



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels
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COMMISSION DECISION

of

**on the financing of emergency humanitarian Actions from the 10th European
Development Fund in NIGER**

(ECHO/NER/EDF/2009/01000)

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on the financing of emergency humanitarian Actions from the 10th European Development Fund in NIGER

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THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000, in particular Articles 72 and 73 thereof,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 617/2007 of 14 May 2007 on the implementation of the 10th European Development Fund under the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement, in particular Articles 5.4, 8.1 and 8.3 thereof¹

Whereas:

- (1) Niger is affected by recurrent epidemics of communicable diseases, which result in great suffering and loss of life.
- (2) Poverty, lack of basic sanitation facilities and low hygienic standards increase vulnerability to communicable diseases and enhance the transmission of infections in this context.
- (3) Considering that epidemic thresholds² have been reached on 1 February 2009³ and we are in an epidemic situation, outbreak of meningitis must be addressed, in order to reduce morbidity, epidemic expansion and high mortality rates.
- (4) To reach populations in need, emergency aid should be channelled through Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) or International Organisations including United Nations (UN) agencies. Therefore the European Commission should implement the budget by direct centralized management or by joint management;
- (5) An assessment of the humanitarian situation leads to the conclusion that an urgent humanitarian aid Action should be financed by the Community for a period of 6 months.

¹ OJ L 152 of 13 June 2007

² Definition of an epidemic threshold :

- Population greater than 30 000: an incidence of 10 cases per 100 000 inhabitants per week.

- Population less than 30 000: 5 cases in 1 week or doubling the number of cases per 100 000 inhabitants in the last 3 weeks.

³ .Source: Ministry of Health of Niger and WHO.

- (6) In accordance with the objectives set out in Article 72 of the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement and Article 5.4 of the Council Regulation No. 617/2007 it is estimated that an amount of EUR 1,900,000 from the 10th European Development Fund is necessary to provide humanitarian assistance to populations directly affected by the conflict.
- (7) The use of the 10th European Development Fund is necessary as all the funds for ACP countries in the general budget are entirely allocated.
- (8) The Commission will inform the EDF Committee within one month of the adoption of the decision and this in conformity with Article 8 of the Council Regulation No 617/2007.

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 1,900,000 from the 10th European Development Fund for humanitarian aid Actions to reduce morbidity and mortality rates related to epidemics in Niger.
2. In accordance with Article 72 of the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement, the humanitarian Actions shall be implemented in the pursuance of the following specific objective: To contribute to ensuring an adequate response to the meningitis epidemic in Niger.

The full amount of the Decision is allocated to this specific objective.

Article 2

1. The implementation of humanitarian aid Actions funded by this Decision shall have a maximum duration of 6 months from their starting date.
2. Expenditure under this Decision is eligible from 1 February 2009.
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 Actions.

Article 3

1. The Commission shall implement the budget by direct centralised management or by joint management with international organisations.
2. Actions supported by this Decision will be implemented either by non-profit-making organisations which fulfill the eligibility and suitability criteria established in Article 7 of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1257/96;
or International organisations
3. Taking account 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 25.3 of the Implementing Rules of the Financial Regulation.

Article 4

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

Done at Brussels

*For the Commission
Member of the Commission*