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# Commissioner Georgieva – portfolio

ECHO FACTSHEET

## Facts & Figures

Short biography of Kristalina Georgieva

Since February 2010:

European Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response

1993-2010:

World Bank Group, last position: Vice President and Corporate Secretary (2008-2010)

1992:

Consultant, Environomics and Merser Management Consulting, Inc.

1991:

Visiting Professor, University of the South Pacific, Fiji; and Australian National University

1987-1988:

Research Fellow, Department of Economics, London School of Economics and Political Science

1977-1993:

Assistant Professor/Associate Professor, Department of Economics, University of National and World Economy, Sofia, Bulgaria



## International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response

Day by day, the European Union mobilises its resources to help people in need. This effort is a fundamental expression of the European value of solidarity, shared by EU citizens and Member States, and enshrined in the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

The main tools the EU has at its disposal to respond to crises and disasters are humanitarian aid and civil protection. The appointment of Kristalina Georgieva as the first European Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response in February 2010 brought together these two instruments and reinforced the coherence of EU response operations.

European Commission President José Manuel Barroso stressed that Commissioner Georgieva is responsible for “one of the most crucial, and visible ways in which the EU can fulfil its global responsibilities”. She works to direct the available EU resources toward helping people in need: those caught up in humanitarian crises and those affected by disasters that range from catastrophic earthquakes to pollution spills.

***I am the Commissioner with the best job, because what I do is to act on the most precious of European values – the solidarity with people in need. But I am also the Commissioner with the worst job, because there is so much pain and suffering around the world today. In the 21st century, there should be no kid going to bed hungry – but millions still do.***

Kristalina Georgieva

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## Helping worldwide when people are in need

The EU's humanitarian assistance is based on the principles of **humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence** as endorsed in the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid. It is implemented in partnership with international and non-governmental relief organisations and specialised UN agencies. The EU's humanitarian assistance is purely needs-based and goes directly to people in distress, irrespective of their nationality, religion, gender, ethnic origin or political affiliation. Our aim is to save lives and relieve the suffering of people caught up in crises.

The driver of our assistance is solidarity - one of the main values underpinning European integration. EU citizens are united in their solidarity with victims of conflict and natural disasters outside the Union. In the most recent EU-wide survey, nine out of ten citizens (88%, up from 79% in 2010) said it is important that the EU funds humanitarian aid outside its borders, and 84% agree that the EU should continue to fund humanitarian aid in spite of the current economic crisis, which is a remarkably strong expression of European solidarity in times of hardship. An even higher increase in support can be recorded for joint EU action: seven in ten (71%) believe that humanitarian aid provided by the EU is more efficient than when provided by each Member State separately (58% in 2010). (2012 Special Eurobarometer survey 384 on Humanitarian Aid).

The aid takes many forms, depending on the nature of each crisis. It includes goods and services such as food, clothing, shelter, medical provisions, water supplies, sanitation, emergency repairs and protection.

The Commission also funds risk reduction and disaster preparedness projects in disaster-prone regions. This is becoming ever more important with the growing scale of natural disasters.

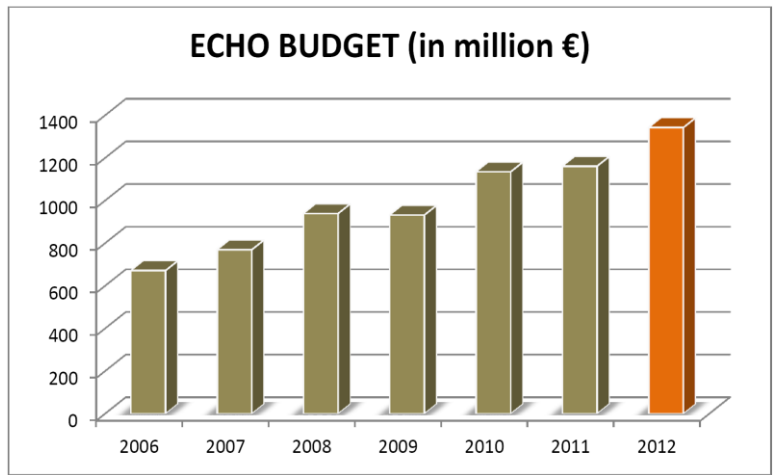
The EU's disaster response is not limited to humanitarian aid but is also delivered through Member States' civil protection assets. One of Commissioner Georgieva's priorities was to launch the **European Emergency Response & Coordination Centre** in 2013, based on the former ECHO Crisis Room for humanitarian crises and the Monitoring and Information Centre (MIC) for civil protection. The new centre was opened in May will further strengthen EU disaster response capacity. Commissioner Georgieva also puts a strong focus on preparedness and prevention. As well as saving lives, this also saves money: one euro invested in disaster preparedness saves between four and seven euro in spending on relief efforts following a natural disaster.

## Budget

The European Union as a whole – European Commission and Member States – is the world's largest source of humanitarian aid. In 2012 the European Commission mobilised humanitarian aid and civil protection assistance worth €1,34 billion. This budget helped more than 122 million people in over 90 countries.



Region/country	Amount	%
<b>Africa</b>	<b>681</b>	<b>51%</b>
Sudan & Chad	207	
Central Africa	92	
Horn of Africa	162	
Southern Africa, Indian Ocean	32	
West Africa	188	
<b>Middle East, Mediterranean</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>20%</b>
Middle East	255	
Mediterranean	10	
<b>Asia, Pacific</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>15%</b>
Central and South West Asia	110	
Central South Asia	32	
South East Asia and Pacific	56	
<b>Latin America, Caribbean</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>5%</b>
Latin America	30	
Caribbean	38	
<b>Worldwide disasters</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>Civil protection</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>2%</b>
Inside EU	21	
Outside EU	6	
<b>Worldwide assistance and support</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>6%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1.344</b>	<b>100%</b>



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