



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels,  
C(2010) XXX final

**COMMISSION DECISION**

**of [...]**

**on financing the field offices of the Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid (ECHO)  
from the general budget of the European Union  
(ECHO/TAS/BUD/2010/01000)**

## COMMISSION DECISION

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**on financing the field offices of the Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid (ECHO)  
from the general budget of the European Union  
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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) No 1257/96 of 20 June 1996 concerning humanitarian aid<sup>1</sup>, and in particular Article 4 and Article 15(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In the humanitarian aid sphere, technical assistance in the theatre of operations and crisis situations serves to monitor humanitarian projects and plans and to maximise the benefits of aid for the victims. Such technical assistance is provided from offices with the human and logistic resources needed to carry out the mission. This financing decision follows on from previous decisions.
- (2) Until 2008 the traditional type of DG ECHO office set up for a specific crisis was financed from the budget provided for in a decision taken in response to a crisis, whereas the Regional Support Offices were financed under a specific financing decision.
- (3) It was decided in 2009 to bring the financing for all offices under a single decision, with a view to facilitating the management and obtaining an overview of their budgets.
- (4) The continuity of this work should now be assured for an estimated period of 15 months.
- (5) It is estimated that EUR 15 000 000 under Article 23 02 01 of the 2010 general budget of the European Union is needed to achieve the objectives of this Decision.
- (6) The Commission should implement the budget for these offices by direct centralised management in its departments.

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

- (7) This 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 (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002<sup>3</sup> and Article 15 of the internal rules for the implementation of the general budget of the European Union<sup>4</sup>.
- (8) 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 4 March 2010,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

#### *Article 1*

1. The Commission hereby approves total financing of EUR 15 000 000 under Article 23 02 01 of the 2010 general budget of the European Union for the offices of the Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid (ECHO).
2. In accordance with Article 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/96 concerning humanitarian aid, the principal aim of this financing decision is to ensure the monitoring of humanitarian projects by providing technical assistance. This initiative will serve the following specific objective:
  - To equip ECHO's technical assistance offices with the logistics and necessary means to accomplish its humanitarian aid mission in the best possible conditions.

The total amount provided for in this Decision is allocated to this objective.

#### *Article 2*

1. This Decision shall be implemented for a period of 15 months, starting on 1 May 2010. The eligible expenditure shall be committed during the period of implementation of the decision.
3. The authorising officer may, where this is justified by the humanitarian situation, extend the duration of the Decision for a maximum of six months, provided that the total implementation period does not exceed 18 months, in accordance with Article 90(4) of the detailed rules for the implementation of the Financial Regulation.

#### *Article 3*

The Commission shall implement the budget by direct centralised management in its departments.

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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.

*Article 4*

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

Done at Brussels,

*For the Commission*

*Member of the Commission*