



## EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Budget line 23 02 01

Title: Commission decision on the continuing financing of Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System (GDACS)

Location of operation: European Union

Amount of Decision: EUR 350,000

Reference number: ECHO/-GF/BUD/2006/02000

### **Explanatory Memorandum**

#### **1 – Needs to be addressed:**

In the past two years, the European Commission Joint Research Centre in Ispra (JRC) and United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) have developed the Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System (GDACS), which is now one of the principle disaster monitoring systems for DG ECHO's<sup>1</sup> operational units. Through the involvement of OCHA, GDACS also has the potential to reach the complete international humanitarian response community.

JRC has been supported for the technical development of this system (development of the disaster monitoring and alert system and of the GDACS web portal) through two administrative arrangements (22060-2004-05 A1CO ISP BE and 22848-2005-07 A1CO ISP BE). In parallel OCHA has steered GDACS as a system for the complete humanitarian response community and ensured the development of the coordination component (Virtual On Site Operations Coordination System, or VOSOCC).

Furthermore JRC has developed an instrument to update the vulnerability crises assessment (former global needs assessment, GNA) and the assessment of the forgotten crises indicator.

#### **2 – Aims and purposes of proposed financing decision:**

JRC should be supported with a third and last Administrative Arrangement in order to implement the feedback from the Second Stakeholder Meeting (e.g. multi-lingual alerts and migration of the portal to OCHA) and to further develop and refine disaster impact assessment models.

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<sup>1</sup> Directorate-General for Humanitarian aid – DG ECHO.

Moreover, during GDACS training sessions for DG ECHO's operational units indicated that it would be useful to integrate an early warning flood system. The present proposal contains a component on how to improve the assessment of floods.

The specific objective of GDACS is to "finalise" the development of the system, i.e. to bring it to a stable operational state covering early warning and impact assessment of the most important natural disasters. It will then be transferred to OCHA, as initially agreed.

JRC will also, in this framework, continue to support DG ECHO's annual vulnerability and crises assessment as well as the forgotten crises assessment.

The programme will be financed from budget Item 23 02 01 of the general budget of the European Union for Humanitarian Aid.

### **3 – Planned duration of this financing decision:**

The duration for the implementation of this Decision shall be 18 months starting on 1 December 2006. A "safety margin" is included to cover unforeseen problems that may delay the punctual termination of one or more of the components of the decision.

Operations funded by this decision must be implemented within this period.

Expenditure under this Decision shall be eligible from 1 December 2006.

### **4 - Amount of decision and distribution by specific objectives:**

4.1. - Total amount of the decision: EUR 350,000.

### **5 – Evaluation:**

Under article 18 of Council Regulation (EC) No.1257/96 of 20 June 1996 concerning humanitarian aid, 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 DG ECHO's Annual Strategy such as child-related issues, the security of relief workers, respect for human rights, gender. 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://ec.europa.eu/comm/echo/evaluation/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/comm/echo/evaluation/index_en.htm).

**6 - Budget Impact Article 23 02 01**

	CE (EUR)
Initial available appropriations for 2006	470,429,000
Other appropriations (re-use of 2006 and old recoveries)	3,701,907
Reinforcement from emergency aid reserve	140,000,000
<b>Total available appropriations</b>	<b>614,130,907</b>
Total executed to date (27/10/2006)	610,277,000
Available remaining	3,853,907
<b>Total amount of the Decision</b>	<b>350,000</b>

**COMMISSION DECISION**  
**on**

**Commission decision on the continuing financing of Global Disaster Alert and  
Coordination System (GDACS)**

**THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,**

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,  
Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/96 of 20 June 1996 concerning  
Humanitarian aid<sup>2</sup>, and in particular Article 14 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In the past two years, JRC, in collaboration with United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, has developed the Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System. Through the involvement of United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System has the potential to reach the entire international humanitarian response community;
- (2) The main purpose of the funding of the third year development is to bring it into a stable operational state covering early warning and impact assessment of the most important natural disasters. This will allow the transfer of the system to United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs as initially agreed;
- (3) JRC support to DG ECHO's vulnerability and crises assessment and the forgotten crises indicator system is an important element for the preparation of DG ECHO annual strategy;
- (4) It is estimated that an amount of EUR 350,000 from budget 23 02 01 of the 2006 general budget of the European Communities is necessary to provide support to the final phase of this development.

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 EUR 350,000 for the final development of the Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System by using Budget Item 23 02 01 of the 2006 general budget of the European Communities.
2. In accordance with Articles 2(f) and 4 of Regulation (EC) No 1257/96, the programme shall be implemented in the pursuance of the following specific objective: to finalise the development of the system, i.e. to bring the system into a stable operational state covering early warning and impact assessment of the most important natural disaster.

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<sup>2</sup> OJ L 163, 2.7.1996, p.1-6

## *Article 2*

1. The duration for the implementation of this Decision shall be for a maximum period of 18 months, starting on 1 December 2006.
2. Expenditure under this Decision shall be eligible from 1 December 2006.
3. 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 3*

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

Done at Brussels,

*For the Commission*

*Member of the Commission*