

**COMMISSION DECISION**  
**of**  
**on the financing of primary emergency humanitarian operations from the general**  
**budget of the European Communities in**  
**GEORGIA/RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

**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>1</sup>, and in particular **Article 2(a), (e) et (g)** and Article 13 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Fighting in South Ossetia (Georgia) involving armed forces from Georgia and the Russian Federation including heavy air strikes, have provoked a lot of dead and injured, homeless, refugees and internally displaced people,
- (2) The Georgian Parliament approved a presidential decree declaring the "state of war" on Saturday, 9 August at noon,
- (3) Victims are in urgent need of emergency medical assistance, water and sanitation, food supplies, non-food items, emergency shelter and protection,
- (4) It is estimated that an amount of EUR 1,000,000 from budget line 23 02 01 of the general budget of the European Communities is necessary to provide humanitarian assistance to refugees and internally displaced people in Georgia and North Ossetia (Russian Federation) taking into account the available budget, other donors' interventions and other factors.
- (5) The duration of humanitarian aid operations financed by this Decision will be of a maximum of 3 months,
- (6) The present Decision constitutes a financing Decision within the meaning of Article 75 of the Financial Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002<sup>2</sup>, Article 90 of the detailed rules for the implementation of the Financial Regulation determined by Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002<sup>3</sup>, and Article 15 of the Internal Rules on the Implementation of the general budget of the European Communities<sup>4</sup>.

---

1-OJ L 163, 2.7.1996, p. 1. Regulation as amended by Regulation (EC) No 1882/2003 (OJ L 284, 31.10.2003, p. 1).

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 and by Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1525/2007 of 17 December 2007, OJ L 343 of 27.12.2007, p. 9.

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 5.3.2008, C/2008/773

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 1,000,000 for primary emergency humanitarian aid operations to provide the necessary assistance and relief to refugees and internally displaced people in GEORGIA and the RUSSIAN FEDERATION from budget line 23 02 01 of general budget of the European Communities.
2. In accordance with **Article 2(a), (e) et (g)** of Council Regulation No.1257/96, the humanitarian operations shall be implemented in the pursuance of the following specific objectives:
  - The provision of emergency medical assistance, water and sanitation, food supplies, non-food items, emergency shelter and protection to the victims of the conflict between Georgia and the Russian Federation.

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 3 months from their start date.
2. Expenditure under this Decision is eligible from 9 August 2008.
3. If the actions envisaged in this Decision are suspended due to *force majeure* or comparable circumstances, the period of suspension will 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

Director-General of DG ECHO



**Primary Emergency Humanitarian Aid Decision**

**23 02 01**

Title: Emergency humanitarian aid for the vulnerable populations victims of the conflict between Georgia and the Russian Federation

Location of operation: GEORGIA/RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Amount of Decision: EUR 1,000,000

Decision reference number: ECHO/-EE/BUD/2008/02000

---

**Explanatory Memorandum**

**1 - Rationale, needs and target population.**

1.1. - Rationale:

Fighting in South Ossetia (Georgia) between armed forces of Georgia and the Russian Federation including heavy air strikes, have provoked a lot of dead and injured, homeless, refugees and internally displaced people. Access to South Ossetia and Abkhazia is cut and the Georgian Parliament approved a presidential decree declaring the "state of war" on Saturday, 9 August 2008 at noon.

The military mobilisation and the deployment of armed forces affect the whole region including Abkhazia (Georgia). In the absence of independent verification, there are conflicting figures about the number of casualties. Based on estimates from the Russian Federation and de facto government of South Ossetia, the death toll would be at least 1,500 people, mostly civilians. Georgian casualty figures ranged from 82 dead, including 37 civilians, to 130 dead.

Heavy damage of houses and infrastructure in South Ossetia towns and beyond has been reported. The capital Tskhinvali of South Ossetia is largely destroyed. Military bases and civilian infrastructure in Vasiani (South of Tbilisi), the nearby village of Marneuli, Gori (the main village closest to South Ossetia), Senaki and Khobi have been heavily shelled by air forces.

It is estimated that 30,000 people from South Ossetia have fled to the neighbouring Republic of North Ossetia (Russian Federation). According to the World Food Programme (WFP), 900 internally displaced peoples are reported in Gori from South Ossetia, and 560 from Gori to Tbilisi. A total of 2,000 IDP in Tbilissi and surroundings have been estimated by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> of August. However, reported figures of internally displaced people are not reliable as the situation changing by the hour. The arriving displaced people are mainly women and children as most men would be staying to take part in the fighting. The United Nations (UN) estimates that the number of IDPs in Georgia may reach at least 10,000 up to possibly 20,000.

Victims are in urgent need of emergency medical assistance, water and food supplies, non-food items, emergency shelter and protection. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Antonio Guterres, called for civilians trapped in conflict areas to be granted safe passage out.

#### 1.2. - Identified needs:

Following a first assessment from Technical Experts from the Humanitarian Aid Directorate General of the Commission (DG ECHO), the following needs have been identified: emergency medical assistance, water and food supplies, non-food items, emergency shelter and protection.

#### 1.3. - Target population and regions concerned:

This Decision targets the victims of the conflict in Georgia and those who fled to the Russian Federation.

#### 1.4. - Risk assessment and possible constraints:

The current hostilities have fuelled further violence in an already unstable region. The situation remains unpredictable and its evolution will largely depend on the duration of the hostilities.

Emergency teams will only be able to operate in an environment which is conducive to the physical security of staff. Humanitarian aid can be implemented only if all parties to the conflict assure a minimum respect for international humanitarian law. Access remains a key precondition for relief.

## **2 - Objectives and components of the humanitarian intervention proposed:**

### 2.1. - Objectives:

Principal objective: Providing assistance to victims of the conflict between Georgia and the Russian Federation.

Specific objective: the provision of emergency medical assistance, water and sanitation, food supplies, non-food items, emergency shelter and protection to the victims of the conflict between Georgia and the Russian Federation.

## 2.2. - Components:

Emergency medical assistance, water and sanitation, food supplies, non-food items, emergency shelter and protection.

### **3 - Duration expected for actions in the proposed Decision:**

The duration of humanitarian aid operations shall be 3 months  
Expenditure under this Decision shall be eligible from **9 August 2008**.

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 humanitarian aid operations.

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. In this respect, the procedure established in the general conditions of the specific agreement will be applied.

### **4 - Previous interventions/Decisions of the Commission within the context of the current crisis**

There has been no previous intervention/decision of the Commission within the context of this latest crisis.

### **5 - Overview of donors' contributions**

Not reported as of 10 August 2008.

### **6 - Amount of Decision and distribution by specific objectives:**

6.1. - Total amount of the Decision: EUR 1,000,000

## 6.2. - Budget breakdown by specific objectives

<b>Principal objective:</b> Providing assistance to victims of the conflict between Georgia and the Russian Federation				
<b>Specific objectives</b>	<b>Allocated amount by specific objective (EUR)</b>	<b>Geographical area of operation</b>		<b>Potential partners<sup>5</sup></b>
Specific objective 1: The provision of emergency medical assistance, water and sanitation, food supplies, non-food items, emergency shelter and protection to the victims of the conflict between Georgia and the Russian Federation	1,000,000	Georgia, Federation	Russian	- ACH - DRC - ICRC-CICR - MSF - NRC - OXFAM GB - UNHCR - UNICEF - WFP-PAM
TOTAL:			1,000,000	

<sup>5</sup> ACCION CONTRA EL HAMBRE, (ESP), COMITE INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE (CICR), DANSK FLYGTNINGEHJAELP, MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES (F), NORWEGIAN REFUGEE COUNCIL (NOR), OXFAM (GB), UNICEF (UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND), UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES - BELGIUM, 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](http://ec.europa.eu/echo/evaluation/index_en.htm).

## 8 - Budget Impact article 23 02 01

-	CE (EUR)
Initial Available Appropriations for <b>[2008]</b>	486,095,000.00
Supplementary Budgets	3,988,511.97
Transfers	40,000,000.00
<b>Total Available Credits</b>	<b>530,083,511.97</b>
Total executed to date (by 10 August 2008)	- 439,761,319.30
Available remaining	90,322,192.67
<b>Total amount of the Decision</b>	<b>1,000,000.00</b>