



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels,
C(2009) XXX final

COMMISSION DECISION

of

amending Commission Decision C(2009)245 concerning the approval and financing of a Global Plan for humanitarian actions in the Republic of Chad from the general budget of the European Union (ECHO/TCD/BUD/2009/01000)

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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 Articles 2, 4 and 15(1) and (2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Commission Decision C(2009)245, adopted on 26 January 2009, provides for the financing of humanitarian actions to assist vulnerable population groups in the Republic of Chad for an amount of €30 000 000 from the general budget of the European Union, €17 000 000 of it from budget heading 23.02.01 and €13 000 000 from budget heading 23.02.02.
- (2) Decision C(2009)245 allocated €3 000 000 from budget heading 23.02.01 to specific objective 2, which was to "to support common humanitarian logistics systems, in particular air transport and humanitarian coordination".
- (3) Growing insecurity in eastern Chad and the rise of banditry targeting humanitarian workers are increasingly preventing humanitarian workers from travelling by land. The difficult land access is further complicated by roads that become almost impassable during the rainy season. The presence of international forces in Chad (EUFOR then MINURCAT) creates an inherent risk of confusion between humanitarian and military vehicles on the ground. These factors demand an independent and reliable air transport service.
- (4) Recent years have seen a substantial increase in the number of humanitarian workers in eastern Chad, particularly since 2007 and the crisis involving displacement of populations to Dar Sila and Assounga. In 2009 an average of 4 000 people a month were transported from N'Djamena to the east of the country by UNHAS. The smooth running of humanitarian organisations' operations in Chad requires a reliable and constant humanitarian air service.

¹ OJ L 163, 2.7.1996, p. 1.

- (5) In July 2009 the donors were alerted to UNHAS's financing problems. On 14 September 2009, despite new donor contributions, UNHAS still does not have sufficient financing to maintain essential services for humanitarian workers.
- (6) In order to avoid humanitarian air transport in Chad being suspended, it is therefore necessary to increase the budget allocated to the Global Plan by €2 000 000 from budget heading 23.02.01 and to amend Decision C(2009)245 accordingly.
- (7) Taking into account the available budget, contributions from other donors and other factors, the total amount of Decision C(2009)245 is now €32 000 000 from the general budget of the European Union, €19 000 000 of it from budget heading 23.02.01 and €13 000 000 from budget heading 23.02.02..
- (8) For reasons of legal clarity and consistency, Article 5(1) of Decision C(2009)245 should be deleted as it is no longer necessary and refers to an amount that would be incorrect if left unchanged.
- (9) In accordance with Article 17(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 1257/96, the Humanitarian Aid Committee delivered a favourable opinion on 27 October 2009,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

1. Article 1 of Commission Decision C(2009)245 is replaced by the following text:

"1. In accordance with the objectives and general principles of humanitarian aid, the Commission hereby approves the 2009 Global Plan for humanitarian actions to assist vulnerable population groups in the Republic of Chad for an amount of €32 000 000 from the general budget of the European Union, €19 000 000 of it from budget heading 23.02.01 and €13 000 000 from budget heading 23.02.02.

2. In accordance with Articles 2 and 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/96, the humanitarian actions provided for in this Global Plan will be implemented within the framework of the following specific objectives:

- To provide multisectoral humanitarian aid to the vulnerable refugee, displaced and resident population groups in the areas of health and nutrition, water and sanitation, shelter and the provision of basic commodities and protection.

€13 890 000 from budget heading 23.02.01 is allocated to this specific objective.

- To support common humanitarian logistics systems, in particular air transport and humanitarian coordination.

€110 000 from budget heading 23.02.01 is allocated to this specific objective.

- To protect the availability of and access to food for the most vulnerable population groups affected by the humanitarian crisis and to stabilise or improve their nutritional status by providing appropriate food aid to vulnerable refugee, displaced and resident population groups.

€13 000 000 from budget heading 23.02.02 is allocated to this specific objective."

2. Article 5(1) is deleted.

Article 2

This Decision is addressed to the delegated authorising officer.

Done at Brussels,

For the Commission

Member of the Commission

Decision amending humanitarian aid Decision

ECHO/TCD/BUD/2009/01000

<u>Title:</u>	Commission Decision amending Commission Decision (2009)245 concerning the approval and financing of a Global Plan for humanitarian actions from the general budget of the European Union in the Republic of Chad
<u>Description:</u>	Humanitarian and food aid to the most vulnerable population groups
<u>Location of operation:</u>	CHAD
<u>Amount of decision:</u>	€32,000,000
<u>Decision reference number:</u>	ECHO/TCD/BUD/2009/01000

1- Explanatory Memorandum

Rationale for the modification

Supporting the humanitarian air transport in Chad is one of the specific objectives of the successive Global Plans in Chad adopted by the European Commission since 2007. Following the joint DG ECHO¹ and US Government mission which took place in January 2009 a specific recommendation was made that an independent air service should be maintained.

This support strategy for the air services is based on two observations. Firstly, growing insecurity in eastern Chad and the rise of banditry targeting humanitarian workers are increasingly preventing humanitarian workers from travelling by land. The difficult land access is further complicated by roads that become almost impassable during the rainy season. Secondly, the presence of international forces in Chad (EUFOR then MINURCAT) creates an inherent risk of confusion of humanitarian and military vehicles, obliging donors to provide substantial support to guarantee independent humanitarian air transport. This strategy is part of a wider aim to create conditions favourable to maintaining the humanitarian space in Chad.

The other air transport actors in Chad are Airserv, who deal with UNHCR operations, and the IRCC and MSF, which organise flights for the almost exclusive benefit of their staff members. These last years have seen a substantial increase in the number of humanitarian workers in eastern Chad, particularly since 2007 and the crisis involving displacement of populations to Dar Sila and Assounga. In 2009 an average of 4,000 people a month were transported from N'Djamena to the east of the country by UNHAS. The smooth running of the humanitarian organisations' operations in Chad requires a reliable and constant air service.

In July 2009 the donors were alerted to UNHAS's financing problems. Without additional funds, UNHAS flights would have been suspended on 15 August. To deal with this situation, the US Government through the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration raised an

¹ Humanitarian Aid Directorate-General - ECHO

emergency one million USD. In addition to this support, other donors, such as the Swedish and Irish Governments, have contributed to the 2009 UNHAS budget.

On 14 September 2009, taking into account the above-mentioned new contributions, the 2009 UNHAS budget was still short of USD 3,450,000.

Talks are being held with the Swiss Government, the CERF and the DFID to top up the 2009 UNHAS budget in Chad. It seems that at this stage further contributions have been requested from all the other 'traditional' donors.

In 2009 the European Commission support to UNHAS amounts to € 2,000,000 over 10 months. It is hereby proposed to increase this contribution.

2. – Proposed amendments

In accordance with Article 2 of Decision C(2009)245, € 110,000 were reallocated from objective 1 to objective 2 on 3 June 2009 due to the increase in activities which need to be covered under objective 2. Consequently the amount allocated to objective 2 following this adjustment is €3,110,000.

In the context of the present amendment, it is proposed to allocate a further €2,000,000 to objective 2 (Budget heading 23.02.01), bringing the total amount to €5,110,000.