, and the Ad hoc Working Party on Reconstruction and Support for Ukraine (RESUA));
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- To prioritise efforts to uphold and promote international humanitarian law, principled humanitarian action and the protection of civilians and aid workers;
- To focus on a comprehensive response to forced displacement, championing sustainable durable solutions for refugees, asylum seekers and IDPs;
- To focus on the centrality of protection, in particular on the impact of humanitarian crises on women and girls, and the impact of SGBV;
- To focus on resilience, and with particular emphasis on the impacts of climate change, food and nutrition insecurity and through advancing localisation. Sustainable resilience remains a key humanitarian priority to reduce vulnerabilities, enable faster recovery, and ensure long-lasting impact beyond immediate crisis response;
- To strengthen COHAF's understanding of innovative humanitarian financing models, including to scale up anticipatory action and climate smart humanitarian action;
- Appropriate and timely discussions on the future of EU humanitarian/Nexus action under the next MFF, 2028-2034.
- Geographical priorities, which will evolve in line with the evolving level and severity of humanitarian need, but will include Ukraine, oPT, Sudan, the Sahel and Syria, as well as neglected/forgotten crises such as eg Mozambique, Yemen, Myanmar and Haiti.

Through these priorities, Ireland, Lithuania and Greece will contribute to a coherent, principled and forward-looking EU humanitarian policy that remains firmly grounded in humanitarian principles and responsive to evolving humanitarian needs.

