



Brussels, 22.10.2014
C(2014) 7731 final

COMMISSION DECISION

of 22.10.2014

amending Commission Decision C(2014) 6076 of 22 August 2014 financing humanitarian actions in West Africa from the Bridging Facility (EDF)

(ECHO/-WF/EDF/2014/02000)

COMMISSION DECISION

of 22.10.2014

amending Commission Decision C(2014) 6076 of 22 August 2014 financing humanitarian actions in West Africa from the Bridging Facility (EDF)

(ECHO/-WF/EDF/2014/02000)

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Council Decision 2013/759/EU of 12 December 2013 regarding transitional EDF management measures from 1 January 2014 until the entry into force of the 11th European Development Fund¹ ('Bridging Facility') and in particular Article 2 thereof,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EU) No 566/2014 of 26 May 2014 amending Regulation (EC) No 617/2007 on the implementation of the 10th European Development Fund as regards the application of the transition period between the 10th EDF and the 11th EDF until the entry into force of the 11th EDF Internal Agreement², and in particular Article 9(4) of its Annex,

Whereas:

- (1) Commission Decision C(2014) 6076 adopted on 22 August 2014 provides for the funding of humanitarian actions in West Africa from the Bridging Facility (EDF) for a total amount of EUR 8 000 000, starting from 1 July 2014 with a duration of 12 months.
- (2) In March 2014 an epidemic of Ebola Virus Disease ('the epidemic') was declared in Guinea and subsequently spread to Liberia, Sierra Leone, Nigeria and Senegal.
- (3) By 10 October 2014 the epidemic had infected a total of 8 397 people of which 4 033 have died – including 1 350 cases and 778 deaths in Guinea; 4 076 cases and 2 316 deaths in Liberia; 2 950 cases and 930 deaths in Sierra Leone; 20 cases and 8 death in Nigeria, and 1 case also in Senegal. In Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia, the number of cases and deaths, as well as the members of localities affected continues to rise. The capital cities of all three countries are affected and in Sierra Leone only one province has so far been spared.
- (4) On 8 August 2014 WHO declared the EVD outbreak as an 'exceptional event', which represented a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC).

¹ OJ L 335, 14.12.2013, p. 48.

² OJ L 157, 27.05.2014, p. 35.

- (5) On 15 September 2014 a resolution was adopted by the UN Security Council on Ebola determining that the unprecedented extent of the Ebola outbreak in Africa constitutes a menace to international peace and security and calling on Member States to respond urgently to the emergency. Furthermore an UN Mission for the Ebola Emergence Response (UNMEER) has been established.
- (6) On 25 September 2014 WHO and OCHA, during the UN General Assembly session meeting, presented an overview of needs and requirements of EUR 783 000 000 to treat the victims and contain the epidemic, insure essential services, preserve stability and introduce preparatory measures in neighbouring countries representing a twenty-fold increase in the needs.
- (7) If the epidemic is not contained there is a risk of: social disorder; economic disruption and food insecurity in the affected countries and of spread to the neighbouring countries.
- (8) The current best case scenario predicted by WHO increases the minimum time to contain the epidemic from end 2014 to mid to late 2015.
- (9) The humanitarian response to the Ebola epidemic crisis in the affected countries which was provided with the Commission Implementing Decision C (2013) 9533 of 3 January 2014 financing humanitarian aid operational priorities from the 2014 general budget of the European Union (ECHO/WWD/BUD/2014/01000) of EUR 3 900 000 is deemed insufficient due to the magnitude of the needs. On 22 August 2014 an additional contribution of EUR 8 000 000 was provided from the Bridging Facility, composed of uncommitted balances from previous European Development Funds (EDFs) and from funds decommitted from projects or programmes under those EDFs. Due to the emergency of the current situation, it is considered necessary to scale-up the existing response.
- (10) To reach populations in need, aid should be channelled through non-governmental organisations (NGOs) or international organisations including United Nations (UN) agencies. Therefore the Commission should implement the budget by direct management or by indirect management, as the case may be.
- (11) For the purposes of this Decision, the West African countries involved are Nigeria, Benin, Togo, Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Cape Verde, Senegal, Gambia, Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger.
- (12) It is therefore appropriate to extend the implementation period of Decision C(2014) 6076 by 5 months and increase the amount of the Decision by EUR 20 000 000 from the Bridging Facility (EDF) to treat the victims and contain the epidemic, insure essential services, preserve stability and introduce preparatory measures in neighbouring countries.
- (13) The Commission will seek the opinion of the EDF Committee within 14 days of the adoption of this Decision in conformity with Article 9(4) of the Annex to Council Regulation (EU) 566/2014.
- (14) In view of the foregoing, Decision C(2014) 6076 should be amended.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Decision C(2014) 6076 is amended as follows :

1. Article 1 is replaced by the following:
 1. "In accordance with the objectives and general principles of humanitarian aid, the Commission hereby approves a total amount of EUR 28 000 000 from the Bridging Facility for humanitarian aid actions to support the regional and national response strategy to the Ebola Virus Disease epidemic ('the epidemic'), including preventative measures, in West African states".
 2. "In accordance with Article 72 of the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement, the principal objective of this Decision is to contain and mitigate the effects of the current Ebola virus outbreak in West Africa and to treat and care for its victims. The humanitarian aid actions shall be implemented in pursuance of the following specific objective(s):
 - to support the regional and national response strategy to the Ebola Virus epidemic, including preventative measures, in West African states.The full amount of EUR 28 000 000 is allocated to this specific objective."
2. Article 2 is replaced by the following:
 1. "The period for the implementation of the Actions financed under this Decision shall start on 1 August 2014 and shall run for 17 months. Eligible expenditure may be incurred as of 1 July 2014."

Done at Brussels, 22.10.2014

*For the Commission
Kristalina GEORGIEVA
Member of the Commission*



**Decision amending Humanitarian Aid Decision C(2014) 6076
ECHO/-WF/EDF/2014/02000**

Title: Commission Decision amending Commission Decision C (2014) 6076 of 22 August 2014 financing humanitarian actions in West Africa from the Bridging Facility (EDF)

Location of Action: WEST AFRICA

Amount of Decision: EUR 28 000 000

Decision reference number: ECHO/-WF/EDF/2014/02000

1. Explanatory memorandum

Rationale for the amendment

The Commission Decision aims at contributing to the response to the Ebola virus disease (EBVD) outbreak in West Africa and therefore requires adequate actions to be implemented over a sufficient period of time. The EUR 8 000 000 for a period of 12 months initially planned for this action are not sufficient, either in terms of the time allocated to properly carry out the actions foreseen or in terms of the extent of the actions foreseen, for the following reasons:

- Since the adoption of the initial decision, the number of localities affected has more than doubled and the number of cases has continued to rise exponentially despite the containment measures put in place. Joint World Health Organization and Center for Disease Control and Prevention study published 23 September underlines the fact that the current measures to contain the epidemic are inadequate and that, if they are not sufficiently augmented, the number of cases and deaths will continue to rise, reaching a possible figure of 1.4 million infected cases by January 2015 with a 70% mortality rate. UN/WHO estimates that a twenty-fold increase in the current response is required.
- In view of the increase in the rate of newly infected cases, WHO now estimates that, in a best case scenario, where significantly more assistance is provided immediately, the epidemic is unlikely to be controlled until mid to late 2015.
- The reality on the ground is that suspected and infected cases are so numerous that isolation and treatment facilities and laboratory capacity are being overwhelmed. Due to the lack of capacity infected and suspected EBVD cases are being turned away and obliged to return into this community without any treatment and at the risk of infecting other people.

- The effects of the additional strain placed on the regular health services due to the increasing needs created by EBVD is greater than initially estimated. For instance hospitals are no longer functioning in Monrovia, precluding any chance for emergency surgery or other lifesaving treatment. Re-establishing a minimum regular health service is thus requiring more support than anticipated.

- The increased needs imposed by the unprecedented extent of this epidemic require a concomitant increase in the entire response which implies also more staff and more logistic capacity (especially air transport).

It is therefore appropriate to increase the total budget of the Decision C(2014) 6076 by EUR 20 000 000 and therefore to extend the implementation period by 5 months, from a initial duration of 12 months to 17 months, in order to guarantee the impact of the planned actions.

2. Proposed Amendment

It is proposed to increase the amount of the decision by EUR 20 000 000 from the Bridging Facility, bringing the total amount of the decision to EUR 28 000 000.

It is proposed to extend the duration of the initial decision from 12 to 17 months.