



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels,
C(2009)

COMMISSION DECISION AMENDING COMMISSION DECISION C(2009) 4169

of 26 May 2009

on the approval and financing of emergency humanitarian Actions from the general budget of the European Communities in Pakistan (ECHO/PAK/BUD/2009/01000)

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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 Articles 2(a), 4, and 15(2) thereof:

Whereas:

- (1) Commission Decision C(2009) 4169 adopted on 26 May 2009 foresees the funding of emergency humanitarian aid for the most vulnerable populations in Pakistan for an amount of EUR 5,500,000.
- (2) On 21 May 2009 the Government of Pakistan organised a donors' conference where it requested the International Community support to respond to the urgency and large scale of the humanitarian crisis and indicated that the relief efforts should be channelled through the Humanitarian aid agencies and notably through the United Nations appeal.
- (3) On 22 May 2009, the United Nations launched in Islamabad a revised Humanitarian Action Plan for Pakistan bringing the total request for support from USD 55,000,000 to USD 544,000,000 to respond to the basic needs of 2,000,0000 Internally Displaced People.
- (4) At the same time, an estimated number of 230,000 people might still be trapped in the conflict zone with no access to Humanitarian aid ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross) is one of the few agencies having access to these areas and able to provide some assistance.
- (5) There are some concerns about potential extension of the conflict in other FATA areas such as Waziristan that could trigger further displacements (up to 500,000 people).
- (6) It is therefore appropriate to increase the amount of the decision to respond quickly to the basic and pressing humanitarian needs of the population in terms of protection, shelter and camp management, water and sanitation, health and food assistance.
- (7) Humanitarian aid Actions financed by this Decision should be of a maximum duration of 6 months.
- (8) It is estimated that an amount of EUR 25,500,000 of which EUR 16,500,000 from budget article 23 02 01 and EUR 9,000,000 from budget article 23 02 02 of the general

¹ OJ L 163, 2.7.1996, p. 1-6

budget of the European Communities is necessary to provide humanitarian assistance to 2,000,000 displaced persons, 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 253 of the Implementing Rules of the Financial Regulation.

- (9) In accordance with Articles 17 (3) of Regulation (EC) No.1257/96, the Humanitarian Aid Committee gave favourable opinion on 23 June 2009.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Sole Article

Article 1 of Decision C(2009) 4169 adopted on 26 May 2009 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 25,500,000 for emergency humanitarian aid Actions to provide the necessary relief and assistance to the victims of conflict in Pakistan by using article 23 02 01 (EUR 16,500,000) and article 23 02 02 (EUR 9,000,000) of the 2009 general budget of the European Communities.
2. In accordance with Article 2(a) and 4 of Council Regulation No.1257/96, the humanitarian Actions under this Decision shall be implemented in the pursuance of the following specific objectives:
 - To provide protection and integrated humanitarian assistance to Internally Displaced People (IDPs) and conflict affected population in Pakistan.
An amount of EUR 16,500,000 from budget article 23 02 01 is allocated to this specific objective
 - To provide food assistance to Internally Displaced People (IDPs) and conflict affected population in Pakistan
An amount of EUR 9,000,000 from budget article 23 02 02 is allocated to this specific objective.

Done at Brussels,

For the Commission

Member of the Commission

Decision amending Emergency Humanitarian Aid Decision

ECHO/PAK/BUD/2009/01000

Title: Commission Decision amending Commission decision C(2009) 4169 of 26 May 2009 on the approval and financing of emergency humanitarian Actions from the general budget of the European Communities in Pakistan

Location of operation: Pakistan
Amount of Decision: EUR 25,500,000
Decision reference number: ECHO/PAK/BUD/2009/01000

1- Explanatory Memorandum

Rationale for the modification

Following the military operations in Swat and Buner districts (NWFP) beginning of May 2009, huge displacements of civilians took place from the affected areas, especially Lower Dir, Buner, Malakand and Swat. They came in addition to an old caseload of IDPs from Bajaur agency, displaced since August 2008.

According to the latest information, the figures stands at approximately 2,000,000 IDPs with about 265,000 people in camps and some 100,000 in improvised settlements. Nevertheless, the vast majority are staying with host families – a few in rented accommodations, and some in public buildings such as schools. This puts huge pressure on already very vulnerable and poor populations and on the public infrastructures and services.

The displacement of such a huge number of people in such a short time-frame is quite unprecedented in the humanitarian history and in any case in Pakistan since partition.

In addition to the displaced people, some 230,000 people are still be trapped in the conflict zone, facing shortages of food, water and essential services due to the curfew imposed by the military.

In view of the escalation of the crisis, the United Nations launched a revised Humanitarian Action Plan on 22 May bringing the total request for support from USD 5,500,000 to USD 544,000,000 to respond to the basic needs of 2,000,000 Internally Displaced People. ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross) also revised its emergency appeal and requested a further EUR 40,000,000 (in addition to the already existing revised budget for Pakistan of EUR 34,700,000). IFRC (International Federation of the Red Cross) launched at the same time an appeal for EUR15,760,000 and the NGOs have already indicated that they will have to stop their interventions by July 2009 if no further funding is made available.

At the same time, on the 21 May 2009, the Government of Pakistan organised a donors' conference where it requested the International Community support to respond to the urgency

and large scale of the humanitarian crisis and indicated that the relief efforts should be channelled through the Humanitarian aid agencies and notably through the UN appeal. The humanitarian situation might further deteriorate in the weeks to come with further displacements of population, potential scale-up of the conflict in other FATA areas such as Waziristan, not to mention the possible premature return of part of the IDPs in areas which have been the scene of conflict and which have no more electricity and water, no public services such as health and education.

A DG ECHO assessment mission was sent to Pakistan from 29 May to 5 June 2009 and had the opportunity to assess the needs in the field by visiting camps, humanitarian hubs, schools and host families in the NWFP (Mardan, Swabi, Peshawar and Nowshera districts). The scale of the needs was confirmed by the mission, as well as the need for an urgent and substantial response.

2. - Proposed amendment

It is proposed that the amount of the current Emergency decision be increased to EUR 25,500,000 to respond to immediate basic needs of the population affected by the internal conflict being internally displaced people or people trapped in the conflict zone.