



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HUMANITARIAN AID OFFICE (ECHO)

Humanitarian Aid Decision
Humanitarian aid (Title 23)

Title: Humanitarian aid for the victims of the Chechnya conflict

Location of operation: RUSSIA

Amount of decision: 16,500,000 euro

Decision reference number: ECHO/RUS/BUD/2004/01000

Explanatory Memorandum

1 - Rationale, needs and target population:

1.1. - Rationale:

Nearly five years after the beginning of the second conflict in Chechnya, in autumn 1999, the situation has all but normalised and there is no peace in sight. Regular fighting, with artillery shelling of villages and populated areas, goes on in the South of Chechnya, while a low-intensity conflict goes on in the rest of the republic, with continued losses on each side and a targeting of the civilian population. Insecurity reigns, including in Grozny.

In Chechnya, the conditions of living for the population continue to be abysmal, particularly in Grozny, a city in rubble which hosts an estimated 100,000 people. Very little reconstruction is going on, and it concerns only public buildings (administration, Oil Institute, etc) and some infrastructure work, as well as temporary centers designed to host returnees. A number of private houses have undergone minor rehabilitation thanks to international organisations, but no apartment building is being reconstructed. People therefore live in dangerous remnants of buildings with no running water and continue to depend on State allowances, humanitarian aid and indebtedness for their daily life, in a context where job opportunities are scarce. A large part of the federal funds allocated to the reconstruction of Chechnya (22 billion rubles in 2003, i.e. €650 million) are said to have disappeared into embezzlement.¹ The budget foreseen for 2004 is around €1 billion.

Comment:

In spite of the difficult environment, a significant number of people has returned to Chechnya (16,170 in 2003 according to UNHCR), voluntarily or pushed by the closure of camps and the various pressures/promises they have been subject to in Ingushetia. Hundreds of them have been accommodated in some of the 29 Temporary Accommodation Centres (TACs) whose poor facilities (no water, toilets outside, no

¹ A federal investigation commission confirmed these allegations last year

showers) have led to an alarmingly high rate of tuberculosis, according to humanitarian organisations. There is currently no more space available in these TACs, who host 28,500 IDPs and are overcrowded, which means that if people have no other choice but to return to Chechnya, they will have to rent one of the very few rooms available in the private sector.

There are still, according to UNHCR, 68,000 people displaced in neighbouring Ingushetia (some NGOs say the figure is higher) as well as 10,000 in Dagestan (ICRC sources), which the international community strives to protect and assist. However, the situation has deteriorated significantly during the last months, with a combination of different types of pressure put on IDPs to leave Ingushetia and return to Chechnya. Pressure, in certain cases, has been violent – on 6 March, fourteen armoured vehicles surrounded Satsita camp early in the morning, and federal soldiers as well as Chechen law-enforcement units carried out a reportedly brutal search and document check of IDPs in tents. This was interpreted by UNHCR and ECHO's local protection partner (Vesta) as a means of intimidation designed to increase pressure on the residents of this camp. The main organization working in the camp since its creation, the Saudi Red Crescent, was coincidentally not renewed its registration and has now ceased all its activities in Satsita.

The Presidential Commission on Human Rights, headed by Ms Pamfillova, fled to Ingushetia in order to investigate the incident. She had already visited Ingushetia early February and voiced its concerns over the level of psychological pressure exerted on IDPs at the moment and the absence of decent shelter conditions offered to people either in Ingushetia or in Chechnya.

The closure of two camps last October and December, as well as the closure of another one by 1st March, to be followed by the closure of the two remaining ones, which still host between 5,000 and 6,000 IDPs, is the most visible part of the official plan on return. Former camp commandants have all been sent on long holidays at the end of last year and replaced by more obedient people. While closing the camps, authorities have, until the end of February, obstructed efforts by the international community to build alternative shelter in Ingushetia and have instructed NGOs to dismantle rooms which had been built with ECHO funds². In this context, despite official assurances that return was exclusively voluntary, the international community had deep concerns about the absence of alternatives given to IDPs in Ingushetia. The EU and the US undertook a joint demarche, last 9th February, to voice their concerns to the federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

After this demarche and the visit of Mr Egeland, Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs, there was a small opening in the end of February. After refusing for more than a year to allow IDPs to move into the 180 ECHO-funded rooms built by MSF, Ingush authorities suddenly changed their position and, on 22 February, instructed MSF to prepare 140 rooms for immediate use. In parallel, however, NGOs do not currently get authorizations to build other alternative shelter. Therefore, NGOs are now concentrating on rehabilitating existing, poor-quality shelter, rather than building new one.

² OCHA received a letter from the Ingush Government on 5th February asking them to help dismantle these rooms

When interviewed, IDPs state as their main reason for not wanting to return to Chechnya the lack of security and their fear of disappearances. Violations of international humanitarian law and human rights continue unabated in Chechnya, with civilians abducted by masked men in military clothes. Tortures, arbitrary detentions, extortions, thefts, beatings continue to be reported by reliable human rights organisations. The well-known Russian NGO "Memorial", which carries out its monitoring in only 5 out of 17 districts in Chechnya, reports 477 cases of kidnappings for 2003 and says that due to its limited monitoring, the figure could be 3 to 4 times higher. In a press release published on 2 February 2004, the ICRC, whose Chechen employee abducted last August is still missing, recalled that the abduction of civilians is prohibited under international humanitarian law and voiced its "deep concern about the safety of the civilian population in Chechnya"³.

The absence of a perspective for peace and development in Chechnya and the pressure on IDPs to leave Ingushetia have created an environment such that many people see emigration to Europe as their last resort, despite all difficulties.

1.2. - Identified needs:

Needs do not differ much in essence from what they were a few months ago, when the last decision was adopted. The main evolution is linked to the progressive closure of remaining camps in Ingushetia and the decrease in the population there. As a consequence, a few projects have had to be terminated or scaled down but the needs for IDPs in Ingushetia remain of the same nature. The extent of needs is much higher in Chechnya, due to the size of the population and the extent of destructions. ECHO is trying to adapt its assistance in order to cover more and more needs in Chechnya, while keeping the necessary programmes for IDPs remaining in Ingushetia. However, access and security problems are such that certain areas cannot be covered by humanitarian organisations.

There is no visible progress in the humanitarian situation in the region and socio-economic services in **Chechnya** continue to function at a very poor level. With unemployment widespread (80% of the population in Chechnya) and the level of indebtedness already high (over 50% of the families classified as poor incur debts), the main needs continue to be linked to **material living conditions** for a population whose 63% has a monthly income per person of less than 20 US\$. According to ICRC, 10% of the population is extremely poor and 50% of the population is economically vulnerable. Needs are present in all sectors : basic food and non-food items (clothes, bed items, household items), which are available on the market but to which most families do not have access because of a lack of financial resources; water and sanitation, which are barely covered by the government structures, especially in Grozny (filtered water for the population is provided by the ICRC, UNICEF/PHO and IRC). Needs for garbage and sewage collection are also high - under 15% of the city residents are covered by an organized system of garbage collection. Health services continue to lack equipment and medicine (90 to 95% of the medicine in the hospitals assisted come from international aid). Because of the poor conditions of living, the health status of the population continues to be extremely low : more and more stress-related illnesses -cardiac and psychic disorders-, widespread respiratory and gastrointestinal infections as well as anaemia among women and children, high rate of

³ For other reports on human rights violations, see also Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, International Helsinki Federation, Organisation mondiale contre la torture, Council of Europe

tuberculosis (the chief doctor of the Chechen TB service reported about 5,800 TB patients at the end of 2003, though the actual number is probably much higher considering problems with TB cases registration in rural areas). Facilities in Chechnya are too basic to be able to answer complex cases, hence the need to continue, in addition to the support to local structures, to support a referral system in order to allow a number of people to be cured outside the republic, in the rest of the Russian Federation. There are obviously, as well, vast needs in terms of reconstruction, especially in Grozny, a city which used to host 400,000 inhabitants and where no apartment buildings have been reconstructed. The current population is estimated to be around 90 to 100,000 people. However, this is an issue for the government, not for emergency assistance.

In **Ingushetia**, basic food and non-food constitute the main material needs, like in Chechnya, because of scarce economic resources of the IDPs. IDPs also need to have free access to health services, especially for mother and child health care. Water and sanitation needs continue to exist as well, although reduced due to the progressive closure of camps and the works already undertaken. However, if ECHO is authorised to build new alternative shelter, there will be a need to equip these places with the proper water and sanitation facilities.

In **Daghestan**, the most urgent needs relate to the provision of basic food, non-food as well as water and sanitation services in temporary settlements for IDPs.

In a context where the civilian population is directly affected by the conflict, **protection** needs remain widespread **in all three republics**, especially with regard to legal aid. In a context where pressure on IDPs to return is high, there is a need to ensure that this return is exclusively voluntary. Therefore, IDPs have to be made aware of their rights to stay in Ingushetia if they so wish and their rights have to be defended in courts.

After several years of disruption of **education** and a widespread destruction of facilities, there are vast needs in the educational sector, where the Chechen government is investing little money. The priorities are the reconstruction of facilities and the equipment of the classrooms in Chechnya, as well as the provision of books in both Chechnya and Ingushetia and the running of parallel schools for 9,000 IDP children in Ingushetia. An assessment made in 2002 by the Ministry of Education and UNESCO showed that 38 schools were completely destroyed, 231 needed to be fully reconstructed, 50 needed major repair and 50 minor repairs. Only two schools were still intact. The lack of kindergardens is also problematic.

Because of the war, many adolescents have been out of school for years, whether in Chechnya or in Ingusheta, and therefore are in urgent need of vocational training in order to be able to acquire some skills and later on find a job. There is also a widespread need in kindergarden facilities, which are scarce in Chechnya. Those set up in Ingushetia need to be continuously supported.

The extent of war-related psychological disorders is such among the population in both Chechnya and Ingushetia that **psycho-social assistance** is crucial, especially among children and adolescents. Because of the presence of mines, there is also a continued need for **mine-awareness**, especially in schools. Mines have been and continue to be highly used and the degree of contamination by unexploded ordnance is also high. According to UNICEF, as of October 2003, 474 people have been killed by mines and unexploded ordnance and 2,072 have been injured (due to the difficulty of collecting data in Chechnya, these figures are likely to represent only a part of the total).

In addition to the needs of the population, there is a general need to represent the international community for issues such as access and humanitarian space and to ensure the proper coordination of international humanitarian aid efforts.

It is also important to reinforce the security set-up for the humanitarian community (this is already covered through the previous decision, with the support granted to UNSECOORD).

1.3. - Target population and regions concerned:

The target population for the distribution of food and non-food items includes the most vulnerable people living in Chechnya, Ingushetia (IDPs from Chechnya) and Daghestan (IDPs from Chechnya). These people are identified through a database constantly updated by the Danish Refugee Council, as well as through the ICRC's, the WFP's and ACF's databases in the different regions of Chechnya.

For the food, the total target population will be around 500,000 beneficiaries. ACF targets some 18,000 people in Southern Chechnya and 1,800 children in Ingushetia; DRC targets some 180,000 people in both Chechnya and Daghestan; WFP targets 70,000 IDPs in Ingushetia, 125,000 people in Chechnya and 86,000 pre- and primary school children in Ingushetia and Chechnya; ICRC targets 50,000 people for its bread distribution in Chechnya.

For non-food items, Help targets some 10,000 households in Ingushetia, Chechnya and Daghestan and several thousands children for clothes.

Protection, water and sanitation as well as health assistance are directed towards the whole IDP population in Ingushetia/Daghestan (around 80,000 people potentially) as well as the local population in Chechnya (potentially 700,000 people).

Shelter programmes are directed towards the most vulnerable IDPs in Ingushetia who are in need of alternative shelter (the number of rooms constructed will depend on authorisations given and may reach from several dozens to 150).

Some specific programmes are targeted towards children and adolescents : health programmes (mother and child health), food aid (specific food for IDP babies 1,800 4-24 month old in Ingushetia), primary education, psycho-social/vocational training projects, mine awareness, distribution of clothes.

Other programmes are targeted specifically towards the victims of landmines and other handicapped people (rehabilitation, prosthesis equipment).

1.4. - Risk assessment and possible constraints:

It is very difficult to predict the evolution of the security situation in the region – whether a status quo, an improvement or a possible deterioration with an upsurge in the conflict after spring.

As to the implementation of humanitarian programmes, this is linked mainly to security and access to Chechnya, as well as to the acceptance, by authorities, of the work of NGOs. Lately (since November), access to Chechnya has been easier, but security there is still the main issue, with the constant risk of kidnapping.

With the authorities asking the humanitarian community to redirect its assistance to Chechnya and the deterioration of the environment for IDPs and humanitarian workers in Ingushetia, the worst-case scenario could be that agencies are asked to leave Ingushetia or that a security incident happens which pushes them to leave. This could jeopardise the whole assistance to the region, since humanitarian agencies do not consider it safe enough to be based in Chechnya.

Authorities have recently manifested a strong will to control the provision of humanitarian aid and the targeting of beneficiaries in Chechnya, accusing the aid of falling into the hands of rebels. The UN have accepted in principle to participate in a

new mechanism of coordination with the authorities, although the terms of reference of this mechanism have still to be agreed. ECHO is waiting to see these terms of reference to decide whether or not it would be useful to participate. Past attempts at more cooperation have so far always resulted in more harassment for humanitarian agencies. There is currently a risk that NGOs find it more and more difficult to operate in an independent way and are put under heavy pressure by local authorities. Constraints on the shelter programme in Ingushetia have increased lately and it is currently unknown whether ECHO partners will be able to continue to construct new alternative shelter for IDPs who wish to stay there for the moment. The projects envisaged in this decision are therefore minimal and will be extended if the possibility arises. If the construction of alternative shelter continues to be completely blocked, the money allocated for shelter projects will be used to carry out much-needed rehabilitation works in existing shelter.

In general, there will continue to be important constraints with regard to the monitoring of operations in Chechnya and Daghestan, due to security reasons and the fact that ECHO is still not authorised to open an antenna in Nazran, Ingushetia, despite repeated requests at the highest level. The implementation of operations will continue to be done through a remote control system, although hopefully with more frequent visits to Chechnya and a more regular presence in Ingushetia.

2- Objectives and components of the humanitarian intervention proposed:

2.1. – Objectives:

Principal objective :

To improve the humanitarian situation of the victims of the conflict in the Northern Caucasus

Specific objectives :

- To improve the material living conditions of people affected by the conflict
- To ensure a minimal protection of the general population and to improve the educational and psycho-social state of the people, especially the youth
- To ensure the coordination of humanitarian programmes and play an advocacy role on the preservation of humanitarian space and access to the beneficiaries
- to maintain a technical assistance capacity in the field, in order to assess needs, appraise project proposals and coordinate and monitor the implementation of operations

2.2. - Components:

- **Improvement of the material conditions of living :**

Targeted basic and supplementary food as well as non-food items will be distributed in the three republics, along with seeds and tools in Ingushetia and Chechnya.

Alternative shelter will be built for IDPs in Ingushetia, if local and federal authorities agree to it.

Water and sanitation programmes in all three republics will continue to be supported, including the provision of clean and potable water to the population in Grozny and to institutions in the rest of the republic.

In Chechnya, partners will seek to improve the access to and the quality of primary health care through support to selected medical structures, especially structures for

children and for mothers, as well as the quality of surgical and traumatological care in the central hospitals. ECHO will seek, as much as possible, to extend its support to other locations than Grozny. In Ingushetia, ECHO will continue to provide adequate primary health care to IDPs and to support the main hospital in Nazran. In Daghestan, ECHO will continue to support the main hospital in Khassaviurt. Victims of mines and handicapped people will benefit from specific rehabilitation programmes.

- **Protection, education and psycho-social assistance:** The 68,000 IDPs in Ingushetia and around 10,000 IDPs in Daghestan as well as the whole population of Chechnya will potentially be covered by protection activities focusing on legal aid and information on their rights.
The primary education of children will be supported in Chechnya and Ingushetia, as well as child-friendly spaces and kindergardens in Grozny. Adolescents and young adults will benefit from psycho-social support and vocational training activities in Ingushetia and in Chechnya. The population in Ingushetia and Chechnya, especially children, will receive mine-awareness training
- **Coordination and advocacy :** Continued support will be given to OCHA for its coordination role and advocacy for the preservation of humanitarian space and access to the beneficiaries.
- **Technical assistance :** In order to maximise the impact of the humanitarian aid for the victims, the Commission will **maintain** an ECHO support office located in Moscow. This office will appraise project proposals, co-ordinate and monitor the implementation of humanitarian operations financed by the Commission. The office will provide technical assistance capacity and the necessary logistics for the achievement of its tasks. The Commission will continue to lobby for the opening of an antenna in Nazran, Ingushetia. ECHO staff will increase its presence in Ingushetia and Chechnya as much as access and security permit.

3 - Duration foreseen for actions within the framework of the proposed decision:

The duration for the implementation of this decision will be **18 months**.

Humanitarian operations funded by this decision must be implemented within this period. Most of the operations will start on May 1st 2004 and have a 6 to 10 month duration. Other operations will start only later, since they are currently funded under the previous decision.

Expenditure under this Decision shall be eligible from **01/05/2004**.

The start date will be **01/05/2004**.

If the implementation of the actions envisaged in this decision is suspended due to *force majeure* or any comparable circumstance, the period of suspension will not be taken into account for the calculation of the duration of the decision.

Depending on the evolution of the situation in the field, the Commission reserves the right to terminate the agreements signed with the implementing humanitarian organisations where the suspension of activities is for a period of more than one third of the total planned duration of the action. The procedure established in the Framework Partnership Agreement in this respect will be applied.

Grand total	26,425,800
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Dated : 23/02/2004
(* Source : ECHO 14 Points reporting for Members States. <https://hac.cec.eu.int>
Empty cells means either no information is available or no contribution.

6 – Budget impact and distribution by specific objectives:

6.1. - ECHO total available Budget line 23 02 01 in 2004: €472 000 000

ECHO total executed to date (by 12/3/2004): €195 000 000 (rounded figure)

Total amount of the decision: €16 500 000

Comment:
Comment:
Comment:

Principal objective: <i>To improve the humanitarian situation of the victims of the conflict in the Northern Caucasus</i>				
Specific objectives	Allocated amount by specific objective (Euro)	Possible geographical area of operation	Activities	Potential partners⁴
Specific objective 1: To improve the material living conditions of people affected by the conflict	12,750,000	Chechnya Ingushetia Daghestan	Provision of food and non-food items; water and sanitation activities; health assistance; shelter assistance.	- ACF - FRA - CARITAS - FRA - CROIX-ROUGE - CICR- ICRC - CH - DRC - HAMMER FORUM - HANDICAP (FR) - HELP - HUNGARIAN INTERCHURCH AID - IRC - UK - MDM - FRA - MSF - BEL - MSF - FRA - MSF - NLD - POLISH HUMANITARIAN ORGANISATION - SECOURS POPULAIRE - FR - UN - UNICEF - INT - UN - WFP-PAM

⁴ People in Need, ACTION CONTRE LA FAIM, (FR), ARTSEN ZONDER GRENZEN (NLD), CARE OSTERREICH, (AUT), CARITAS FRANCE - SECOURS CATHOLIQUE, (FR), COMITE INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE (CICR), DANSK FLYGTNINGEHJAELP, HAMMER FORUM e.v., HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL (FR), HELP- HILFE ZUR SELBSTHILFE E.V. (DEU), International Rescue Committee UK, MEDECINS DU MONDE, MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES (F), MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES BELGIQUE/ARTSEN ZONDER GRENZEN BELGIE(BEL), Magyar Ökumenikus Szeretetszolgálat, Polska Akcja Humanitarna, SECOURS POPULAIRE FRANCAIS, (FR), CARITAS Czech, UNICEF, UNITED NATIONS - HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, UNITED NATIONS - WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME, UNITED NATIONS, OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS

Specific objective 2: To ensure a minimal protection of the general population and to improve the educational and psycho-social state of the people, especially the youth	2,580,000	Chechnya Ingushetia Daghestan	Legal aid; primary education, psycho-social assistance and vocational training; mine awareness.	- CARE - AUT - CARITAS - CZE - IRC - UK - PEOPLE IN NEED - UN - UNHCR - CHE - UN - UNICEF - INT
Specific objective 3: To ensure the coordination of humanitarian programmes and play an advocacy role on the preservation of humanitarian space and access to the beneficiaries	250,000	Chechnya Ingushetia Daghestan	General coordination and advocacy	- UN - UNOCHA
Specific objective 4: to maintain a technical assistance capacity in the field, in order to assess needs, appraise project proposals and coordinate and monitor the implementation of operations	500,000	Moscow Nazran (if authorised)	Assessment of needs, monitoring of projects, coordination, relation with local authorities.	
Reserve, max. 10% of the total amount	420,000			
TOTAL	16,500,000			

7 – Implementation and framework partnership

Humanitarian aid is given by means of grants within the meaning of Regulation No.1257/97 and in accordance with the Financial Regulation and its Implementing Rules. The rate of financing can be up to 100% of the costs of the operation.

Humanitarian aid operations funded via ECHO are implemented by international organizations or NGOs that adhere to the standards and criteria established in the ECHO Framework Partnership Agreement. Specific grants are awarded for each operation. The standards and criteria established in ECHO's Framework Partnership Agreement to which partners have to adhere and the procedures needed to become a partner with ECHO may be found at http://europa.eu.int/comm/echo/partners/index_en.htm.

8 – Evaluation

Under article 18 of the Regulation the Commission is required to "regularly assess humanitarian aid operations financed by the Community in order to establish whether they have achieved their objectives and to produce guidelines for improving the effectiveness of subsequent operations." These evaluations are structured and organised in overarching and cross cutting issues forming part of ECHO's Annual Strategy such as child-related issues, the security of relief workers, respect for human rights, gender, etc. Each year, an indicative Evaluation Programme is established after a consultative process. This programme is flexible and can be adapted to include evaluations not foreseen in the initial programme, in response to particular events or changing circumstances. More information can be obtained at: http://europa.eu.int/comm/echo/evaluation/index_en.htm.

COMMISSION DECISION

of

on the financing of humanitarian operations from the general budget of the European Union in **RUSSIA**

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Union,
Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/96 of 20 June 1996 concerning humanitarian aid⁵, and in particular Article 15(2) thereof,

Whereas:

1. The Chechnya conflict has led to a considerable outflow of internally displaced persons (IDPs) into the neighbouring republics, with Ingushetia and Daghestan currently still hosting some 80,000 IDPs,
2. The continued violence has provoked the displacement of about 140,000 IDPs within Chechnya itself,
3. The conflict has widely disrupted the socio-medical infrastructure and the agricultural production inside large parts of Chechnya, notably Grozny, and put additional strain on infrastructure system in the neighbouring republics, notably Ingushetia,
4. Years of displacement and the persistently volatile security situation in the region have – both psychologically and financially – exhausted the affected IDP population,
5. In order to maximise the impact of humanitarian aid for the victims, it is necessary to maintain a technical assistance capacity in the field.
6. An assessment of the humanitarian situation leads to the conclusion that humanitarian aid operations should be financed by the Community for a period of **18** months.
7. It is estimated that an amount of **16,500,000** euro from budget line **23 02 01** of the general budget of the European Union is necessary to provide humanitarian assistance to over **500,000 people**, taking into account the available budget, other donors' interventions and other factors.
8. In accordance with Article 17 (3) of Regulation (EC) No 1257/96 the Humanitarian Aid Committee gave a favourable opinion on 29/04/2004.

⁵ OJ L 163, 2.7.1996, p. 1-6

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

1. In accordance with the objectives and general principles of humanitarian aid, the Commission hereby approves a total amount of 16,500,000 euro for humanitarian aid operations **Humanitarian aid for the victims of the Chechnya conflict** by using line 23 02 01 of the 2004 general budget of the European Union.
2. In accordance with Articles 2 and 4 of Regulation (EC) No 1257/96, the humanitarian operations shall be implemented in the pursuance of the following specific objectives:
 - To improve the material living conditions of people affected by the conflict
 - To ensure a minimal protection of the general population and to improve the educational and psycho-social state of the people, especially the youth
 - To ensure the coordination of humanitarian programmes and play an advocacy role on the preservation of humanitarian space and access to the beneficiaries
 - To maintain a technical assistance capacity in the field, in order to assess needs, appraise project proposals and coordinate and monitor the implementation of operations

The amounts allocated to each of these objectives and for the reserve are listed in the annex to this decision.

Article 2

Without prejudice to the use of the reserve, the Commission may, where this is justified by the humanitarian situation, re-allocate the funding levels established for one of the objectives set out in Article 1(2) to another objective mentioned therein, provided that the re-allocated amount represents less than 20% of the global amount covered by this Decision and does not exceed 2 million euro.

Article 3

1. The duration for the implementation of this decision shall be for a maximum period of 18 months, starting on 01/05/2004. Expenditure under this Decision shall be eligible from that date.
2. If the operations envisaged in this Decision are suspended owing to *force majeure* or comparable circumstances, the period of suspension shall not be taken into account for the calculation of the duration of the implementation of this Decision

Article 4

This Decision shall take effect on 1st May.

Done at Brussels,

For the Commission

Member of the Commission

Annex: Breakdown of allocations by specific objectives

Principal objective :To improve the humanitarian situation of the victims of the conflict in the Northern Caucasus	
Specific objectives	Amount per specific objective (Euro)
To improve the material living conditions of people affected by the conflict	12,750,000
To ensure a minimal protection of the general population and to improve the educational and psycho-social state of the people, especially the youth	2,580,000
To ensure the coordination of humanitarian programmes and play an advocacy role on the preservation of humanitarian space and access to the beneficiaries	250,000
To maintain a technical assistance capacity in the field, in order to assess needs, appraise project proposals and coordinate and monitor the implementation of operations	500,000
Reserve	420,000
TOTAL	16,500,000