

Brussels, March 11 2008

## **Peter Zangl appointed Director-General for humanitarian aid**

***Today the European Commission appointed Mr. Peter Zangl as Director-General of the Humanitarian Aid Department (ECHO).***

In his new role, Mr Zangl will lead the office in charge of coordinating the EU's humanitarian action. Through ECHO funding, some 18 million people are helped each year in more than 60 countries through 200 partners. Established in 1992, ECHO is the world's main player in this field, spending some € 700 million per year on humanitarian projects.

Currently, Mr Zangl is Deputy Director-General for the Information Society (DG INFSO), a post he has held since 2001. Prior to that, he was a Director at the External Relations DG in charge of policy for the Middle East and South Mediterranean (1997–2001), and a Director at the Employment and Social Affairs DG in charge of the European Social Fund (1994–1996). Between 1986 and 1993, Mr Zangl was successively head of unit, then Director at the Budget and Financial Programming DG. He began his career at the Commission in 1978 as an economist with the Economic and Financial Affairs DG.

Before joining the European Commission, Mr Zangl was affiliated with the Rheinisch-Westfälischen Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung in Essen, Germany.