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**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**of 14.9.2015**

**financing emergency humanitarian actions supporting refugees, asylum seekers and migrants in the Western Balkans from the general budget of the European Union**

**(ECHO/-BA/BUD/2015/01000)**

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## **financing emergency humanitarian actions supporting refugees, asylum seekers and migrants in the Western Balkans from the general budget of the European Union**

**(ECHO/-BA/BUD/2015/01000)**

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 aid<sup>1</sup>, and in particular Article 2(a), Article 4 and Article 13 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 Union and repealing Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002<sup>2</sup>, and in particular Article 84(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia are confronted with an unprecedented and unexpected massive influx of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants in transit from Greece to Hungary with more than 35 000 registered as asylum seekers in both countries from mid/end of June 2015. While the Syrian conflict will not end anytime soon, the influx of refugees coming from Greece is expected to continue at the rate of over 1000 per day. The local capacities in both Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia are overstretched and no longer capable of meeting the basic needs of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants. Unless those local capacities are promptly reinforced, urgent humanitarian needs, including protection needs, will remain unaddressed, leading to intolerable suffering and possible loss of life, constituting exceptional circumstances comparable to natural or man-made disasters. The governments of both countries have requested international assistance, in particular to the European Union. As the restrictions at the Hungarian border increase, refugees stranded in Serbia and newly arrived in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia may start looking for alternative routes through Albania, Montenegro, Kosovo<sup>3</sup>, Bosnia and Herzegovina, who could face a potential sharp increase of the influx in the coming weeks.
- (2) To reach populations in need, humanitarian aid should be channelled through non-governmental Organisations (NGOs) and international organisations including United

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 163, 2.7.1996, p. 1.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1

<sup>3</sup> This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

Nations (UN) agencies. Where necessary, recourse to Member States' specialized agencies should also be possible. Therefore the Commission should implement the budget by direct management or by indirect management.

- (3) Humanitarian aid actions financed by this Decision should be of a maximum duration of six months.
- (4) For the purposes of this Decision the Western Balkans countries involved are the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia. In addition, Albania, Montenegro, Kosovo, and Bosnia and Herzegovina may also be involved in the event of an increased influx of refugees seeking for new routes to Europe.
- (5) Pursuant to Article 130 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 ('the Financial Regulation'), and in view of the specific nature of humanitarian aid, expenditure incurred before the date of submission of a proposal may be eligible for Union funding.
- (6) It is estimated that an amount of EUR 1 500 000 from budget article 23 02 01 of the 2015 general budget of the European Union is necessary to provide humanitarian assistance to a number of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants in transit through or staying in the Western Balkans which will largely exceed 200 000 people in 2015, taking into account the available budget, other donors' contributions and other factors. The activities covered by this Decision may be financed in full in accordance with Article 277 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012<sup>4</sup> ('the Rules of Application').
- (7) This Decision complies with the conditions laid down in Article 94 of the Rules of Application.
- (8) Pursuant to Article 13 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/96, the opinion of the Humanitarian Aid Committee is not required,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

#### *Article 1*

1. A maximum amount of EUR 1 500 000 for the financing of emergency humanitarian actions in the Western Balkans from budget article 23 02 01 of the 2015 general budget of the European Union is approved.
2. The principal objective of this Decision is to provide emergency humanitarian aid to vulnerable refugees, asylum seekers and migrants transiting or staying in the Western Balkans.
3. The amount approved is allocated to the following specific objective: To meet urgent needs and provide protection to vulnerable refugees, asylum seekers and migrants in the Western Balkans and multi-sectoral assistance such as temporary shelter, winterization, food, non-food items (NFI), Water Sanitation Hygiene (WASH), psychosocial support.

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<sup>4</sup> Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 of 29 October 2012 on the rules of application of Regulation 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).

## *Article 2*

1. The period for the implementation of the actions financed under this Decision shall start on 1 August 2015. Expenditure under this Decision shall be eligible from the same date. The duration of individual humanitarian aid actions financed under this Decision shall be limited to a maximum of six months.
2. Pursuant to Article 130 of the Financial Regulation, and in view of the specific nature of humanitarian aid, expenditure incurred before the date of submission of a proposal may be eligible for Union funding.
3. If the implementation of individual actions is suspended owing to force majeure or other exceptional circumstances, the period of suspension shall not be taken into account in the implementing period of this Decision in respect of the action suspended.
4. In accordance with the contractual provisions ruling the Agreements financed under this Decision, the Commission may consider eligible those costs arising and incurred after the end of the implementing period of the action which are necessary for its winding-up.

## *Article 3*

1. In accordance with Article 277 of the Rules of Application and having regard to the urgency of the action, the availability of other donors and other relevant operational circumstances, funds under this Decision may finance humanitarian actions in full.
2. Actions supported by this Decision shall be implemented either by non-governmental organisations which fulfil the eligibility and suitability criteria established in Article 7 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/96 concerning humanitarian aid or by international organisations or by Member States' specialized agencies.
3. The Commission shall implement the budget:
  - (a) either by direct management, with non-governmental organisations signatories of a Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) or with Member States' specialized agencies;
  - (b) or by direct or indirect management with international organisations that are signatories of an FPA or the Financial Administrative Framework Agreement with the UN (FAFA) and which were subject to an ex ante assessment in line with Article 61 of the Financial Regulation.

Done at Brussels, 14.9.2015

*For the Commission*  
*Monique Pariat*  
*Director General*



## **Emergency Humanitarian Aid Decision**

**23 02 01**

Title: Commission implementing decision financing emergency humanitarian actions supporting refugees, asylum seekers and migrants in the Western Balkans from the general budget of the European Union

Description: Emergency humanitarian aid for vulnerable refugees, asylum seekers and migrants in the Western Balkans

Location of action: the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Albania, Montenegro, Kosovo<sup>5</sup>, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Amount of Decision: EUR 1 500 000

Decision reference number: ECHO/-BA/BUD/2015/01000

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### **1. SUPPORTING DOCUMENT**

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\* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

## **2. 1 HUMANITARIAN CONTEXT, NEEDS AND RISKS**

### **2.1. 1.1 Situation and context**

Since September 2014 the main migratory routes for refugees fleeing conflicts in the Middle East to Europe and migrants have been diverted through the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia as these countries are perceived to be easier to cross, less dangerous, less expensive and quicker given the developed infrastructure. However, since July 2015 the number of arrivals has sharply increased and the humanitarian needs are arising. Typically, refugees reach Greek islands in the Aegean sea by boat from Turkey, come from mainland Greece to the border with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, board the train in Gevgelija or walk along the railway or highway line until the border town of Tabanovce, where they cross the Serbian border on their way to Hungary and further north into the European Union. When they arrive in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia refugees are exhausted, suffer hunger, thirst and some need urgent medical attention. They are traumatised and have often been abused by the smuggling and human trafficking networks. While on the road through the Western Balkans refugees are in need of assistance and protection and this vulnerability is often exploited and abused by criminal groups. The average transit days used to be 2 days in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and 4.5 days in Serbia, however due to the increasing restrictions at the borders, particularly in Hungary where the authorities are building a wall along the border with Serbia, 40 km being already completed, the period of stay in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia is growing and many refugees have no choice but to register in these countries as asylum seekers.

While at the beginning of 2015 some 200 people per day were transiting through the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia, this figure has jumped to over 1000 people/day on average with peaks of over 2500 persons/day, half of which unregistered. According to UNHCR 182 535 refugees arrived to Greece since January to 21 August 2015 (66% from Syria and 19% from Afghanistan, followed by Eritrea, Pakistan and Iraq), but more than half of them arrived between July and mid-August alone.

As of August 2015, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia are the only two countries affected by the sharp increase in arrivals, but the recent developments, such as the ever increasing arrivals of refugees to Greece and the fence that Hungary is building at its border, may result in a change of the migratory route through Albania, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina or Kosovo. Alternatively, the evolving situation can result in a longer stay of the refugees and migrants in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and in Serbia, which could then become reception countries instead of transit countries.

In Serbia the Ministry of Interior has registered 93 000 asylum seekers since the beginning of the year, of which more than half have registered since July. Additionally, UNHCR estimates that an equal number of refugees and migrants

choose not to pass through the asylum-track, pass undetected and unregistered, but originate from the same refugee producing countries. Gatherings of people seeking assistance in the border areas and even in parks in the center of Belgrade and other towns have mushroomed through the country. In view of this upward influx trend UNHCR has revised the projection of asylum seekers up to 110 000 by the end of 2015 and 300 000 by the end of 2016. The Government is keeping borders open and has the willingness to assist asylum seekers but its capacities are limited and has now turned to the international community in general and the EU in particular with requests for assistance.

Similarly, in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, only since 19 June, when UNHCR started asylum seeker registration, until 17 August 37 461 refugees had registered, including 6 450 children, of whom 501 were unaccompanied. The majority of arrivals are Syrians (more than 80%) hence prima facie asylum seekers. Following this trend UNHCR estimates that by the end of 2015 the number of registered asylum seekers in the country will reach over 104 000, even though these figures do not mirror the current number of refugees inside the country, as almost all the people who registered have left the country. On 19 August 2015 the government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia declared a state of crisis which implied the use of the army in support to the border police to manage the crowd of refugees at the Greek/the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia border. Groups of refugees trying to break through the security forces were stopped with tear gas to contain them; this resulted in many refugees needing medical attention for injuries but also due to exhaustion and hunger. The situation stabilised on 22 August and since then 7 000 refugees have made it to Serbia in the hope to reach Hungary. Further tensions at the border are to be expected in the near future, particularly if Serbia changes its open border policy under pressure of the growing number of refugee within its borders. Once in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia refugees are in need of assistance and protection while waiting to board the train in Gevgelija in crowded and sub-standards living conditions, and later on in their way to the Serbian border. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has also requested the assistance of the EU.

However, as the controls and restrictions at the Hungarian border increase, Hungary is continuing readmissions to Serbia, and as the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is not accepting readmissions back into the country, the humanitarian situation in Serbia is expected to worsen. Also, between 30 and 70 refugees are being returned from Hungary to Northern Serbia every day under the readmission agreement between the EU and Serbia. Refugees stranded in Serbia may soon start to look for alternative routes to the EU through other Western Balkans countries, namely Albania, Montenegro, Kosovo, and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

## **2.2. 1.2 Identified humanitarian needs**

The refugee crisis through the Western Balkans is expected to deteriorate as the conflict in Syria shows no sign of abating anytime soon. Syrians made up to 88% of the newly registered refugees in the Western Balkans, and after four years of cruel

war, massive and reiterated violations of International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law, the people of Syria will continue to be forced to flee the country. In addition the almost two million refugees currently in Turkey will continue to search for a better life in the EU for as long as jobs or livelihood opportunities continue to be denied in Turkey. At the same time the capacities of the governments and civil society organizations in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia are already overstretched and insufficient to respond to the basic needs of refugees while in transit, or staying as asylum seekers. Unless those capacities are promptly reinforced, many urgent humanitarian and protection needs will remain unaddressed, leading to intolerable suffering and possible loss of life, constituting exceptional circumstances comparable to natural or man-made disasters.

The situation of refugees and migrants in the Western Balkans can further deteriorate: the arrivals to Greece are increasing on a daily basis and in the next weeks Hungary will complete the 4-meter high and 175 km-long fence along the border with Serbia, having 40 km already completed as of 25 August, to block the entry of refugees and migrants. If by then the refugees entering Greece continue to be transported to the border of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, we can expect an increase in the number of refugees stranded in Serbia and tensions building up at the borders.

The needs assessment carried out by partner organisations, mainly UNHCR and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and RC national societies, revealed needs in food, water, sanitation, hygiene (WASH), non-food items (NFI) and shelter for refugees waiting in the Gevegelija train station close to the Greek border, in the Presevo registration centre of the Ministry of Interior in Serbia and the seven UNHCR asylum seeker registration centres. Winterization items will be an emerging need in winter as refugees are coming with little or no belongings and may have left their homes or shelters in Turkey at a time of warm weather. Protection needs and also to be provided at the borders and during transit without proper documentation, together with capacity building of the relevant authorities. Health assistance is so far being provided by public medical centres but First Aid assistance needs to be ensured at borders and registration points.

### **Beneficiaries:**

Potential beneficiaries are vulnerable refugees, asylum seekers and migrants transiting through or staying in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia, whose condition fits the vulnerability criteria used for targeting. In case of a shift in the migratory route, help will be provided in the countries concerned as needed, namely Albania, Montenegro, Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

### **Needs by sector:**

- **Health:** First Aid capacity needs to be ensured at the border and in the points where refugees wait for long hours or even days such the Gevegelija train station in

the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the Presevo registration center in Serbia. It is particularly essential in the Greek/former Yugoslav Republic Of Macedonia border given the events of the last days that resulted in many refugees injured due to the excessive use of force of the security forces, including the firing of tearing gas and stump grenades, but also people who fainted from exhaustion, extreme heat and hunger. The elderly, pregnant women and small children are particularly at risk in such conditions. Access to Health for primary and secondary health conditions has so far been fairly provided by the Public medical centers of the Ministry of Health in both countries.

- **Food:** While many of the refugees, particularly those from Syria, are travelling with some savings the big majority are disoriented and in need of food aid when they arrive at the borders and reception centers. So far, most of the food is being provided by local volunteers, UNHCR and by the National Societies of the Red Cross (RCNS). However the current needs exceed the food supplies in those distribution points. In addition, volunteers and RCNS lack supplies for people with special needs such babies, infants, pregnant and lactating women and persons whose health conditions required special nutritional diets.

- **Protection:** In general there is need for technical support and capacity building of the relevant authorities dealing with migration in both countries for a protection-sensitive management of the most vulnerable refugees. Presence of protection mandated agencies should be ensured at borders, registration points and detention centers. Refugees should be well informed on their status and rights and the legal frameworks that protect them.

A particular Protection related problem is the separation of families between border lines, at times leaving behind; UNHCR estimates that roughly 10 000 unaccompanied and separated children have transited the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Sometimes the adult men of the family travel ahead on their own in the hope to obtain refugee status in the EU first and request Family Reunification later. Usually, the unaccompanied children left behind do not come forward to the authorities because they know that that can jeopardise the chances of their parents to reach the EU.

- **WASH:** Water and sanitation facilities are obviously insufficient along the migration routes as the countries were not prepared for such unprecedented refugee influx. Yet WASH facilities – toilets, showers, water taps – are particularly needed in border areas where refugees concentrate at borders, registration centers and the points they wait for transportation to keep moving ahead. There is also need for hygiene items distribution to ensure minimum hygiene standards.

Trash collection is also urgently needed as municipality services are overwhelmed and refugees and migrants leave behind a large amount of garbage, especially in parks and train and bus stations, which is a source of serious tension, in addition to the health risks.

- **Psychosocial:** Psychological stress is extended among refugees after the traumatic experiences they have endured before arriving to the Western Balkans: the conflict, insecurity and human rights violations that forced to flee their homes, the harsh living conditions and deprivations during displacement and the abuses and ill-treatment in the hands of smugglers. Additional situations of tension, such the recent events at the Greek/former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia border where refugees had to wait two days in crowded conditions and the use of tear gas by the police exacerbate the psychological stress of refugees. Psychosocial Support and counseling (which should be provided in the language of the refugees) is needed, including Child Friendly Spaces at borders and other refugee concentration points. Access to specialised medical help should be provided for severe cases of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

- **Shelter and NFIs (winterization):** The bed capacity in reception centers is insufficient (150 beds Vizebogo center in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and 810 beds in Presevo and other registration centers in Serbia) and needs to be upgraded at least to the current influx with peaks of 2 000 refugees per day. In addition, most refugees (including families with small children) sleep in the open air in parks, bus and train stations and in the bush at crossing points, hence exposed to risks such robbery, sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) and other abuses. The risks of sleeping in the open will only increase in the coming winter as refugees are not prepared for the cold temperatures and harsh weather conditions in the Balkans and many may have left their countries or places of primary displacement at a time of warm weather.

### **2.3. 1.3 Risk assessment and possible constraints**

Security for ECHO partners to operate is very acceptable and there are no problems of access in neither of the two countries. Logistics and infrastructure are also in place for a smooth implementation of the operations. Hence, unless border policy is not changing, the successful implementation of ECHO funded programmes will depend solely on Partners' capacity to implement well-targeted and well-designed programming. However, the recent developments, such as the ever increasing arrivals of refugees to Greece and the fence that Hungary is building at its border, may result in the change of the route through Albania, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina or Kosovo. ECHO partners will only operate outside EU Member States.

ECHO attaches fundamental importance to ensuring aid effectiveness, sound financial management and respect of humanitarian principles, which implies monitoring of the action during the lifetime of the project by ECHO's representatives. ECHO also considers that assessment and monitoring of projects by its Partners are keys for the quality of its humanitarian interventions and expects to avail itself of the first-hand security assessment made by its Partners prior to carrying out its own monitoring mission.

### 3. 2 PROPOSED ECHO RESPONSE

The ECHO support will aim at reinforcing the capacity of organizations providing first line response to the beneficiaries upon arrival and ensure their protection along the migration route. The assistance will take into account that beneficiaries are in transit through the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia but also that the period of stay, particularly in Serbia, may be extended significantly as the border with Hungary is becoming increasingly difficult to cross:

- Provision of **basic needs**, including food (also baby food and food for other people with special needs), hygiene items, WASH and shelter upgrading, emergency Health and Psychosocial support. The assistance will be mainly provided at borders, registration points, bus and train stations and other areas of concentration of refugees along the migration routes. The distribution of one-off cash distribution should be explored as it is usually more efficient in countries with developed and well-functioning markets, and it is a more dignifying modality of assistance.
- **Winterization** items – warm clothes, weatherproofing of reception centers and shelter materials – will be considered ahead of the winter.
- Ensure **Protection** of the most vulnerable people stranded at the borders by promptly identifying and addressing acute protection needs, keeping in mind that the vast majority of people migrating through the Western Balkans originate from refugee-producing countries. The provision of information is essential to ensure that refugees are aware of their rights and how to access them (procedures and referral system).

#### 3.1. 2.1 Rationale

In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the ECHO is providing EUR 90 000 to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, (or 47% of the appeal). Over four months, this funding will be used to provide relief assistance to 4 600 beneficiaries, including primary health care services, water, food, hygiene kits, blankets, clothing, shoes, baby parcels, and diapers. It will also support the provision of humanitarian assistance to the vulnerable population at the reception centre for asylum seekers in the capital Skopje and at the main train stations on the southern and northern borders of the country.

In **Serbia**, ECHO is also funding the DREF appeal of the IFRC, with EUR 150 000 (50% of the IFRC appeal) for the provision of Food (4500 baby parcels and 63 000 lunch parcels for adults); Hygiene (distribution of 63 000 hygiene kits); and Tracing service/Restoring Family links (RFL), including help in establishing contacts, distribution of posters and leaflets in reception centres and transit roads and

deployment of 6 mobile communication sets. These activities will be funded for a period of three months.

The Government of Serbia has submitted a draft response plan to increase the hosting capacity at registration centres from the current 810 to 3000-bed capacity. The plan includes the provision of food, hygiene kits, sanitation facilities, utilities, clothes and other basic supplies for refugees waiting in registration centres and transiting for a period of seven months.

The Emergency response coordination centre (ERCC) of ECHO is in daily contact with the civil protection authorities of the affected countries and had exploratory talks with the Member States willing to provide an emergency support in case a request would be made. Since July, four coordination meetings have been held in the ERCC facilities to ensure a coherent approach and avoiding imbalance in the external and internal response from the EU to the migration crisis in the Mediterranean region.

All relevant Services of the Commission as well as the main ECHO partners were invited to discuss EU preparedness and contingency planning for the scenario of an escalating migration crisis.

Given the trend upwards in the numbers of refugees transiting through the Western Balkans, the limited local capacities to cope with the situation and the increasing restrictions at the Hungarian border ECHO funding support is urgent, particularly to prepare the response to the needs related with the harsh weather conditions to be faced by refugees in the coming winter. The EUR 1 500 000 million funding support will be dedicated to provide one-off basic assistance at border points and registration centres, including winterization, ensure protection presence by professional and mandated agencies and reinforce the referral system for services that can be provided by the government structures in both countries.

### **3.2. 2.2 Objectives**

*- Principal objective:*

*To provide emergency humanitarian aid to vulnerable refugees, asylum seekers and migrants transiting or staying in the Western Balkans.*

*- Specific objective:*

*To meet urgent needs and provide protection to vulnerable refugees, asylum seekers and migrants in the Western Balkans and multi-sectoral assistance such as temporary shelter, winterization, food, non-food items (NFI), Water Sanitation Hygiene (WASH), psychosocial support.*

### **3.3. 2.3 Components**

To achieve the specific objective ECHO will focus its assistance to the provision of basic health care, drinking water, shelter (with a specific focus on winterization), NFI, protection and livelihood including cash assistance where appropriate.

### **3.4. 2.4 Complementary and coordination with other EU services, donors and institutions**

### **3.5. 2.5 Duration**

The duration of humanitarian aid actions shall be **6 months**.

Expenditure under this Decision shall be eligible from **1 August 2015**.

If the implementation of the actions envisaged in this Decision is suspended due to force majeure or any comparable circumstance, the period of suspension will not be taken into account for the calculation of the duration of the humanitarian aid actions.

Depending on the evolution of the situation in the field, the Commission reserves the right to terminate the Agreements signed with the eligible humanitarian organisations where the suspension of activities is for a period of more than one third of the total planned duration of the action. In this respect, the procedure established in the general conditions of the specific agreement will be applied.

## **4. 3 EVALUATION**

Under Article 18 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/96 of 20 June 1996 concerning humanitarian aid the Commission is required to "regularly assess humanitarian aid actions financed by the Union in order to establish whether they have achieved their objectives and to produce guidelines for improving the effectiveness of subsequent actions." These evaluations are structured and organised in overarching and cross cutting issues forming part of ECHO's Annual Strategy such as child-related issues, the security of relief workers, respect for human rights, gender. Each year, an indicative Evaluation Programme is established after a consultative process. This programme is flexible and can be adapted to include evaluations not foreseen in the initial programme, in response to particular events or changing circumstances. More information can be obtained at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/echo/evaluation/introduction\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/echo/evaluation/introduction_en.htm).

## **5. 4 MANAGEMENT ISSUES**

Humanitarian aid actions funded by the European Union are implemented by NGOs and international organisations that are signatories of the Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) with ECHO, or by Member States' specialised agencies, or by United Nations agencies based on the Financial Administrative Framework Agreement with the UN (FAFA), in conformity with Article 178 of the Rules of Application of the Financial Regulation. These Framework agreements define the criteria for awarding grant agreements and delegation agreements in accordance with Article 94 of the Rules of Application and may be found at [http://ec.europa.eu/echo/partners/humanitarian\\_aid/partners\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/echo/partners/humanitarian_aid/partners_en.htm).

For NGOs, Member States' Specialised Agencies, Red Cross National Societies and international organisations not complying with the requirements set up in the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Union for indirect management, actions will be implemented under direct management.

Individual grants are awarded on the basis of the criteria enumerated in Article 7.2 of the Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/96 of 20 June 1996 concerning humanitarian aid, such as the technical and financial capacity, readiness and experience, and results of previous interventions.

**6. 5 ANNEXES**

*Annex 1 - Summary decision matrix (table)*

<b>Principal objective</b> <i>To provide emergency humanitarian aid to vulnerable refugees, asylum seekers and migrants transiting or staying in the Western Balkans.</i>				
<b>Specific objectives</b>	<b>Allocated amount by specific objective (EUR)</b>	<b>Geographical area of operation</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Potential partners</b>
<i>To meet urgent needs and provide protection to vulnerable refugees, asylum seekers and migrants in the Western Balkans and multi-sectoral assistance such as temporary shelter, winterization, food, non-food items (NFI), Water Sanitation Hygiene (WASH), psychosocial support.</i>	1 500 000	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia. In the event of a shift of the migration route, the WB non-EU countries concerned, namely Albania, Montenegro, Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.		All ECHO Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) Partners, Financial and Administrative Agreement (FAFA) Partners or Member States' specialised agencies.
Contingency reserve	0			
<b>TOTAL</b>	1 500 000			

*Annex 2 - List of previous DG ECHO decisions*

**List of previous DG ECHO operations in the Western Balkans**

Decision Number	Decision Type	2015	2014	
		EUR	EUR	EUR
ECHO/DRF/BUD/2015/91000	IFRC DREF	90,656		
ECHO/DRF/BUD/2015/91000	IFRC DREF	150,000		
ECHO/DRF/BUD/2014/91000	IFRC DREF	118 084		
ECHO/DRF/BUD/2014/91000	IFRC DREF	84 236		
ECHO/-BA/BUD/2014/01000	ED		3 000 000	
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>442 976</b>	<b>3 000 000</b>	0
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3 442 976</b>		

Date

Source : HOPE

(\*) decisions with more than one country

*Annex 3 - Overview table of the humanitarian donor contributions*

<b>Donors in the last 12 months</b>			
<b>1. EU Member States (*)</b>		<b>2. European Commission</b>	
	EUR		EUR
		ECHO	240 656
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>240 000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>			

Date :

(\*) Source : DG ECHO 14 Points reports. <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/hac>

Empty cells : no information or no contribution.

Annex 4 - Maps

