



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels,
C(2010) XXX

COMMISSION DECISION

of

**amending Commission Decision C(2010) 636 of 5 February 2010 on the approval and financing of a Global Plan for humanitarian actions in Afghanistan and neighbouring countries from the budget of the European Union
(ECHO/-AS/BUD/2010/01000)**

COMMISSION DECISION

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amending Commission Decision C(2010) 636 of 5 February 2010 on the approval and financing of a Global Plan for humanitarian actions in Afghanistan and neighbouring countries from the budget of the European Union
(ECHO/-AS/BUD/2010/01000)

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 Article 2, notably 2(c), Article 4, and Articles 15(2) and 15(3) thereof:

Whereas

- (1) Commission Decision C(2010) 636 adopted on 5 February 2010 provides for the funding of humanitarian actions for the most vulnerable populations in Afghanistan and neighbouring countries for an amount of EUR 33,000,000.
- (2) Since 11 April 2010, heavy torrential rains in combination with early snowmelt have caused extensive, exceptional flooding in 14 provinces in Afghanistan. According to an ANDMA (Afghan National Disaster Management Authority) assessment, over 120,000 people (17,427 households) were affected. At present, most immediate life saving needs (emergency shelter, food and non-food items (NFIs)) have already been met. Nevertheless, follow-up activities including shelters and food assistance are identified as important unmet needs.
- (3) On 19 April 2010, an earthquake of 5.3 magnitude hit Samangan Province, followed by an aftershock on the 20 April. According to the assessments of the area, around 3,000 households have been badly affected, notably having their houses completely or partially destroyed, their animals killed and food stocks washed away. Water structures have been damaged and flood contamination (mud) of the rivers adds up to unsafe drinking water. With primary needs met through other funding mechanisms, some complementary funding is still required to address acute shelter needs before the harsh winter sets in. In particular, support to the most vulnerable households in rebuilding their houses is highly needed.

¹ OJ L 163, 2.7.1996, p. 1-6

- (4) On 1 June 2010, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) assessed that they face a funding gap directly impacting their operation in Iran, allowing only 50% of all protection and assistance needs in the country to be addressed. With the Iranian government abolishing important subsidised programmes for vulnerable refugee households, there is a fear of increased hardship among many of the most destitute families.
- (5) It is therefore appropriate to increase the amount of the Decision C(2010) 636 by EUR 3,000,000 from budget article 23 02 01 to respond to the new humanitarian needs of Afghan refugees in Iran and the vulnerable population affected by natural disasters in Afghanistan in terms of protection, shelter and food assistance and to amend Decision C(2010) 636 accordingly.
- (6) In accordance with Articles 17(2) and 17(3) of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1257/96, the Humanitarian Aid Committee gave favourable opinions on 8 September 2010.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Sole Article

Decision C(2010) 636 is amended as follows:

1. Article 1(1) is replaced by the following:

«1. In accordance with the objectives and general principles of humanitarian aid, the Commission hereby approves a 2010 Global Plan for the financing of humanitarian actions in Afghanistan and neighbouring countries (Iran and Pakistan) for a total amount of EUR 36,000,000 from budget articles 23 02 01 (EUR 30,000,000) and 23 02 02 (EUR 6,000,000) of the 2010 general budget of the European Union. »

2. Article 1(2) is replaced by the following:

«2. In accordance with Articles 2, and in particular 2(c), and 4 of Council Regulation No.1257/96, the principal objective of this Decision is to provide humanitarian aid to vulnerable people affected by the consequences of the conflicts and natural disasters in Afghanistan and neighbouring countries (Iran and Pakistan).

The humanitarian actions shall be implemented in the pursuance of the following specific objective:

- To provide protection, relief and assistance to vulnerable people affected by the consequences of the conflicts and natural disasters in Afghanistan and neighbouring countries (Iran and Pakistan)

A total of EUR 25,000,000 is allocated to this specific objective under budget article 23 02 01

- To provide essential support services to humanitarian aid organisations, with a focus on coordination and advocacy, the provision of air transport and security information/advice in Afghanistan

A total of EUR 5,000,000 is allocated to this specific objective under budget article 23 02 01

- To provide food assistance for highly food insecure populations in Afghanistan

A total of EUR 6,000,000 is allocated to this specific objective under budget article 23 02 02»

Done at Brussels,

For the Commission

Member of the Commission

Decision amending Humanitarian aid Decision C(2010) 636

ECHO/-AS/BUD/2010/01000

Title: Commission Decision amending Commission Decision C(2010) 636 of 5 February 2010 on the approval and financing of a Global Plan for humanitarian actions in Afghanistan and neighbouring countries from the budget of the European Union.

Location of Action: Afghanistan and neighbouring countries (Pakistan, Iran)

Amount of Decision: EUR 36,000,000

Decision reference number: ECHO/-AS/BUD/2010/01000

1- Explanatory Memorandum

Rationale for the modification

- When the 2010 Global Plan for Afghanistan was prepared and adopted, the EUR 33,000,000 allocation was based on the 2009 situation and the overall assessment of predictable needs in 2010, including natural disaster related needs.
- Some natural disasters and emergencies have occurred in the meantime, worsening the situation of already vulnerable populations covered by Decision C(2010) 636 and would require further support from the European Commission's Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (DG ECHO), in line with the objectives of Decision C(2010) 636:
 - Since 11 April 2010, heavy torrential rains in combination with early snowmelt have caused extensive flooding of an exceptional extent in 14 provinces in Afghanistan. According to an ANDMA (Afghan National Disaster Management Authority) assessment, over 120,000 people (17,427 households) were affected. At present, most immediate life saving needs (emergency shelter, food and non-food items (NFIs)) have been met. Nevertheless, follow-up activities including shelter and food assistance are identified as important unmet needs and some partners have already approached DG ECHO for support.
 - On 19 April 2010, an earthquake of 5.3 magnitude hit Samangan Province, followed by an aftershock on the 20 April. According to the assessments of the areas, around 3,000 households have been badly affected, notably having their houses completely or partially destroyed, their animals killed and food stocks washed away. Water structures have been damaged and flood contamination (mud) of the rivers has led to unsafe drinking water. With primary needs met through other funding mechanisms, some complementary funding is still required to address acute shelter needs before the harsh winter sets in. In particular, support to the most vulnerable households in rebuilding their houses is desperately needed.
 - Over 1,000,000 Afghan registered refugees are hosted in Iran. On 1 June 2010, UNHCR informed DG ECHO that they face a funding gap directly impacting their operation in Iran, allowing only 50% of all protection and assistance needs in country to be addressed. With

the Iranian government abolishing important subsidised programmes for vulnerable refugee households, there is a fear of increased hardship among many of the most destitute families.

It is therefore appropriate to increase the amount of the Decision to respond to these new needs.

2. - Proposed amendment

In view of the situation described above and based on the findings of DG ECHO assessment, it is proposed to increase the allocation of specific objective 1 - "To provide protection, relief and assistance to vulnerable people affected by the consequences of the conflicts and natural disasters in Afghanistan and neighbouring countries (Iran & Pakistan).

It is proposed to increase the amount of the Decision by EUR 3,000,000 from budget article 23 02 01 bringing the total amount of the decision to EUR 36,000,000.