



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels,  
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**COMMISSION DECISION AMENDING COMMISSION DECISION C(2008) 6946**

**of 13 November 2008**

**on the financing of humanitarian Actions in Central and South America from the  
general budget of the European Union**

**(ECHO/-AM/BUD/2008/02000)**

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No.1257/96 of 20 June 1996 concerning humanitarian aid <sup>1</sup>, and in particular Article 2 and Article 15(2) thereof:

Whereas:

- (1) Commission Decision C(2008) 6946 adopted on 13 November 2008 provides for the funding of humanitarian aid for the most vulnerable populations in Central and South America during a 13-month long implementation period, starting on 1 December 2008;
- (2) Central and South America continue to be exposed to a wide range of natural disasters, especially to climatological and hydro-meteorological ones and many of them are small-scale;
- (3) Coping capacities of the most vulnerable populations affected by natural disasters have been further eroded because of the frequency of small-scale disasters, coupled by the food and economic crisis;
- (4) Overall weather patterns in Central and South America seem to be changing, causing differences in the frequency and typical timing of natural disasters;
- (5) It is therefore appropriate to extend the validity of Decision C(2008)6546 until 30 April 2010, the additional four months being necessary to provide an emergency response to small-scale disasters occurring towards the end of 2009.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

*Sole Article*

Article 2.1 of Decision C(2008) 6946 is replaced by the following :

1. The duration for the implementation of this Decision shall be for a maximum period of 17 months, starting on 1 December 2008."

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

Done at Brussels,

*For the Commission*

*Peter Zangl, Director-General*

## Decision amending Humanitarian Aid Decision

ECHO/-AM/2008/02000

Title: Commission Decision amending Commission decision C(2008) 6946 of 13 November 2008 on the financing of humanitarian Actions in Central and South America from the general budget of the European Union

Location of operation: Central and South America

Amount of Decision: EUR 1,000,000

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

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### 1- Explanatory Memorandum

#### Rationale for the amendment

America is the second most vulnerable region in the world in terms of natural disasters. The vulnerability of the population most at risk has continued to increase over the past decades, and climate change has further aggravated the situation. The frequency of natural disasters, coupled with the food aid and financial crisis has further eroded coping capacity of the most vulnerable population. Small-scale disasters affect a relatively limited number of communities but have a considerable negative impact on their livelihoods, in particular on those already very vulnerable. The affectation by natural disasters differs between South and Central America because of overall weather patterns. While South America is generally more affected during the first half of the year, Central America is usually more at risk during the second semester, linked to the hurricane season. However, with general weather patterns tending to change, a continued response to small-scale disasters needs to be ensured.

#### 2. - Proposed amendment

It is proposed that the duration of the Decision be extended to 17 months to respond to small-scale disasters provoked by weather phenomena arising in the last few months of 2009, given the difference in frequency of natural disasters in Central and South America and changing overall weather patterns.