



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels,
C(2010) XXX final

COMMISSION DECISION

of [...]

on financing technical assistance and operational support activities of the Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid (ECHO) from the general budget of the European Union (ECHO/TAS/BUD/2010/02000)

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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 aid¹, and in particular Articles 4 and 15(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to maximise the benefits of humanitarian aid to victims it is necessary to be able to provide efficient, appropriate and effective technical assistance. This technical assistance is provided by experts recruited under direct contracts with the Commission. This financing decision follows on from previous decisions.
- (2) The Commission also needs to respond positively to the concerns of the Council², which asked for an improvement in humanitarian aid response mechanisms through an enhanced capability to dispatch experts into the field and to respond rapidly.
- (3) In order to maintain and strengthen the system of individual experts, it is estimated that EUR 20 000 000 under Article 23 02 01 of the 2010 general budget of the European Union is needed to achieve the objectives of this Decision.
- (4) The Commission should implement the budget for this technical assistance by direct centralised management in its departments.
- (5) Selection and recruitment procedures are set out in a call for applications published in the Official Journal³. The experts recruited will be offered employment contracts by the Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid (ECHO) to carry out the technical assistance work.

¹ OJ L 163, 2.7.1996, p. 1.

² Council Conclusions, General Affairs and External Relations, 7.1.2005.

³ OJ C 112, 7.5.2008, pp. 27-29 (Call for applications from individual experts for technical assistance to third countries in the area of humanitarian aid).

- (6) This 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 (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002⁵ and Article 15 of the internal rules for the implementation of the general budget of the European Union⁶.
- (7) 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 20 000 000 under Article 23 02 01 of the 2010 general budget of the European Union to ensure the continued financing of technical assistance and operational support provided by ECHO in third countries.
2. These experts will be recruited according to the methods and procedures set out in the call for applications published in the Official Journal⁷ and will be offered employment contracts under Belgian law by DG ECHO to carry out the technical assistance work.
3. In accordance with Article 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/96 of 20 June 1996 concerning humanitarian aid, the principal aim of this Decision is to maximise the benefits of aid to victims and enhance the capacity of the Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid (ECHO) to determine priorities for the use of this aid. This initiative will be implemented with the following specific objective:
 - To provide technical assistance in the field to enhance the capacity and expertise of DG ECHO in order to maximise the benefits of the humanitarian aid operations supported by the European Commission.

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

Article 2

1. The end of the implementation period of this Decision is set at 31 December 2014. The employment contracts for implementing this Decision will have a maximum duration of three years and be drawn up before 31 December 2011, in accordance with the applicable rules on global commitments⁸.

⁴ OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p. 1.

⁵ OJ L 357, 31.12.2002, p. 1.

⁶ Commission Decision of 15 February 2005, SEC(2005) 310.

⁷ OJ C 112, 7.5.2008, pp. 27-29 (Call for applications from individual experts for technical assistance to third countries in the area of humanitarian aid).

⁸ In particular Article 77(2) of the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities (Regulation No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002).

2. The inherent costs of the initiatives provided for by this Decision shall be eligible from the date on which this Decision is adopted.

Article 3

The Commission shall implement this Decision by direct centralised management in its departments.

Article 4

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

Done at Brussels,

For the Commission

Member of the Commission