



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels  
C(2010) XXX

**COMMISSION DECISION**

**of (...)**

**amending Commission Decision C(2010) 559 of 21 January 2010 on the financing of humanitarian air services in sub-Saharan Africa (ECHO Flight) from the budget of the European Union**

(ECHO/FLI/BUD/2010/01000)

## COMMISSION DECISION

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**amending Commission Decision C(2010) 559 of 21 January 2010 on the financing of humanitarian air services in sub-Saharan Africa (ECHO Flight) from the budget of the European Union**

(ECHO/FLI/BUD/2010/01000)

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 1257/96 of 20 June 1996 concerning humanitarian aid,<sup>1</sup> and, in particular, Articles 2(c), 9 and 15(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Commission Decision C(2010) 559, adopted on 27 January 2010, approved a total of EUR 8 100 000 from Article 23 02 01 of the 2010 general budget of the European Union to finance humanitarian air services (ECHO Flight) in sub-Saharan Africa. The implementation period of the Decision was 12 months, starting on 1 May 2010.
- (2) Additional needs for air transport within the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) have arisen in the course of 2010.
- (3) Humanitarian aid programmes in the DRC have expanded considerably in response to the intensification of the humanitarian crisis in remote areas. In Equateur Province, the effects of the inter-ethnic tensions which caused hundreds of thousands of people to take refuge in the Republic of the Congo and elsewhere at the end of 2009 are still making themselves felt. In Orientale Province (Upper and Lower Uélé), many among the civilian population have fallen victim to relentless attacks by the Lord's Resistance Army. The humanitarian situation in South Kivu has deteriorated significantly.
- (4) The way in which ECHO Flight's services are organised has been brought into line with the needs of the humanitarian organisations active in the DRC. In particular, flights to Congo-Brazzaville have been opened up (with bases in Impfondo and Enyelle). There are also plans to open up two additional destinations in Equateur Province, in the towns of Mbandaka and Gemena. Another base has been opened in Bunia to accommodate the increased volume of flights in Orientale Province. Rotations in South Kivu have also been stepped up considerably.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 163, 2.1.1996, p. 1.

- (5) It is therefore necessary to increase the budget assigned to Decision C(2010) 559 by the sum of EUR 400 000 from Article 23 02 01 of the budget, to meet the additional financial needs with which ECHO Flight has been faced during 2010, and to amend Decision C(2010) 559 accordingly.
- (6) This Decision constitutes a financing decision within the meaning of Article 75 of Financial Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002,<sup>2</sup> Article 90 of Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of the Financial Regulation,<sup>3</sup> and Article 15 of the internal rules on the implementation of the general budget of the European Union.<sup>4</sup>
- (7) In accordance with Article 17(3) of Regulation (EC) No 1257/96, the Humanitarian Aid Committee gave a favourable opinion on 3 November 2010,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

*Sole Article*

Decision C(2010) 559 is hereby 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 total of EUR 8 500 000 from Article 23 02 01 of the 2010 general budget of the European Union to finance humanitarian air services (ECHO Flight) in sub-Saharan Africa."

Done at Brussels,

*For the Commission*

*Member of the Commission*

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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.

## Decision amending Humanitarian Aid Decision C(2010) 559

(ECHO/FLI/BUD/2010/01000)

<u>Title:</u>	Commission Decision amending Commission Decision C(2010) 559 of 27 January 2010 on the financing of humanitarian air services in sub-Saharan Africa (ECHO Flight) from the general budget of the European Union
<u>Description:</u>	Air service
<u>Location of intervention:</u>	Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Kenya, other countries in sub-Saharan Africa
<u>Amount of Decision:</u>	EUR 8 500 000
<u>Decision reference number:</u>	ECHO/FLI/BUD/2010/01000

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### 1. Explanatory Memorandum

#### Reason for the amendment

Decision C(2010) 559 was adopted covering the sum of EUR 8 100 000, based on an estimate of needs from 1st May 2010 to 30 April 2011.

However, in view of the additional needs for air transport within the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) which have arisen during 2010, this amount needs to be increased.

This is because humanitarian aid programmes in the DRC have been stepped up considerably. In Equateur Province, hundreds of thousands of people have fled from their villages and sought refuge in neighbouring countries, the Republic of the Congo and the Central African Republic, as a result of inter-ethnic tensions at the end of 2010. In Orientale Province (Upper and Lower Uélé), many among the civilian population have fallen victim to relentless attacks by the Lord's Resistance Army. While North Kivu is fairly stable, the humanitarian situation in South Kivu is deteriorating significantly. Moreover, in view of the presidential elections in 2011 and the referendum in southern Sudan, there may be instability in the region which could affect local people. The way in which ECHO Flight's services are organised has been brought into line with the needs of the humanitarian organisations active in the DRC. In particular, flights to Congo-Brazzaville have been opened up (with bases in Impfondo and Enyelle). There are also plans to open up two further destinations in Equateur Province, in the towns of Mbandaka and Gemena. Another base has been opened in Bunia to accommodate the increased volume of flights in Orientale Province. Rotations in South Kivu have also been stepped up considerably.

This increase in the number of ECHO Flight's destinations, timetables and activities thus calls for additional financial resources.

## **2. Proposed amendment**

Under this amendment, it is proposed that the budget assigned to Decision C(2010) 559 be increased by EUR 400 000, from Article 23 02 01 of the budget, which would bring the total to EUR 8 500 000.