



European
Commission



Launch event: 20th Anniversary of ECHO

Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection

ECHO@20
WE CARE. WE ACT

20 March 2012

European Commission
Charlemagne Building
Room Alcide de Gasperi

16:00 – 16:10

Welcome by Kristalina Georgieva,
Member of the European Commission

Opening speech by Jose Manuel Barroso,
President of the European Commission

16:10 – 16:30

Documentary on the 20th Anniversary of ECHO

Testimony of an ECHO beneficiary and former ECHO
trainee, Zana Vuleta

16:30 – 17:20

**Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Response:
21st century Challenges**

Commissioner Kristalina Georgieva, Emma Bonino
(former HA Commissioner), Wolf Eberwein (VOICE),
António Guterres (UNHCR), Jakob Kellenberger (ICRC),
and Elisabeth Rasmusson (NRC)

17:20 – 17:55

Meet the next generation

Youth panel conversation with Justyna Al-Samawi
(EVHAC volunteer), Daniela Bosioc (European Volunteer
Centre) and Evin Joyce (ex-NOHA student now working
in DG ECHO)

17.55

Closing remarks by Claus Sørensen,
Director-General of DG ECHO

18:00

Cocktail reception

The event will be webstreamed.

The link will be provided on www.ec.europa.eu/echo/20

Speakers

José Manuel Barroso



Mr. Barroso is the serving President of the European Commission. His political career began in 1980 when he joined the Social Democratic Party (PSD). He was named President of the party in 1999 and re-elected three times. Under his leadership, the PSD won the general election in 2002 and he was appointed Prime Minister of Portugal in April of that year. He was nominated President of the European Commission in 2004. In June 2009 the European Council unanimously nominated him for a second term as President of the European Commission, and he was re-elected to the post by an absolute majority in the European Parliament in September 2009.

Kristalina Georgieva



Ms. Georgieva is currently the European Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response, nominated in 2010. Before taking up her position in the Commission, she held various positions in the World Bank working in both the U.S. and Russia. She was appointed Vice President and Corporate Secretary for the World Bank Group, reporting directly to the President, in 2008 where she acted as interlocutor between the World Bank's senior management, its Board of Directors and the 186 countries that make up the World Bank Group shareholders. She has also worked in academia throughout the world and has a PhD in Economic Science.

Claus Sørensen



Mr. Sorensen grew up in Copenhagen and Geneva. He holds a Masters in Economics and worked as a diplomat in Paris before joining the European Commission in 1990. He has since held senior posts in areas as diverse as internal market, international finance, enlargement of the EU, social and labour market issues, development, environment, agriculture and communication. He became Director-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection in July 2011.

António Guterres



Mr. Guterres has been the High Commissioner for Refugees since 2005. In this role he heads one of the world's foremost humanitarian agencies. UNHCR has twice won the Nobel Peace Prize. It has more than 6800 staff members currently working in 117 countries providing protection and assistance to millions of refugees, returnees, internal displaced people and stateless persons. Mr Guterres' tenure at the UNHCR follows 20 years of public service in Portugal including 8 years as Prime Minister between 1996 and 2004.

Elisabeth Rasmussen



Ms. Rasmussen is Secretary General of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC). Prior to this position, she was a programme coordinator for Latin America with NRC, and a country director in Georgia and resident representative in Geneva. Other positions include Field Coordinator for the UN in Angola and humanitarian coordinator in Uganda, Cooperation Coordinator for the International Red Cross Committee in Colombia, and Deputy Head of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Emma Bonino



Ms. Bonino is Vice-Chair of the Italian Senate. First elected to the Italian Chamber of Deputies in 1976, she has served in the Italian Parliament or in the European Parliament continuously, except for four years in the European Commission. Between 1994 and 1999, she was European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid, Fisheries, Consumer Policy, Consumer Health Protection and Food Safety. From 2001 through 2004, she was a visiting professor in Cairo supporting humanitarian issues in the Middle East and North Africa. Ms Bonino has also had a long and productive career working for human rights.

Jakob Kellenberger



Mr. Kellenberger has held the position of President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) since 2000 and the scope of its operations has expanded considerably during his term of office. This much respected humanitarian organization now has some 13 000 staff and a network of over 200 delegations. Prior to his election to the Presidency, Mr Kellenberger held various diplomatic posts in his native Switzerland, including Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and various Ambassadorships.

Wolf Eberwein



Mr. Eberwein is the current President of VOICE, a network of 83 European NGOs active in humanitarian aid at a global level. A Professor of Political Science, he was formerly the Director of the Master Program in International Organizations at the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Grenoble, France. He has also held numerous consultancy and evaluation roles and is a member of the Coordination Committee for Humanitarian Aid in Germany, and of the Humanitarian Response Index Peer Review Committee of DARA.

Zana Vuleta



In 1993 during the conflict in the former Yugoslavia, Ms. Vuleta fled with her family to Croatia and then to Italy. She and her family were direct beneficiaries of the European Commission's humanitarian aid in Sarajevo. In 2008, after completing her postgraduate studies in Languages for International Communication, she worked for ECHO as a trainee. She continued her experience as a humanitarian aid worker within Cesvi, one of the major Italian NGOs.

Daniela Bosioc



Ms. Bosioc started working with youth and volunteering programmes in 1999, in her home country Romania. She then spent a few years working with youth, volunteering and local development organisations in Spain. Upon the completion of a master's degree in management of international cooperation, NGOs and volunteering, she worked for the United Nations Volunteers programme between 2006 and 2011, at both its headquarters and its field offices. She was responsible for the management of volunteers in Sudan and South Sudan. In April 2011, she joined the European Volunteer Centre (CEV), where she works as a Policy and Project Officer.

Justyna Al-Samawi



Ms. Al-Samawi graduated from the University of Warsaw in 2007 with a Master of Cultural Studies, majoring in Africa. Whilst studying African Studies at Johann Wolfgang Goethe University in Frankfurt, she conducted a 10-month field research among pastoral Fulani in Nigeria, Niger and Cameroon. She has also completed one year of Arabic studies in Yemen, NOHA studies in Germany, and has worked for three Polish NGOs. In 2011 she joined the ECHO funded European Humanitarian Volunteer Programme run by Save the Children UK, NOHA and Bioforce. In October 2011 she started her deployment as a Project Officer with International Medical Corps in Jordan.

Evin Joyce



Mr. Joyce's voluntary and professional experience includes three years service in the Irish Defence Forces and four years teaching in France, India and French Guiana. His interest in the humanitarian and development sectors originated from his work with asylum seekers in Ireland when he was 19. It has continued to grow as he has travelled and volunteered with different organisations such as UNICEF in France and Suas in India. He completed the NOHA masters in humanitarian action in 2010-2011 and he now works in ECHO.

Moderator

Laura Shields



Ms. Shields worked as a London-based journalist specialising in financial news and US politics. After three years as a producer for CNN and CNBC's European business programmes she moved to BBC News as the Economics and Business Analyst. She is now working as a journalist and media trainer in Europe, the US and the Middle East.