



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels
C(2009) XXX final

COMMISSION DECISION

of

**on the financing of emergency humanitarian Actions from the general budget of the
European Communities in NIGERIA**

(ECHO/NGA/BUD/2009/01000)

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on the financing of emergency humanitarian Actions from the general budget of the European Communities in NIGERIA

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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 Article 2(a) and Article 13 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Nigeria 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) Humanitarian aid Actions financed by this Decision should be of a maximum duration of 6 months.

¹ 1- OJ L 163, 2.7.1996, p. 1.

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 Nigeria and WHO.

- (6) It is estimated that an amount of EUR 1,550,000 from budget article 23 02 01 of the general budget of the European Communities is necessary to provide humanitarian assistance to over 1,5 millions persons to be vaccinated or treated, taking into account the available budget, other donors' contributions and other factors. The activities covered by this Decision may be financed in full accordance with Article 25.3 of the Implementing Rules of the Financial Regulation.
- (7) The present Decision constitutes a financing Decision within the meaning of Article 75 of the Financial Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002⁴, Article 90 of the detailed rules for the implementation of the Financial Regulation determined by Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002⁵, and Article 15 of the Internal Rules on the Implementation of the general budget of the European Communities⁶.

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 1,550,000 for emergency humanitarian aid Actions to provide the necessary assistance and relief to people at risk in NIGERIA by using article 23 02 01 of the 2009 general budget of the European Communities.

2. In accordance with Article 2(a) of Council Regulation No.1257/96, the humanitarian Actions under this Decision shall be implemented in the pursuance of the following specific objectives:

- To contribute to ensuring an adequate response to the meningitis epidemic in Nigeria.

The full amount of EUR 1,550,000 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 shall be eligible from **1 February 2009**.

3. If the Actions 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 Actions.

Article 3

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

⁴ 2- OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p.1.

⁵ 3- OJ L 357, 31.12.2002, p.1.

⁶ 4- Commission Decision of 5.3.2008, C/2008/773

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 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 5

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

Done at Brussels

*For the Commission
Member of the Commission*