

COMMISSION DECISION
of
on the financing of emergency humanitarian operations from the general budget of the
European Communities in **Haiti and the Dominican Republic**

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 aid¹, and in particular Articles 2(a) and 13 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The island of Hispaniola was severely affected by the passage of Tropical Storm Noel between 26 October and 01 November 2007;
- (2) This Tropical Storm was followed immediately by a "Tropical Wave" producing more heavy rainfall, with persistent floods and mudslides;
- (3) There was great damage to houses, roads, crops, livestock and water supply systems in the Dominican Republic and in Haiti;
- (4) The European Commission's Primary Emergency Decision for humanitarian aid to victims of Tropical Storm Noel in the Dominican Republic, adopted on 02 November 2007, was unable to meet all humanitarian needs arising from this emergency;
- (5) The Governments of both countries declared a state of alert, appealing for international assistance;
- (6) Humanitarian aid operations financed by this Decision should be of a maximum duration of 6 months;
- (7) It is estimated that an amount of **EUR 2,500,000** from budget line **23 02 01** of the general budget of the European Communities is necessary to provide humanitarian assistance to over 120,000 people affected by these tropical storms, taking into account the available budget, other donors' contributions and other factors;
- (8) The present Decision constitutes a financing Decision within the meaning of Article 75 of the Financial Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002², Article 90 of the detailed rules for the implementation of the Financial Regulation determined by Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002³, and Article 15 of the Internal Rules on the Implementation of the general budget of the European Communities⁴.

1- OJ L 163, 2.7.1996, p. 1-6

2- OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p.1. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1995/2006, OJ L 390, 30.12.2006, p.1

3-OJ L 357, 31.12.2002, p.1 Regulation as last amended by Commission Regulation (EC Euratom) No. 478/2007, OJ L 111 of 28.4.2007, P. 13

4-Commission Decision of 21.02.2007, C/2007/513

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 2,500,000 for emergency humanitarian aid operations to provide the necessary assistance and relief to tropical storm victims in **Haiti and the Dominican Republic** by using line 23 02 01 of the 2007 general budget of the European Communities.

2. In accordance with Article 2(a) of Council Regulation No.1257/96, the humanitarian operations shall be implemented in pursuance of the following specific objective:

- To provide multi-sectoral emergency relief and recovery assistance to tropical storm victims

The total amount of this decision is allocated to this objective.

Article 2

1. The implementation of humanitarian aid operations funded by this Decision shall have a maximum duration of 6 months from their starting date.

2. Expenditure under this Decision shall be eligible from 01 November 2007.

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 humanitarian aid operations.

Article 3

1. The Commission shall implement the budget by direct centralised management or by joint management with international organisations.

2. The actions supported by this decision will be implemented by humanitarian aid organisations that are signatories to the Framework Partnership Agreements (FPA) or the EC/UN Financial Administrative Framework Agreement (FAFA).

3. Taking account of the specificities of humanitarian aid, the nature of the activities to be undertaken, the specific location constraints and the level of urgency, the activities covered by this decision may be financed in full in accordance with Article 253 of the Implementing Rules of the Financial Regulation.

Article 4

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

Done at Brussels,

For the Commission

Member of the Commission



Emergency Humanitarian Aid Decision

23 02 01

Title: Emergency humanitarian aid for people affected by Tropical Storm Noel and subsequent floods and mudslides in Haiti and the Dominican Republic

Location of operation: Caribbean

Amount of Decision: EUR 2,500,000

Decision reference number: ECHO/-CR/BUD/2007/01000

Explanatory Memorandum

1 - Rationale, needs and target population

1.1. - Rationale :

At the end of October and early in November 2007, the island of Hispaniola was severely affected by the passage of Tropical Storm Noel, followed by a low pressure system (a "Tropical Wave") producing more heavy rainfall. Both storms caused devastation in the Dominican Republic and Haiti, with huge persistent floods and mudslides. Deaths recorded in the Dominican Republic total 116, and in Haiti 66. In response to some of the needs caused by the storms, the European Commission's Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid (DG ECHO), adopted a Primary Emergency Decision for EUR 1,500,000 for the Dominican Republic on 2 November. This funding decision did not cover needs in Haiti, due to several factors: the gravity of needs in the Dominican Republic urged an immediate response; the storms passed over Haiti after crossing the Dominican Republic; access difficulties and poor infrastructure delayed damage/needs assessments in affected areas of Haiti.

A mission to Haiti by DG ECHO's Desk Officer and Programme Officer for the Caribbean region in the second week of November facilitated evaluation of humanitarian needs still unmet by the national response. Close co-ordination with the European Commission Delegation in Haiti was maintained. From discussions with the United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), DG ECHO's partners, local authorities and Civil Defence representatives, it was clear that further support is needed. The regions most affected by the passage of the tropical storms were the West (particularly Gonave

Island), Nippes and the South East. The storms' impact on rural populations was maximised, due to the acute vulnerability of these communities. Need assessments by DG ECHO and partners have identified urgent requirements for clean water, emergency health services, short-term rehabilitation and emergency food security operations. DG ECHO's Emergency Decision for EUR 1,000,000, adopted on 7 November in response to the October floods in Haiti, is only covering a few of the needs created by Tropical Storm Noel in the Cabaret area of the West department, where Concern Worldwide, Oxfam-GB and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization are implementing emergency operations. The food security budget allocated to Haiti, currently being programmed, will only cover some of the needs caused by Tropical Storm Noel in the South East and South Departments. Moreover, its main rationale in Haiti is to assist those departments which are facing acute malnutrition.

The Primary Emergency Decision adopted on 2 November for the Dominican Republic is helping to meet urgent needs, including support for the Pan American Health Organization, currently engaged in fumigation and destruction of rats, in response to dengue fever and leptospirosis, in close co-operation with the Secretary of State for Public Health and Social Assistance. Unfortunately, due to the extensive damage and impact of the two storms countrywide, this funding Decision has not been enough to answer all urgent needs of the most vulnerable affected population. Even though the number of people in shelters has reduced to less than 10,000, the needs in the water and sanitation sector, as well as the livelihood sector, will be critical in the coming months. The National Emergency Co-ordination Centre held meetings for working groups on water/sanitation, shelter, infrastructure and humanitarian assistance. DG ECHO's other partners implementing projects under the Primary Emergency Decision, Intermon-Oxfam and the Spanish Red Cross, have been able to co-ordinate their activities in the water and sanitation sector, in order to maximise their impact. The World Food Program (WFP) has conducted an Emergency Food Security Assessment in the Dominican Republic. Preliminary results show that approximately 21% of households in affected provinces are suffering from severe food insecurity as a result of the storms, whilst approximately 34% of households in affected provinces are suffering from moderate food insecurity. The causes of food insecurity are given as loss of goods and belongings, loss of means of production, and sometimes total loss of income generation. WFP is launching an Emergency Operation in the Dominican Republic from December 2007 to May 2008, for USD 3,500,000. From field visits carried out by DG ECHO's Desk officer and Head of Caribbean office to projects funded by the Primary Emergency Decision, in close co-ordination with the European Commission Delegation in the Dominican Republic, and via discussions with partners, local authorities and Civil Defence representatives, it is clear that further support is needed.

The assistance recommended below takes these elements into account and should enable the affected population in both countries to recover from this disaster and to avoid a rapid worsening of their situation. On 01 November 2007 the crisis was severe in Haiti and the Dominican Republic, and international support has been requested.

1.2. - Identified needs :

Assessments undertaken by DG ECHO's staff and NGO, Red Cross and UN partners in both countries indicate needs in the following sectors:

- **Water:** water distribution systems have been badly damaged in both countries, particularly in the Department of Nippes and Gonave Island in Haiti, and in the southern provinces of the Dominican Republic

- **Sanitation and health:** improvement of appalling sanitation conditions in some affected areas and public health campaigns on hygiene and water usage are vital, in order to prevent or reduce water-borne diseases in both countries
- **Emergency rehabilitation:** housing and health infrastructure have been seriously damaged
- **Food and food security:** WFP assessment in the Dominican Republic has shown over half the population as suffering from severe or moderate food insecurity
- **Non-food relief items:** additional NFIs will be needed to complete the current distributions in both countries
- **Livelihoods and agricultural rehabilitation:** extensive damage to the agricultural sectors of both countries is affecting small-scale vulnerable farmers, plus seasonal and agricultural employees

1.3. - Target population and regions concerned :

Haiti: all affected areas, especially the Departments of Nippes, West (Gonave Island) and Artibonite: 70,000 beneficiaries.

Dominican Republic: all affected areas, especially the Provinces of San Cristobal, Peravia, Azua, Barahona, Independencia and Bahoruco: 50,000 beneficiaries.

1.4. - Risk assessment and possible constraints :

The following risks and constraints should be considered:

- Access problems, linked to damaged infrastructure
- Deterioration of the security situation
- Further natural disasters
- Difficulties importing required items

2 - Objectives and components of the humanitarian intervention proposed:

2.1. - Objectives :

Principal objective: **To save and preserve lives in the emergency caused by Tropical Storm Noel and subsequent floods and mudslides in Haiti and the Dominican Republic**

Specific objective:

- To provide multi-sectoral emergency relief and recovery assistance to tropical storm victims

2.2. - Components :

- **Water:-** provision of drinking water, including bottled water and small-scale rehabilitation of water systems; water containers, tanks, filters and purification tablets
- **Sanitation and health:-** hygiene promotion, waste disposal, fumigation, hygiene kits and latrines, especially for those displaced and living in make-shift camps
- **Emergency rehabilitation:-** urgent repairs to damaged housing, health infrastructure and inaccessible roads

5 - Overview of donors' contributions

Donors in Dominican Republic/Haiti in the last 12 months					
1. EU Members States (*)		2. European Commission		3. Others	
	EUR		EUR		EUR
Austria		DG ECHO	4,420,000		
Belgium	246,000	Other services			
Bulgaria					
Cyprus					
Czech republic					
Denmark					
Estonia					
Finland					
France	20,000				
Germany	317,615				
Greece					
Hungary					
Ireland					
Italy	400,000				
Latvia					
Lithuania					
Luxemburg					
Malta					
Netherlands					
Poland					
Portugal					
Romania					
Slovakia					
Slovenie					
Spain					
Sweden	777,444				
United kingdom					
Subtotal	1,761,059	Subtotal	4,420,000	Subtotal	0
		Grand total	6,181,059		

Dated : 23 November 2007

(*) Source : DG ECHO 14 Points reporting for Members States. <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/hac>

Empty cells means either no information is available or no contribution.

N.B. Many donors are responding to the current crisis, but their response has not yet been reported to this database. Following an UNDAC mission to the Dominican Republic, there was a UN Flash Appeal for USD 13,985,200 and a CERF allocation of USD 3,631,500. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies organised a Tropical Storm Noel Emergency Appeal for USD 1,200,000 or EUR 873,941 for the Bahamas, Cuba, Dominican Republic and Haiti.

The EC Delegations are establishing how remaining 9th EDF funds can be mobilised to assist tropical storm victims, ensuring a transition from relief to reconstruction.

6 - Amount of decision and distribution by specific objective:

6.1. - Total amount of the decision: EUR 2,500,000

6.2. - Budget breakdown by specific objective

Principal objective: <i>To save and preserve lives in the emergency caused by Tropical Storm Noel and subsequent floods and mudslides in Haiti and the Dominican Republic</i>			
Specific objective	Allocated amount by specific objective (EUR)	Geographical area of operation	Potential partners⁵
Specific objective 1: To provide multi-sectoral emergency relief and recovery assistance to tropical storm victims	2,500,000	Haiti and the Dominican Republic	- ACTED - CONCERN WORLDWIDE - CR-E - FAO - GERMAN AGRO ACTION - INTERMON - OXFAM GB - PAHO - UCODEP - WFP-PAM
TOTAL: 2,500,000			

⁵ AGENCE D'AIDE A LA COOPERATION TECHNIQUE ET AU DEVELOPPEMENT, (FR), CONCERN WORLDWIDE, (IRL), CRUZ ROJA ESPAÑOLA, (E), DEUTSCHE WELTHUNGERHILFE / GERMAN AGRO ACTION, (DEU), INTERMON OXFAM, (E), OXFAM (GB), UNITED NATIONS - FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION, UNITED NATIONS - PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION, UNITY AND COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLES, WORLD FOOD PROGRAM

7 - 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/echo/evaluation/index_en.htm

8 - Budget Impact article 23 02 01

	CE (EUR)
Initial available appropriations for 2007, C1	485,000,000.00
Transfers Commission, C1	56,209.86
Reassigned revenue (C4, C5)	5,786,685.62
Total available appropriations (C1, C4, C5)	490,842,895.48
Total executed (C1, C4, C5) to date (26 November 2007)	487,257,467.22
Available remaining (C1, C4, C5)	3,585,428.26
Total amount of the Decision	2,500,000.00

9. Management Issues

Humanitarian aid actions funded by the Commission are implemented by NGOs, Specialised Agencies of the Member States, and the Red Cross organisations on the basis of Framework Partnership Agreements (FPA) and by United Nations agencies based on the EC/UN Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement (FAFA) in conformity with Article 163 of the Implementing Rules of the Financial Regulation. These Framework agreements define the criteria for attributing grant agreements and financing agreements in accordance with Article 90 of the Implementing Rules and may be found at

http://ec.europa.eu/echo/partners/index_en.htm

Individual grants are awarded on the basis of the criteria enumerated in Article 7.2 of the Humanitarian Aid Regulation, such as the technical and financial capacity, readiness and experience, and results of previous interventions.