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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 28.7.2017

**amending Commission Implementing Decision C(2016) 8795 of 03.01.2017 on the
financing of humanitarian aid operational priorities from the 2017 general budget of the
European Union
ECHO/WWD/BUD/2017/01000**

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amending Commission Implementing Decision C(2016) 8795 of 03.01.2017 on the financing of humanitarian aid operational priorities from the 2017 general budget of the European Union ECHO/WWD/BUD/2017/01000

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, Article 4 and Article 15(2) and (3) thereof,

Having regard to Council Decision 2013/755/EU of 25 November 2013 on the association of the overseas countries and territories with the European Union ('Overseas Association Decision')², and in particular Article 79 thereof,

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union³, and in particular Article 84(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Commission Decision C(2016) 8795 adopted on 3 January 2017 provides for the financing of humanitarian aid operational priorities from the 2017 general budget of the European Union for a total amount of EUR 810 670 000 from budget articles 23 02 01 and 23 02 02. This amount was raised to EUR 1 609 942 589 by Decision C(2017) 3496 of 29 May 2017 amending Decision C(2016) 8795.
- (2) The Commission is committed to providing a humanitarian response in those areas where humanitarian needs are greatest. Accordingly, when required by changing circumstances in the field which might affect existing humanitarian needs or generate new needs, the humanitarian response may be subject to reorientation or scaling-up in the course of the implementation of actions.
- (3) The global humanitarian context has been characterised by an increase in humanitarian needs in locations such as Peru, Madagascar, Central African Republic (regional crisis), Western Balkans, Irak, Syria and Libya. By 20 June 2017, the allocations for these crises have been increased by the Authorising Officer responsible, pursuant to Article 1(3) of Decision C(2016) 8795 ('the flexibility clause'), by an amount of EUR 108 650 000.
- (4) As most of the crises in respect of which the Union finances humanitarian aid operations continue unabated and can even be expected in many cases to lead to a further increase in humanitarian needs, the Commission should authorise the use of appropriations under this Decision beyond the amount referred to in Recital 3.

¹ OJ L 163, 2.7.1996, p. 1.

² OJ L 344, 19.12.2013, p. 1.

³ OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1.

Increased humanitarian needs have already been identified in respect of the crises affecting Afghanistan (EUR 6.5 million) where the conflict is deteriorating, with an increased number of civilian casualties and internally displaced people (IDPs) and in Iran (EUR 1 million) where the government has granted access to refugee hosting areas in regions that were previously no-go areas. In the Greater Horn of Africa, the additional funding should scale up the current humanitarian response to the severe drought in Somalia (EUR 40 million), Ethiopia (EUR 15 million) and Kenya (EUR 5 million); moreover, the intensification of fighting and worsened food insecurity in South Sudan have triggered a significant influx of South Sudanese refugees in neighbouring countries, such as Sudan (EUR 10 million), Uganda (EUR 15 million) and Ethiopia (EUR 5 million).

- (5) In light of the evolution within Myanmar and the related possible flows of people across the borders of surrounding countries, it is proposed to include Malaysia as country where the Union could finance humanitarian aid operations as part of its humanitarian response in Southeast Asia.
- (6) Non-substantial changes under this Decision are to be calculated by reference to the maximum contribution, excluding the contributions received from other donors pursuant to Article 21(2)(b) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.
- (7) This Decision complies with the conditions laid down in Article 94 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012⁴.
- (8) It is therefore appropriate to amend Decision C(2016) 8795, as amended, to reflect the increase by EUR 108 650 000 already made on the basis of the flexibility clause and to add an additional amount of EUR 97 500 000 from budget article 23 02 01 in order to adapt the humanitarian response to the evolving humanitarian aid operational priorities and to distribute this additional funding to the specific objectives fixed in this Decision.
- (9) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Humanitarian Aid Committee established by Article 17(1) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/96,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Sole Article

Decision C(2016) 8795 is amended as follows:

1. In Article 1, paragraphs (1) and (2) are replaced by the following:
 - "1. A maximum amount of EUR 1 828 512 589, of which EUR 1 787 812 589 from budget article 23 02 01 and EUR 40 700 000 from budget article 23 02 02, of the 2017 general budget of the European Union, is approved.
2. The humanitarian actions shall be implemented in order to:
 - (a) Provide humanitarian and food assistance, relief and protection to vulnerable people affected by man-made crises, possibly aggravated by natural disasters, including new crises and existing crises where the scale and complexity of the humanitarian crisis is such that it seems likely to continue.

⁴ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 of 29 October 2012 on the rules of application of Regulation (EU) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (OJ L 362, 31.12.2012, p. 1).

A total of EUR 1 671 794 589 from budget article 23 02 01 is allocated to this specific objective.

- (b) Provide humanitarian and food assistance, relief and protection to vulnerable people affected by natural disasters that have entailed major loss of life, physical and psychological or social suffering or material damage.

A total of EUR 86 453 000 from budget article 23 02 01 is allocated to this specific objective.

- (c) Provide humanitarian assistance for response and disaster preparedness to populations affected by disasters where a small scale response is adequate and to populations affected by epidemic outbreaks.

A total of EUR 7 000 000 from budget article 23 02 01 is allocated to this specific objective.

- (d) Support strategies and complement existing strategies that enable local communities and institutions to better prepare for, mitigate and respond adequately to natural disasters by enhancing their capacities to cope and respond, thereby increasing resilience and reducing vulnerability.

A total of EUR 40 700 000 from budget article 23 02 02 is allocated to this specific objective.

- (e) Improve the delivery of aid through complementary and thematic activities aiming at increasing the effectiveness, efficiency, quality, timeliness and visibility of humanitarian actions and transport.

A total of EUR 22 475 000 from budget article 23 02 01 is allocated to this specific objective.

This specific objective shall be met through achieving the following sub-specific objectives:

- (i) Strengthen the global humanitarian preparedness and response capacity of humanitarian partners by increasing the effectiveness and reinforcing the capacity of international humanitarian organisations and non-governmental organisations to assess, analyse, prepare and respond to humanitarian crises.

A total of EUR 4 675 000 from budget article 23 02 01 is allocated to this sub-specific objective.

- (ii) Improve the conditions for delivering humanitarian aid by supporting transport services to ensure that aid is accessible to beneficiaries, including by means of medical evacuation of humanitarian staff where the unavailability of such transport services could adversely affect the timely and effective provision of assistance to beneficiaries.

A total of EUR 13 000 000 from budget article 23 02 01 is allocated to this sub-specific objective.

- (iii) Increase awareness, understanding of and support for humanitarian issues, especially in Europe and in third countries where the Union is funding major humanitarian operations through public awareness and information campaigns. Communication actions in 2017 will also contribute, where appropriate, to the corporate communication of the Commission, in particular regarding the EU's role in the world (A stronger global actor) as well as

regarding the situation of displaced populations (Towards a new policy on migration).

A total of EUR 2 500 000 from budget article 23 02 01 is allocated to this sub-specific objective.

(iv) Provide high quality European education and professional qualifications on humanitarian action that impact on humanitarian aid policy and practice.

A total of EUR 700 000 from budget article 23 02 01 is allocated to this sub-specific objective.

(v) Increase the coherence, quality and effectiveness of humanitarian aid, by the provision of expertise to assist policy development in support to humanitarian aid actions and by reinforcing networking between humanitarian non-governmental organisations.

A total of EUR 1 600 000 from budget article 23 02 01 is allocated to this sub-specific objective.

The contribution amounting to EUR 634 038 000, received by the Union through the Facility for Refugees in Turkey, is assigned to the humanitarian needs of beneficiaries in Turkey. The contribution amounting to EUR 53 124 589, received by the Union from the Department for International Development (DFID) of the United Kingdom Government, is assigned to support humanitarian aid operations in the Sahel (DFID).

Annex 1 to this Decision reflects the above-mentioned allocations by specific objectives.

Annex 2 to this Decision gives an indication of the contemplated allocation by countries/regions."

2. Annex 1 is replaced by Annex 1 to the present Decision.

3. Annex 2 is replaced by Annex 2 to the present Decision.

4. A fifth paragraph is inserted in Article 1 as follows:

"5. The implementation of paragraphs 1 to 4 is subject to the availability of the relevant appropriations."

Done at Brussels, 28.7.2017

For the Commission
Christos STYLIANIDES
Member of the Commission