

<p style="text-align: center;">Decision to modify a Humanitarian Aid Decision 23 02 02</p>
--

Decision subject to the proposed modifications:

<u>Decision reference number:</u>	ECHO/DIP/BUD/2004/02000
<u>Location of operation:</u>	Central America (Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama)
<u>Title:</u>	4th DIPECHO ¹ Action Plan for Central America
<u>Initial amount of decision:</u>	€3 500 000
<u>New amount of decision:</u>	€6 000 000
<u>Date of the decision:</u>	25 October 2004

Explanatory memorandum

Grounds for the amendment

In response to the guidelines of the Fourth DIPECHO Action Plan for Central America and to the call for expressions of interest, published on its webpage, for proposals to be submitted by 12 July 2004, ECHO received 41 DIPECHO proposals from its partners for an amount of more than EUR 14 million.

Of these proposals, 17, representing a budget of about EUR 6 million, were considered highly relevant and of high quality to meet the needs for risk reduction in Central America by ensuring the preparedness of the most vulnerable communities in the regions most affected by recurring natural disasters.

However, in its initial proposal for a decision ECHO had to limit the projects selected to a budget of EUR 3.5 million because the appropriation for budget line 23 02 02, which covers DIPECHO, made it impossible at that stage to programme more.

¹ DIPECHO (DIaster Preparedness ECHO) is the disaster-preparedness programme financed by ECHO since 1996.

At the beginning of October 2004 the Commission decided in view of the rate at which the 2004 appropriations for budget heading 23 02 01 were being used, to increase the budget for disaster-preparedness operations (DIPECHO). The increase in appropriations for heading 23 02 02 reflects the guidelines in the European Parliament's report on humanitarian aid, which recommended a considerable increase in financing for disaster-preparedness operations (Carlotti Report, A5-0433/2002, 10 December 2002)

An increase in the overall budget for the decision is therefore requested to take advantage of this budget increase to guarantee the financing of all the projects in the reserve in the initial decision, thereby increasing both the number of beneficiaries and the geographical scope of the Action Plan. The following could be added to the regions and communities covered by the initial decision:

- about 20 000 people in the Honduran departments of Olancho, Yoro and Gracias a Dios, in particular through the potential partners GOAL and Alisei,
- about 30 000 people in the Nicaraguan departments of Nueva Segovia, León and the Autonomous Region of the Southern Atlantic (RAAS), through the new potential partners ACSUR Las Segovias, Movimondo and the Spanish Red Cross.

The objective and components of the decision would remain unchanged.

The new budgetary table would be as follows:

Budget breakdown by specific objective

Principal objective: <i>To reduce risks in Central America by ensuring preparedness for the most vulnerable populations in the regions most affected by recurring natural disasters</i>				
Specific objectives	Allocated amount per specific objective (EURO)	Probable geographical area of the operation	Activities	Potential partners²
Specific Objective 1: Increase the response capacity at local level of the most vulnerable populations, by integrating and coordinating the activities at local, provincial, national and regional levels, and by contributing to the standardisation of preparedness programmes	5 640 000	In Guatemala: provinces of San Marcos, Alta Verapaz, Huehuetenango, Quiché and Santa Rosa. In Honduras: provinces of Olancho, Yoro, Colón and Gracias a Dios. In El Salvador: provinces of Chalatenango, La Libertad and La Paz In Nicaragua: provinces of Estelí, Matagalpa and León, the Autonomous Region of the Northern Atlantic (RAAN), Nueva Segovia and the Autonomous Region of the Southern Atlantic (RAAS).	Capacity building/training, early warning systems, small scale mitigation works, map-making and computerisation of the data, research and dissemination, strengthening of infrastructures, advocacy and public awareness-raising, education, facilitation of coordination, institutional reinforcement.	- ACH - ES - CARE - F - CEPREDENAC - CISP - COSPE - Netherlands Red Cross - German Agro Action - OXFAM - UK - Plan International UK - Trocaire - Alisei - GOAL - ACSUR Las Segovias - Movimondo - Spanish Red Cross

² Accion Contra el Hambre (ES), CARE France (FR), Centro Coordinacion Prevencion Desastres America Central Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli (I), Cooperazione per lo Sviluppo dei Paesi Emergenti (I), Deutsche Wellthungerhilfe/German Agro Action (D), Het Nederlandse Rode Kruis (NL), Oxfam (UK), Plan International (UK), Trocaire (IRL), United Nations - Pan American Health Organisation, Alisei (I), Goal (IRL), Acsur Las Segovias (ES), Movimondo (I), Cruz Roja Española (E).

Specific Objective 2: Contribute to the compilation and dissemination of best practices relating to disaster preparedness, to appropriate early warning and intervention systems in cooperation with the national and regional disaster response, preparedness and prevention systems.	360 000	Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama	Map-making and computerisation of data, research and dissemination	- UN - PAHO
TOTAL	6 000 000			

Proposed amendments

In pursuit of the objectives laid down in the initial decision, it is proposed that the additional EUR 2.5 million recently earmarked for heading 23 02 02 of the 2004 budget be used to augment the overall budget for the decision to EUR 6 million (and so increase the list of regions and potential partners for Specific Objective 1).

COMMISSION DECISION

of

on the financing of humanitarian aid operations from the general budget of the European Union

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Communities,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/96 of 20 June 1996 concerning humanitarian aid,³ and in particular Article 15(2) thereof,

Whereas:

1. Decision ECHO/DIP/BUD/2004/02000 of 25 October 2004 provides for the implementation of humanitarian aid operations undertaken in the framework of the Fourth DIPECHO Action Plan for Central America under line 23 02 02 of the 2004 budget of the European Union.
2. The Decision earmarked EUR 3 500 000 for operations undertaken in the framework of the Fourth DIPECHO Action Plan.
3. This amount was insufficient to fund many high-quality and highly relevant projects meeting priority needs in the region.
4. The revision of ECHO's 2004 budget programming has permitted this budget to be increased by EUR 2 500 000.
5. It is therefore necessary to amend the overall budget of Decision ECHO/DIP/BUD/2004/02000 of 25 October 2004 on the financing of humanitarian aid operations undertaken in the framework of the Fourth DIPECHO Action Plan for Central America by using line 23 02 02 of the 2004 budget of the European Union.
6. In accordance with Article 17 (3) of Regulation (EC) No.1257/96 the Humanitarian Aid Committee gave a favourable opinion on .

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Article 1(1) of Decision ECHO/DIP/BUD/2004/02000 adopted on 25 October 2004 is replaced by the following:

³ OJ 163, 2.7.1996, p. 1.

“In accordance with the objectives and general principles of humanitarian aid, the Commission hereby approves a total amount of EUR 6 000 000 for humanitarian aid operations undertaken in the framework of the Fourth DIPECHO Action Plan for Central America under line 23 02 02 of the 2004 budget of the European Union.”

Article 2

The table in the annex to Decision ECHO/DIP/BUD/2004/02000 listing the amounts allocated for each specific objective is replaced by the table annexed to this Decision.

Article 3

This Decision shall take effect on the date of its adoption.

Done at Brussels,

For the Commission

Member of the Commission

Annex: Breakdown of allocations by specific objectives

Principal objective : <i>To reduce risks in Central America by ensuring preparedness for the most vulnerable populations in the regions most affected by recurring natural disasters.</i>	
Specific objectives	Amount per specific objective (Euro)
Increase the response capacity at local level of the most vulnerable populations, by integrating and coordinating the activities at local, provincial, national and regional levels, and by contributing to the standardisation of preparedness programmes	5,640,000
Contribute to the compilation and dissemination of best practices relating to disaster preparedness, to appropriate early warning and intervention systems in cooperation with the national and regional disaster response, preparedness and prevention systems.	360,000
TOTAL	6,000,000