



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels  
C(2010) XXX

## COMMISSION DECISION

of (...)

**amending Commission Decision C(2009) 6333 of 6 August 2009 on the financing of humanitarian actions from the general budget of the European Union in the Caribbean**

(ECHO/DIP/BUD/2009/04000)

## COMMISSION DECISION

of (...)

**amending Commission Decision C(2009) 6333 of 6 August 2009 on the financing of humanitarian actions from the general budget of the European Union in the Caribbean**

(ECHO/DIP/BUD/2009/04000)

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 Articles 2 (f), 4 and 14 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Commission Decision C(2009) 6333 adopted on 6 August 2009 provides for the funding of humanitarian aid to contribute to the improvement of the preparedness and capacity as well as the strengthening of the coordination mechanisms of the Red Cross National Societies of the Caribbean Region during a 16-month long implementation period, starting on 1 September 2009;
- (2) The Caribbean Region continues to be exposed to a wide range of natural disasters, whose effects are exacerbated by socioeconomic factors such as high population density, fast demographic growth, inequality and poverty;
- (3) The Caribbean countries' capacity to cope with disasters is still insufficient, and improvement of the disaster management capacity of this region is of great importance in order to save lives and livelihoods;
- (4) A coherent and coordinated approach is still required to address disaster risk reduction in the Caribbean in a more sustainable manner;
- (5) It is therefore appropriate to extend the validity of Decision C(2009) 6333 until 28 February 2011, the additional two months being necessary to contribute to enhance regional disaster management strategies in the Caribbean and thus improve local capacities to prepare for, mitigate and respond to the adverse effects of climate change and natural disasters in the region;

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

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

*Sole Article*

Decision C(2009) 6333 is amended as follows:

Article 2.1 is replaced by the following:

"1. The period for the implementation of the Actions under this Decision shall start on 1st September 2009 and shall run for 18 months. Eligible expenditure shall be committed during the implementing period of the Decision."

Done at Brussels,

*For the Commission*

*Peter Zangl, Director-General*

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Decision amending Humanitarian Aid Decision C(2009) 6333</b> <b>ECHO/DIP/BUD/2009/04000</b></p>
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Title: Commission Decision amending Commission Decision C(2009) 6333 of 6 August 2009 on the financing of humanitarian actions from the general budget of the European Union in the Caribbean.

Location of Action: Caribbean

Amount of Decision: EUR 2,000,000

Decision reference number: ECHO/DIP/BUD/2009/04000

## **1. Explanatory memorandum**

### **Rationale for the amendment**

The Caribbean region is exposed to a range of natural disasters, especially tropical storms with a hurricane season lasting for six months. The region also experience floods, flash floods, tsunamis, landslides, mudslides, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. The physical risk is combined with socioeconomic factors, such as high population density, fast demographic growth, inequality and poverty.

Due to the vulnerability of the region, the Communication on the EU Strategy Supporting Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in Developing Countries (adopted in February 2009) specifically mentions the Caribbean as a priority for the development of a Regional Action Plan.

Concerning the European Commission's Directorate-General Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (DG ECHO) interventions in the Caribbean, already back in 1998 DG ECHO selected the region for inclusion in its DIPECHO<sup>1</sup> programme. The aim has been to strengthen disaster risk reduction with a community based approach. Since then, six Disaster Preparedness Action Plans have been implemented and the seventh DIPECHO Action Plan is being implemented from September 2009 to February 2011 with the help of NGOs, Red Cross, UN agencies and other regional partners.

This Decision intends to fill the gap between community-led initiatives such as DIPECHO and other disaster risk reduction processes and to work towards a cross-cutting, local-to-global disaster management system guided by a reasonable DRR approach.

The Haiti earthquake on January 2010 had clearly an impact on the implementation of the actions funded under this Decision. The time extension should be considered in order to optimise the outputs and to have full participation and contribution of the partners towards the DIPECHO regional meeting.

It is therefore appropriate to grant this two month extension to allow a better coordination with other activities undertaken in the actual DIPECHO Action Plan.

## **2. Proposed Amendment**

It is proposed that the duration of the Decision be extended to 18 months to contribute to enhance regional disaster management strategies in the Caribbean and thus improve local capacities to prepare for, mitigate and respond to the adverse effects of climate change and natural disasters in the region.

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<sup>1</sup> Disaster Preparedness ECHO