



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels  
C(2009) XXX final

**COMMISSION DECISION  
Amending Commission Decision C/2009/3370**

**Of 7 May 2009**

**on the approval and financing of a Global Plan for humanitarian actions in Somalia  
from the budget of the European Communities  
(ECHO/SOM/BUD/2009/01000)**

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**on the approval and financing of a Global Plan for humanitarian actions in Somalia  
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(ECHO/SOM/BUD/2009/01000)**

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 aid<sup>1</sup>, and in particular Articles 2, 4 and Article 15(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Commission Decision C(2009)3370 adopted on 7 May 2009 provides for the funding of humanitarian aid for the victims of continuing insecurity and climatic hazards in Somalia for an amount of EUR 13,000,000;
- (2) Over the past few months, there has been an alarming deterioration of the humanitarian situation with regard to displacement, drought, food insecurity, malnutrition and epidemics;
- (3) Following the resumption of heavy fighting in Mogadishu, the number of displaced people has increased by an additional 152,000 in the past two months alone and the likely continuation of the conflict may trigger further displacement. New front lines are in fact being drawn along the border with Ethiopia raising the risk of a possible major conflict breaking out across the whole southern/central part of Somalia;
- (4) The impact of the on-going rainy season in the central northern part of Somalia has been negligible and will probably not be sufficient to alleviate the serious shortage of pasture and water which is now leading to livestock deaths and eroding the remaining coping capacity;
- (5) On 22 June 2009, President Ahmed declared a state of emergency as violence intensified. The United Nations says an estimated 3,200,000 Somalis (almost half of the estimated country population) need food and other humanitarian assistance;

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

- (6) It is therefore appropriate to increase the amount of the Global Plan to respond quickly to the existing and emerging needs of the population, including rural populations as well as new and long-term internally displaced persons;
- (7) To reach populations in need, aid should be channelled through Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), International Organisations including United Nations (UN) agencies. Therefore, the European Commission should implement the budget by central direct or joint management.
- (8) While this top-up request is an implicit recognition of the scale of the needs in Somalia, the Commission remain concerned about possible aid abuses and will continue its commitment to contain such risks in strengthening donors coordination, increasing its monitoring and having a rigorous selection of partners. The Commission has strongly advocated for the respect of the humanitarian space in Somalia.
- (9) An assessment of the humanitarian situation leads to the conclusion that humanitarian aid operations should be financed by the Community for a period of up to 18 months;
- (10) It is estimated that an amount of EUR 33,000,000 from budget article 23 02 01 of the 2009 general budget of the European Communities is necessary to provide humanitarian assistance to up to 3,200,000 beneficiaries, taking into account the available budget, other donors' interventions and other factors. Although as a general rule, Actions funded under this Decision should be co-financed, the Authorizing Officer, in accordance with Article 253 of the Implementing Rules of the Financial Regulation, may agree to the full financing of Actions;
- (11) The present Decision constitutes a financing Decision within the meaning of Article 75 of the Financial Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002<sup>2</sup>, Article 90 of the detailed rules for the implementation of the Financial Regulation determined by Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002<sup>3</sup>, and Article 15 of the Internal Rules on the Implementation of the general budget of the European Communities<sup>4</sup>;
- (12) In accordance with Article 17 (3) of Council Regulation (EC) No.1257/96 of 20 June 1996 concerning humanitarian aid, the Humanitarian Aid Committee gave a favourable opinion on 1 September 2009;

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

*Sole Article*

Article 1 of Decision C(2009)3370 is replaced by the following

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<sup>2</sup> OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p.1.

<sup>3</sup> OJ L 357, 31.12.2002, p.1

<sup>4</sup> Commission Decision of 5.3.2008, C/2008/773

- "1 In accordance with the objectives and general principles of humanitarian aid, the Commission hereby approves a 2009 Global Plan for Humanitarian Aid for the victims of continuing insecurity and climatic hazards in Somalia for an amount of EUR 33,000,000 from budget article 23 02 01 of the 2009 general budget of the European Communities.
- 2 In accordance with Articles 2 and 4 of Council Regulation No.1257/96, the humanitarian actions under this Global Plan shall be implemented in the pursuance of the following specific objectives:
- To provide integrated humanitarian assistance in favour of the most affected vulnerable populations in Somalia. An amount of EUR 32,700,000 is allocated to this specific objective.
  - To support enhancement of field based coordination mechanisms of humanitarian interventions in Somalia. An amount of EUR 300,000 is allocated to this specific objective."

Done at Brussels

*For the Commission*  
*Member of the Commission*

**Decision amending Commission Decision C(2009)3370**

**ECHO/SOM/BUD/2009/01000**

Title: Commission Decision amending Commission Decision C(2009) 3370 of 7 May 2009 on the approval and financing of a Global Plan for humanitarian actions in Somalia from the general budget of the European Communities

Location of operation: Somalia  
Amount of Decision: EUR 33,000,000  
Decision reference number: ECHO/SOM/BUD/2009/01000

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## **1- Explanatory Memorandum**

### **Rationale for the modification**

The void left by the Ethiopian Defence Forces (EDF) has left an embattled and weakened Transitional Federal Government (TFG) to confront the intransigent Islamic opposition, Al-Shabaab. The combined effect of the conflict, drought and lack of governance threatens to tear the country apart at a time when the international community is making effort towards consolidating a political settlement. The livelihoods of the Somali people have been significantly eroded and the most vulnerable segments of the communities are threatened by hardships occasioned by insecurity and natural disasters. The needs are increasing and the humanitarian situation desperate.

The election of Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed as President of the TFG (January 2009) has not stabilized the situation. Al Shabaab wields a greater level of control of the Southern Region of Somalia and controls a significant part of the capital, Mogadishu. Though Mogadishu has been the most affected by escalating violence, the entire central regions have been affected with a significant increase in number of politically connected assassinations, kidnappings, and violence. Despite the relatively dire and complex situation, the TFG has made some gains by recapturing some of the towns that were previously in the hands of the opposition groups.

The conflict between insurgent groups and government forces in Mogadishu has displaced nearly 152,000 people in the past two months alone (June and July). Most of the newly displaced reported may have been displaced more than once with major IDP settlements in some districts of Mogadishu having been the scene of intense fighting. It is likely that IDPs recently displaced to these locations have now been displaced yet again.

On 22 June 2009, President Ahmed declares a state of emergency as violence intensifies. The United Nations says an estimated 3.2 million Somalis - almost half the country's population - need food and other humanitarian aid.

Due to continuous intensive fighting in Mogadishu, as well as shocks from the past, 1,300,000 people are now internally displaced. Most displaced persons are concentrated in some of the worst hit areas of the country putting significant pressures on locally available resources such as shelter, food, and water. Besides the need to assist the above-mentioned caseload, there is a need to foresee a response considering the precarious situation generated by the conflict in the central regions, as well as possibly Puntland and Somaliland. Other flash points may erupt as various clans, militias and warlords position themselves for control over key areas in a volatile and unpredictable environment.

In addition to the dramatic consequence of the conflict, the overall situation in most parts of Somalia is deteriorating at an accelerated pace due to undermined livelihoods, eroded coping strategies, high commodity prices, inflation, a continuing currency devaluation and persistent drought in Central and Northern Somalia. This year's severe drought in the Horn of Africa continues to be a major factor influencing the displacement and movement of vulnerable populations. Galgadud, rural areas in Laas Caanood, and Gebiley region of Somaliland are all variously affected by drought, with cases of increased livestock death, malnutrition, and the forced movement of people being on the rise.

As a result of these escalating problems the number of refugees into Kenya has significantly increased in the past months. More than 42,000 Somalis have reportedly been registered in the Dadaab refugee camps in Kenya so far this year, with more than 7,000 arrivals reported within the month of June alone (UNHCR Mid-Term Report 2009). Heavy rain and flooding have slowed cross border travel, however trends indicate that people are continuing to pass through Bakool and Gedo en route to Kenya.

UNHCR reports that some 12,000 people have now reached Bossaso, most of them waiting for an opportunity to take the journey across the Gulf of Aden to Yemen in search of a better life. Since January, around 30,000 new arrivals have been registered in Yemen emanating from Somalia. The crossing will wait until after the prevailing monsoon winds.

The proposed assistance will focus on supporting victims of armed conflict and natural hazards, as well as encouraging support to aid agencies trying to establish operations in new areas that have not been reached so far because of access or security constraints but where needs are high.

Humanitarian actors in Somalia face critical challenges in a context that is very complex. Potential abuses of aid, limited field access, and independence of assessment are of high concern. In the wake of new information available and following a DG ECHO field mission early July, new avenues of work will be explored to maximize the impact of aid and limit potential risks. Efforts to find better approaches to remote operation management will be stimulated. Transparency and information sharing are key concerns. Aid efficiency and lessons learnt should be well-documented. All window opportunities to increase field monitoring will be seized. Selection of partners shall continue to be very rigorous and built on previous partner records. The humanitarian community at large strongly advocates for the defence of the humanitarian principles and for a clear distinction between the humanitarian and the political agenda. In this respect, an increased advocacy role for OCHA and UN Resident Coordinator would be beneficial.

## **2. - Proposed amendment**

It is proposed that the amount of the current Global Plan be increased from EUR 13,000,000 to EUR 33,000,000 to respond to the existing and emerging humanitarian needs of the victims of continuing insecurity and climatic hazards in Somalia.