



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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NOTE

from :	Presidency
to :	COREPER/GAERC
Subject :	Earthquake and tsunamis in the Indian Ocean – follow-up to European Union Action Plan

On 31 January 2005 the Council adopted an action plan to coordinate all the resources available at all levels and in all areas for dealing effectively with the consequences of the type of events mentioned above (5788/05).

In accordance with the conclusions adopted by the Council on that occasion, the Presidency submits herewith a note taking stock of the implementation of the action plan, with particular reference to the work that has been done or is being done by the Council's subordinate bodies; details of the action taken by the Commission since 31 January are set out in the Commission's communications of 20 April 2005 (8383/05 and 8430/05).

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TSUNAMI ACTION PLAN

A. MOBILISATION OF BUDGETARY AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Emergency reserve

1. *The Council approved the mobilisation of the emergency reserve of EUR 100 million on 18 January 2005.*

Financial resources for the medium and long term

2. *The Commission proposed a total funding of EUR 350 million over two years (EUR 170 million in 2005 and EUR 180 million in 2006), in accordance with the undertakings given at the Jakarta Conference and following the on-the-spot mission by the Commission and the EIB (and in the light of the World Bank's assessment). This amount is broken down as follows:*
 - *EUR 323 million for reconstruction in Indonesia, Sri Lanka and the Maldives under the Multi-Donors Trust arrangements;*
 - *EUR 12 million funded from the Rapid Reaction Mechanism to be set up by the European Union as a regional and horizontal financial instrument for restoring the coasts of those countries;*
 - *EUR 15 million to be used under the EU-Asia partnership for environmental protection with all the countries affected.*
3. *At the end of April the Commission submitted a preliminary draft amending budget for 2005 together with a proposal for mobilising the flexibility instrument in respect of EUR 98 million. That preliminary draft amending budget will be examined by the Budget Committee as part of its examination of the preliminary draft 2006 budget during the budget procedure starting in May 2005.*

Concessional finance facility

4. *The ECOFIN Council said it was willing to consider any Commission proposal for introducing a concessional finance facility of EUR 1 billion to meet reconstruction needs in the countries affected by the tsunami.*
5. *The Commission reported to the Finance Ministers at the ECOFIN Council meeting on 12 April 2005. As the amounts available in the form of grants or highly concessionary loans were broadly sufficient (EUR 7 billion) to meet the needs indicated, it did not seem appropriate to pursue this initiative any further.*
6. *However, since enterprises in the affected countries (especially SMEs) could usefully benefit from loans on favourable terms, the EIB was encouraged to give priority to those needs under its existing mandate for Asia and Latin America (between now and June the Commission will submit a proposal amending the mandate to enable the Maldives to benefit as well).*

Regular review of the actual implementation of financial commitments

7. *The Working Party on Development Cooperation is kept regularly informed of the European Union's humanitarian, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts on the basis of data collected by ECHO and also through a system of focal points created as a result of the action plan and coordinated by the Commission (DG Relex). The Commission has suggested improvements to the methods for collecting this information in order to speed up the provision of data that are as reliable as possible. The ECHO information collection system has to be supplemented and a similar reporting system needs to be established on-line for rehabilitation and reconstruction. A table showing the pledges totalling EUR 2,2 billion made by the Member States during the Donors Conference in Geneva will be found in Annex 1.*

8. *The Commission will produce a comprehensive and detailed survey of the implementation of the commitments in September. The survey will be regularly updated so that the Council can continue to evaluate the implementation of the commitments.*

Debt

9. *At their meeting on 9 March 2005 the members of the Paris Club agreed on a debt moratorium for the countries affected by the tsunami. The offer was accepted by Sri Lanka and Indonesia. The servicing of the debt which the Paris Club creditors expected on the part of these countries for 2005 amounted to USD 2,7 billion in the case of Indonesia and USD 328 million in the case of Sri Lanka.*

B. ACTION ON THE GROUND

Humanitarian aid

10. *The latest update of the summary table submitted by the Commission in mid-May shows that more than 85% of the funds committed by the Commission and the Member States has already been disbursed (i.e. EUR 433 million out of the EUR 508 million contributed in total). A table giving a breakdown of the contributions will be found in Annex 2.*

Military resources

11. *The detachment of two EUMS liaison officers to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has resulted in better coordination of information concerning the European military capacity that has been deployed.*
12. *In anticipation of future action, and in a broader context, contacts between the Council General Secretariat and the OCHA are continuing in order to establish working and cooperation methods and also the necessary concepts and procedures.*

C. RECONSTRUCTION AND SUPPORT MEASURES IN THE MEDIUM TERM

Monitoring and assessing needs

13. *Developments in the situation and the needs in the region are being regularly monitored by the relevant working parties. In particular, there is effective coordination on the ground between Commission delegations and Member States' representations in the countries affected.*
14. *The reconstruction plans of the countries affected by the tsunami are at the finalisation stage. Once the affected countries have submitted their plans, and in coordination with the multilateral institutions, the EU Member States will be able to finalise the programming of their reconstruction aid. So far, only Indonesia has been able to submit its reconstruction plan. A table showing the Member States' commitments of some EUR 1,1 billion will be found in Annex 3.*

Fisheries

15. *On 16 March 2005 the Council adopted an amendment to the Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance (FIFG) to allow the transfer of fishing vessels in order to help fishing communities affected by the tsunami to rebuild their fleets.*
16. *Also, at the ministerial meeting of the FAO Committee on Fisheries on 12 March 2005 the European Community and the Member States endorsed the ministerial declaration supporting the FAO's role as the main coordinator for advising and supporting the international community in its efforts to rebuild the fisheries and aquaculture sector in the South East Asian countries affected by the tsunami.*

Health

17. *The question of cooperation with the health services of the countries affected by the earthquake and tsunamis in the Indian Ocean has been examined by the Council's Working Party on Public Health and by the Commission's High Level Group on Health Services and Medical Care.*
18. *Also, the WHO will review the lessons to be learnt for improving international coordination in such cases. In this context, at the EPSCO Council meeting on 2 and 3 June 2005, the Director-General of the WHO will give an assessment of the situation.*

Commercial sphere

19. *The Commission has adopted measures to improve access by the countries concerned to the EU market. It has said it will reexamine the issue of the enterprises concerned by the Community's trade defence measures and directly affected by the tsunami.*
20. *Discussions are continuing on the new generalised system of preferences (GSP). It was not possible to reach an agreement before 1 April, the date proposed by the Commission for an accelerated entry into force to enable the countries hit by the tsunami to benefit as soon as possible from the new arrangements, which are more advantageous than those currently in force. The Presidency will make every effort to ensure that the Regulation is adopted by the end of June. Once the new GSP is in force, changes to the applicable rules of origin, in the appropriate regional context, will also be considered.*

Political dialogue between the EU and Asia

21. *On 26 February 2005 the EU/ASEAN Joint Committee agreed to step up the dialogue with a view to drawing up a work plan aimed, among other things, at accelerating the implementation of the cooperation programmes. On 10 March 2005 the EU/ASEAN ministerial meeting adopted a joint declaration dealing in particular with the development of relations between the two regions.*
22. *The Union also kept a close watch on the positive developments in the Aceh peace process, which were indirectly linked to the effects of the tsunami. If these developments are confirmed and enable the conflict to be resolved, the question will arise of an international monitoring mission, and the possible role of the Union in this connection.*
23. *With regard to Sri Lanka, the Union urges the parties to reach an early agreement on setting up a joint mechanism for distributing aid to the communities affected.*

D. REINFORCING THE UNION'S RESPONSE CAPACITY

24. *The action plan stressed the need to use all appropriate means for dealing with disasters both inside and outside the Union, with efforts being directed at better use of existing instruments, the possible establishment of new structures to improve the Union's rapid response capability and the role that could be played by certain projects such as the creation of a "European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps". These questions were covered in the communications submitted to the last GAERC meeting by the Secretary-General/High Representative and by the Commission.*

Military resources

25. *The SG/HR report focuses mainly on the issue of mobilisation and the utilisation of military resources in disaster situations. In particular, it develops the idea of improving the EU's ability to take action through a modular approach, involving military resources suitable for very short-term deployment in support of relief operations. It highlights the role that could be played by the civil-military planning cell and the operations centre, particularly as regards support for preparatory work (generic planning, simplified templates for planning documents and standard arrangements, etc.). A number of avenues were identified during the discussions:*
26. *As regards military aspects, it is essential to make sure that military capabilities used in a humanitarian operation keep their impartial, civilian character, with due regard for the United Nations Guidelines on the use of Military and Civil Defence Assets in Humanitarian Operations in both conflict and non-conflict situations (United Nations Oslo Guidelines).*
27. *Work in the military area is envisaged in connection with information capability, coordination of action and availability of capabilities. It is suggested that the civil-military cell should be used to develop plans and concepts to improve the EU's ability to react to disasters of this type and that the operations centre should act as a crisis response centre for coordinating military resources.*
28. *If the EU is to be able to act more quickly, then it is essential to identify the military assets available. Capability must also be improved by generic planning and by adapting scenarios to include aspects specific to man-made and natural disasters. These discussions will have to be coordinated and included in the ongoing discussions in the context of the Headline Goal 2010 and the Civilian Headline Goal 2008 and will need to take account of the extension of the military database to cover all man-made and natural disasters. These factors will need to be borne in mind when drawing up the requirements catalogue 2005 and the Headline Goal questionnaire during discussions in the second half of 2005.*

Civil protection

29. *At the end of April the Commission submitted an initial communication which dealt in general fashion with reinforcing EU disaster and crisis response. It sets out a number of measures designed to promote efficiency, consistency and coordination between the EU's various external policy instruments in crisis and disaster situations.*
30. *It also submitted a more specific communication on improvements to the Community civil protection mechanism, both within the existing legal framework (reinforcing preparedness, developing analysis and assessment resources, enhanced coordination, improving assistance to EU citizens affected by disasters outside the EU) and longer-term measures (establishment of quantitative targets for civil protection resources, more pro-active approach by the Monitoring and Information Centre, key stand-by modules for European civil protection operations, reinforcing the logistical basis and promoting international coordination).*
31. *On 11 May 2005 the Working Party on Civil Protection made an initial examination of this communication; the Directors-General for Civil Protection followed suit on 12 and 13 May. The latter agreed to:*
- begin work on developing a modular approach based on national civil protection modules, observing the principles of subsidiarity and complementarity;*
 - increase training activities, training exercises and exchanges of experts, in order to promote interoperability;*
 - to develop common insignia for intervention personnel on site,*

- *step up the Monitoring and Information Centre's analysis and planning capability, bearing in mind the work of other analysis bodies within the EU and the need to develop more civil-military cooperation.*

Discussions will continue over the next few weeks with a view to submitting a report to Coreper as soon as possible.

32. *Without prejudice to the outcome of the meeting of experts and of the discussions to be held in the various Council working parties (Civil Protection and Police Cooperation), it is proposed to draw up a handbook which would set out scenarios and to organise an exercise.*

Consular cooperation

33. *The SG/HR's report deals with certain improvements in consular cooperation. These were identified by the Working Party on Consular Affairs as the "lessons learned" from the tsunami and will need to be implemented:*

- *development of a teleconferencing system between the crisis units of the Member States affected;*
- *centralisation of information;*
- *creation of a database on disaster victims, on a Europe-wide scale;*
- *creation of a database with common definitions for warnings to travellers enabling better understanding of the potential or actual risks in a given area;*
- *better communication with travel agencies within the Union so that they can immediately send personal data that they hold concerning their customers travelling in affected areas;*
- *approaching the authorities of third countries so that they can immediately send entry and departure data for European nationals who have travelled in areas affected by natural disasters or serious accidents;*
- *enhanced cooperation as regards the planning of responses to consular crises;*
- *joint exercises by the consular services of the Member States;*
- *publication of a brochure to keep the public better informed;*
- *enhanced police cooperation in the field of victim identification.*

34. *In addition to these suggestions, certain other proposals have been made relating amongst other things to:*

- *setting up consular assistance teams able to intervene in major crises, made up of experienced consular personnel from national administrations;*
- *compiling a catalogue of Member State assets available in the event of a serious consular crisis.*

35. *The Working Party on Consular Affairs will continue to consider all proposals designed to develop a consistent range of measures to enhance consular cooperation. It will do this in consultation with the Working Party on Civil Protection. Enhanced consular cooperation in crises will need to be considered as part of the preparatory discussions for putting in place the European External Action Service.*

E. PREVENTION

36. *The Working Party on Civil Protection has begun considering the suggestions in the Commission communication as regards reinforcing preventive measures, early warning and disaster preparedness, particularly as regards warning systems in the Mediterranean and the Atlantic.*

EU/EC PLEDGES FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (in € or equivalent -as communicated by EU focal points to date)						
EU MEMBER STATES	Reconstruction Aid		Humanitarian Aid		Total Reconstruction + Humanitarian aid pledged	
Austria	43.800.000	3%	6.200.000	1%	50.000.000	2%
Belgium	15.000.000	1%	15.000.000	3%	30.000.000	1%
Cyprus	130.000	0%	270.000	0%	400.000	0%
Czech Republic	6.016.000	0%	1.334.000	0%	7.350.000	0%
Denmark	29.600.000	2%	30.544.000	5%	60.144.000	3%
Estonia	0	0%	320.000	0%	320.000	0%
Finland	28.700.000	2%	14.800.000	3%	43.500.000	2%
France	323.000.600	19%	41.558.400	7%	364.559.000	16%
Germany	430.700.000	26%	69.300.000	12%	500.000.000	22%
Greece	11.478.000	1%	20.300.000	3%	31.778.000	1%
Hungary	16.172.000	1%	1.028.000	0%	17.200.000	1%
Ireland	11.400.000	1%	8.600.000	1%	20.000.000	1%
Italy	112.600.000	7%	27.200.000	5%	139.800.000	6%
Latvia	0	0%	142.000	0%	142.000	0%
Lithuania	0	0%	220.000	0%	220.000	0%
Luxembourg	400.000	0%	4.850.000	1%	5.250.000	0%
Malta	1.060.000	0%	8.000.000	1%	9.060.000	0%
Netherlands	227.928.000	14%	33.200.000	6%	261.128.000	12%
Poland	400.000	0%	850.000	0%	1.250.000	0%
Portugal	8.000.000	0%	2.000.000	0%	10.000.000	0%
Slovakia	250.000	0%	553.000	0%	803.000	0%
Slovenia	0	0%	866.000	0%	866.000	0%
Spain	11.626.000	1%	52.950.000	9%	64.576.000	3%
Sweden	32.000.000	2%	24.000.000	4%	56.000.000	2%
United Kingdom ⁽¹⁾	NA		98.108.000	17%	98.108.000	4%
European Commission	350.000.000	21%	123.000.000	21%	473.000.000	21%
TOTAL to date	1.660.260.600	100%	585.193.400	100%	2.245.454.001	100%
		74%		26%		100%
United Kingdom: no distinction is made for emergency responses between 'humanitarian' and 'rehabilitation & reconstruction' aid. For this reason, all of the UK's aid is reported under 'humanitarian' including the 'rehabilitation & reconstruction' element.						



EU Humanitarian Assistance to ASIA (Tsunami) 2004/2005 (€)*

Table shows allocated contributions by ECHO and MS according to 14 point application
updated: 18.05.2005 - 10:00 **

	India	Indonesia	Sri Lanka	Thailand	Region (South and South-East Asia)*	Somalia	Total contributions	Total actual spending
COM/ECHO	10.000.000	35.000.000	28.266.182	500.000	29.233.818		103.000.000	50.542.550
Austria			5.188.730		1.000.000		6.188.730	6.188.730
Belgium		2.570.028	2.702.542		150.000		5.422.570	5.422.570
Cyprus		81.060	127.380	15.440	38.600		262.480	246.140
Czech Republic					1.334.000		1.334.000	0
Denmark	81.082	9.878.380	8.175.676		8.513.515		26.648.653	26.648.653
Estonia		234.555		45.635	31.949		312.139	312.139
Finland		1.000.000	150.000		13.650.000		14.800.000	11.650.000
France		1.835.901	645.734		35.652.462		38.134.097	37.660.161
Germany	1.096.724	38.939.394	25.187.778		3.498.906	536.567	69.259.369	81.978.000
Greece		4.629.170	4.684.700	456.700	10.507.000		20.277.570	20.277.570
Hungary					1.028.000		1.028.000	1.133.796
Ireland	1.720.993	994.284	1.750.000	1.100.000	3.000.000		8.565.277	9.065.277
Italy		13.150.000	13.050.000	1.000.000			27.200.000	21.700.000
Latvia		142.000					142.000	142.000
Lithuania					217.215		217.215	217.215
Luxembourg	652.500	100.000	890.000		3.200.000		4.842.500	4.842.500
Malta			8.000.000				8.000.000	8.000.000
Netherlands	249.000	16.907.000	8.000.626		8.037.315		33.193.941	27.963.386
Poland		265.500	308.500		240.000		814.000	567.000
Portugal		1.154.456	834.116	11.424			1.999.996	2.178.813
Slovakia		12.950	173.300		366.500		552.750	365.300
Slovenia					866.666		866.666	?
Spain		9.362.900	415.000		3.515.001		13.292.901	13.292.869
Sweden	465.280	6.142.860	2.384.050	40.000	14.724.400	210.500	23.967.090	17.115.862
United Kingdom	2.924.331	11.224.991	6.452.525		51.243.028		98.108.380	86.238.390
Total	17.189.910	153.625.429	117.386.839	3.169.199	190.048.375	747.067	508.430.324	433.748.921

Source: ECHO 14 Points reporting system. <https://hac.cec.eu.int>
Empty cells means either no information is available or no contribution.

*Figures for India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Somalia show contributions encoded for each separate country.
Figures for the regions South Asia and South East Asia show contributions encoded for the region as a whole without earmarking a specific country. Contributions to the Maldives/Seychelles are also included under Region.
N.B. The contributions for each specific country is not included in the contributions to Region.

** For the United Kingdom no distinction is made for emergency responses between "humanitarian" and "rehabilitation & reconstruction" aid.
For this reason, all of the UK's aid is reported under "humanitarian" including the "rehabilitation & reconstruction" element.

Rehabilitation and reconstruction assistance to TSUNAMI affected countries
Global table of commitments and/or financing decisions (+ disbursements) in euros

	Total committed	%	Multilateral & Regional	Indonesia	Sri Lanka	Maldives	Thailand	India	Others	Total disbursed
Commission	350.000.000	31,1%	12.000.000	200.000.000	95.000.000	16.000.000			27.000.000	
Austria	11.029.000	1,0%	0	69.000	9.990.000	0	0	970.000	0	0
Belgium	NC									
Cyprus	124.878	0,0%	0	0	0	86.278	15.440	0	23.160	86.278
Czech Republic	NC									
Denmark⁽¹⁾	30.377.000	2,7%	0	20.710.000	6.905.000	0	2.762.000	0	0	827.000
Estonia	0	0,0%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Finland	1.400.000	0,1%	1.400.000	0	0	0	0	0	0	400.000
France	323.000.000	28,7%	98.040.000	109.000.000	94.647.000	20.000.000	1.200.000	113.000	0	14.960.000
Germany	0	0,0%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greece	8.800.000	0,8%	0	200.000	8.600.000	0	0	0	0	0
Hungary	17.133.796	1,5%	67.393	319.128	719.525	0	27.750	0	16.000.000	0
Ireland	1.329.000	0,1%	0	279.000	750.000	0	0	300.000	0	579.000
Italy	72.500.000	6,4%	0	15.050.000	15.550.000	0	1.500.000	0	40.400.000	18.000.000
Latvia	0	0,0%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lithuania	0	0,0%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Luxembourg	3.700.000	0,3%	750.000	700.000	1.400.000	0	300.000	550.000	0	0
Malta	9.060.000	0,3%	0	0	9.060.000	0	0	0	0	8.000.000
Netherlands	204.248.000	18,1%	0	160.615.000	43.133.000	500.000	0	0	0	0
Poland	247.000	0,0%	0	0	247.000	0	0	0	0	0
Portugal	5.058.112	0,4%	0	1.500.000	1.558.112	300.000	500.000	400.000	800.000	0
Slovakia	256.000	0,02%		64.000	128.000	0	0		64.000	0
Slovenia	NC		nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc
Spain	86.500.000	7,7%	2.000.000	0	0	0	0	0	84.500.000	0
Sweden	2.252.000	0,2%	777.000	0	1.300.000	0	175.000	0	0	800.000
United Kingdom⁽²⁾		0,0%								
Total	1.127.014.786	100,0%	115.034.393	508.506.128	288.987.637	36.886.278	6.480.190	2.333.000	168.787.160	43.652.278

4%

NC : Non communicated

(1) Conversion of DKK

(2) United Kingdom: no distinction is made for emergency responses between 'humanitarian' and 'rehabilitation & reconstruction' aid. For this reason, all of the UK's aid is reported under 'humanitarian' including the 'rehabilitation & reconstruction' element.