



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels,
C(2009)

COMMISSION DECISION

of[]

**AMENDING COMMISSION DECISION C(2008)3754 of 16 July 2008
on the financing of humanitarian operations from the general budget of the European
Union in the south-east African and south-west Indian Ocean region (DIPECHO)
(ECHO/DIP/BUD/2008/04000)**

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on the financing of humanitarian operations from the general budget of the European Union in the south-east African and south-west Indian Ocean region (DIPECHO) (ECHO/DIP/BUD/2008/04000)

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No.1257/96 of 20 June 1996 concerning humanitarian aid¹, and in particular Article 2(f) and 15(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Commission Decision C(2008)3754, adopted on 16 July 2008, provides for the funding of humanitarian aid actions undertaken in the framework of the First DIPECHO Action Plan in south-east Africa and the south-west Indian Ocean from the general budget of the European Union for a total amount of EUR 5,000,000 from budget article 23 02 03 starting from 1 October 2008, with a duration of 18 months.
- (2) One year after the launch of this first DIPECHO Action Plan, lessons learned so far reveal that the livelihoods of the targeted communities are severely impacted by natural hazards, making recovery much more difficult;
- (3) Beneficiary communities themselves have repeatedly expressed the need for small-scale mitigation activities, such as, for example, the construction of cyclone-proof silos, which are important to secure the food stocks which are the most affected by disasters;
- (4) Additional funding for such small-scale mitigation activities is likely to greatly enhance the impact of ongoing actions ;
- (5) It is therefore appropriate to increase the amount of Decision C(2008)3754 by EUR 735,000 so as to meet the objectives of the Decision in the best possible way, that is, to support strategies that enable local communities and institutions to better prepare for, mitigate, and respond adequately to, natural disasters, by enhancing their capacities to respond ;

¹ OJ L 163, 2.7.1996, p. 1

- (6) It is also appropriate to rectify a material error on the numbering of the articles in Decision C(2008)3754.
- (7) In accordance with Article 17(3) of Council Regulation (EC) No.1257/96 of 20 June 1996, the Humanitarian Aid Committee gave a favourable opinion on 30 October 2009.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Sole Article

- 1. Article 1(1) of Decision C(2008)3754 is replaced by the following:

"1. In accordance with the objectives and general principles of humanitarian aid, the Commission hereby approves a total amount of EUR 5,735,000 for humanitarian aid actions undertaken in the framework of the First DIPECHO Action Plan in south-east Africa and the south-west Indian Ocean by using budget article 23 02 03 of the 2009 general budget of the European Union."

- 2. The second Article 3 of Decision C(2008)3754 is renumbered Article 4.

Done at Brussels,

For the Commission
Member of the Commission

Decision amending humanitarian Aid Decision C(2008)3754 ECHO/DIP/BUD/2008/04000
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Title of the Action: Commission Decision amending Commission Decision C(2008)3754 of 16 July 2008 on the financing of humanitarian operations from the general budget of the European Union in the south-east African and south-west Indian Ocean region (DIPECHO)

Description of the Action : First DIPECHO Action Plan in south-east Africa and the south-west Indian Ocean

Location of the action: Comoros, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique

Amount of Decision: EUR 5,735,000

Decision reference number: ECHO/DIP/BUD/2008/04000

Supporting Document

1. Rationale for the amendment

An amount of EUR 5,000,000 was initially earmarked for interventions under the first DIPECHO Action Plan for the south-east African and south-west Indian Ocean region. These funds have been entirely committed for 17 actions in the region.

One year after the launch of this first DIPECHO Action Plan, though results have yet to be finalised as interventions are still ongoing, lessons learned so far reveal that the livelihoods of the targeted communities are severely impacted by natural hazards, making recovery much more difficult. This lesson comes from the communities themselves, who further express the need for small-scale mitigation activities, such as, for example, the construction of cyclone-proof silos, which are important to secure the food stocks which are the most affected by disasters.

As a consequence, the DIPECHO approach in the Southern African/Indian Ocean region can be ultimately described as having two objectives in its preparation of communities to face disasters: firstly to preserve lives, and secondly, to preserve the mechanisms by which lives are secured.

In order, therefore, to respond favourably to the continuing needs as expressed by DIPECHO partners on behalf of the beneficiary communities, additional funds are needed to support supplementary small-scale mitigation activities, GIS¹ databases, and additional disaster risk committees.

¹ Geographic Information Systems

2. Proposed amendment.

It is proposed that the amount of the First DIPECHO Action Plan for the south-east African and south-west Indian Ocean region be increased from EUR 5,000,000 to EUR 5,735,000 from budget article 23 02 03.