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EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels
C(2011) XXX final

COMMISSION DECISION

of [...]

**on the annual work programme for a Preparatory Action concerning the European
Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps (EVHAC)**

COMMISSION DECISION

of [...]

on the annual work programme for a Preparatory Action concerning the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps (EVHAC)

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 214(5),

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities¹ (hereinafter referred to as the 'Financial Regulation'), and in particular Article 49(6)(b) thereof,

Having regard to Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 of 23 December 2002 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities² (hereinafter referred to as the 'Implementing Rules'), and in particular Article 90 thereof,

Whereas,

- (1) The Commission has outlined its approach to set up a European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps as foreseen by Article 214(5) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union in the Communication "How to express EU citizen's solidarity through volunteering: First reflections on a European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps"³, which announce the recourse to a preparatory action to further explore the features of EVHAC through concrete testing and further consultations.
- (2) The budgetary authority has earmarked specific funding in the 2011 budget of the EU for this preparatory action to pave the way for the preparation of the future legislative proposal on the EVHAC.
- (3) Under Article 49 (6) (b) of the Financial Regulation, appropriations for preparatory actions in the fields of application of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union designed to prepare proposals with a view to the adoption of future actions may be implemented without a basic act.

¹ OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p. 1.

² OJ L 357, 31.12.2002, p. 1.

³ COM(2010)683 final, 23.11.2010

- (4) In accordance with Article 110 of the Financial Regulation, an annual work programme should be adopted for grants.
- (5) The 2011 work programme being a sufficiently detailed framework in the meaning of Article 90(2) and (3) of the Implementing Rules, the present Decision constitutes a Financing Decision within the meaning of Article 75 of the Financial Regulation for the expenditure provided for in the work programme for grants and procurement.
- (6) The maximum contribution set by the present Decision should cover any claims for interest due for late payment on the basis of Articles 83 of the Financial Regulation and 106(5) of the Implementing Rules.
- (7) This Decision should include a definition of the terms “substantial change” in the meaning of Article 90 (4) of the Implementing Rules to ensure that any substantial change in this Decision shall follow the same procedure as the initial Decision.
- (8) It is therefore necessary to adopt a work programme for the actions to be financed under this budget article.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The annual work programme for the implementation in 2011 of a preparatory action on the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps, as set out in the Annex, is hereby adopted.

Article 2

The maximum contribution authorised by this Decision for the implementation of the Programme is set at EUR 1,000,000, to be financed from budget article 23 02 04 of the general budget of the European Union for 2011.

These appropriations shall also cover any interests due for late payment.

Article 3

Cumulated changes to the allocations to the specific actions not exceeding 20% of the maximum contribution authorised by this Decision shall not be considered substantial, provided that they do not significantly affect the nature and objective of the work programme.

The relevant authorising officer may amend the present Decision to introduce non substantial changes in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and of proportionality.

Done at Brussels,

For the European Commission

Member of the European Commission

ANNEX

EVHAC Preparatory Action - Work Programme for 2011

Legal Basis:

Preparatory action in accordance with Article 49(6)(b) of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities (OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p. 1).

Budget Article:

23 02 04: Preparatory Action on a European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps

Budget Amount

EUR 1,000,000

This work programme contains implementing measures for the year. The budget breakdown and main actions are as follows:

- for grants (implemented under direct centralised management): EUR 850,000
- for procurement (implemented under direct centralised management): EUR 150,000

1. GRANTS

EVHAC (European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps) pilot projects

Grants shall be covered by a written grant agreement.

Objectives of the Action	Support the Commission in the process leading-up to the establishment of a European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps through the implementation of pilot actions aimed at selecting, training and deploying EU volunteers
Expected results of the Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Curricula for training of volunteers will be developed/strengthened, with particular focus on the European dimension– Volunteers from different EU countries will be deployed for humanitarian aid/civil protection operations, especially for prevention and recovery activities– Capacities of local volunteering organisations will be strengthened through an active involvement in project implementation

	– Preparatory action will be evaluated, so to provide useful inputs for the setting-up of the EVHAC
Type of call	Call for proposals
Indicative schedule	Publication of call for proposal: 1 st quarter 2011 Award decision: May-June 2011
Indicative amount	EUR 850,000
Maximum co-financing rate	70%
Eligibility criteria	<p>Applicants must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be legal persons and • be non profit making and • be specific types of organisations such as: non-governmental organisations, public sector operators, local authorities, international organisations as defined by Article 43 of the Implementing Rules to the EC Financial Regulation⁴ and • be nationals⁵ of a Member State of the European Union (this obligation does not apply to international organisations) and • be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the action with their partners, not acting

⁴ International organisations are international public-sector organisations set up by intergovernmental agreements as well as specialised agencies set up by them; the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, European Investment Bank (EIB) and European Investment Fund (EIF) are also recognized as international organisations.

⁵ Such nationality being determined on the basis of the organisation's statutes which should demonstrate that it has been established by an instrument governed by the national law of the country concerned. In this respect, any legal entity whose statutes have been established in another country cannot be considered an eligible local organisation, even if the statutes are registered locally or a "Memorandum of Understanding" has been concluded.

	<p>as an intermediary and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have a proven track record of successful management and deployment of volunteers in third countries and • must commit to respect humanitarian principles⁶ <p>Applicants must act with partner organizations. The applicants must act with at least one partner from a different Member State. In case of international organizations, they must act with at least 2 national partners from 2 different Member States.</p>
Eligible activities	<p>The "pilot" project shall cover the identification, selection, training and deployment of volunteers in pre and post crisis situation with a particular focus on Disaster Risk Reduction and prevention activities.</p> <p>The following activities (non exhaustive list) can be financed under this call:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of recruitment and deployment criteria, standards and procedures for European volunteers • Identification and selection of Europeans volunteers • Development of training curricula adapted to EVHAC values and principles. ECHO HQ and ECHO field offices might be mobilised to contribute to the training. • Training of volunteers (including modules on Europeans values, cultural awareness, humanitarian aid principles, humanitarian aid operations of the EU) • Deployment of volunteers in third countries (for at least 2 months and a maximum of 12 months), with a particular focus on prevention/preparedness and recovery activities • Capacity building of local organisations and/or local volunteers • Monitoring and on-going evaluation (including reflection on possible follow up for the setting up of EVHAC).

⁶ Humanity, Neutrality, Impartiality and Independence

Essential Selection criteria	The candidates will be selected on the basis of their financial and operational capacity. This includes the economic and financial soundness and capacity to carry out the tasks set out in the call for proposal, and the skills and human resources needed to provide the services required (including recent relevant experience in managing volunteers in third countries).
Essential Award criteria	<p>The proposals will be awarded on the basis of the following criteria:</p> <p>Understanding of the objectives and expected results of the call.</p> <p>Quality of the methodology, including the quality of the selection process of volunteers, support and training, deployment, and evaluation. The European dimension and the support to the development of local capacities will also be taken into account.</p> <p>Management and cost-effectiveness of the action</p>

Form of the grant

EU grants in the form referred to in point (a) of Article 108a(1) of the Financial Regulation shall be calculated on the basis of eligible costs, which are defined as costs actually incurred by the beneficiary and subject to a preliminary budget estimate as submitted with the proposal and included in the grant decision or agreement.

2. PROCUREMENT

Workshops, conferences and studies

Objectives of the Action	The objectives are to further consult stakeholders and to promote EVHAC while exploring some particular features if needed. The action will include 4 to 5 conferences/workshops to be organised (service contracts) in different EU Member States (Hungary, Poland and other places to be defined) and targeted research to support the preparation of the legislative proposals.
Expected results of the Action	First conference will cover the results of the public consultation to be launched on EVHAC. Other workshops/conference/studies will explore key features of the legislative proposal to be tabled in 2012. Expected results include elements to be used when drafting the legislative proposal (scope of EVHAC, implementing

	modalities...).
Type of call	Call for tender or use of existing framework contracts
Indicative schedule	One procurement procedure by conference/workshop. First one to be launched in the 1 st quarter 2011. First conference to be organised in the second quarter of 2011. The last one in the first quarter of 2012.
Indicative amount	EUR 150,000