



PSC Europe

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PUBLIC CONSULTATION – THE UNION´S HUMANITARIAN AID**

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OPERATION	NAME	ORGANISATION	DATE
PREPARED BY	Robert MISKUF	PSCE Secretariat	17-02-2013
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PURPOSE	
Information	X
Reply requested	

## **PUBLIC CONSULTATION – THE UNION’S HUMANITARIAN AID**

In light of recent developments in terms in the field of Humanitarian Aid and Civil protection, the Commission has recently launched a public consultation targeting the issue of Humanitarian Aid.

Through this, the Commission aims at gathering stakeholders’ opinions on the challenges, objectives and options for increasing effectiveness and impact of the Union’s humanitarian aid – through operational, policy, organisational and other measures, while taking into account the evolving context of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. By proposing this consultation, the Commission strives to attain information which could be later used in its initiatives to increase the impact of EU’s humanitarian action.

The consultation period shall run until the 15<sup>th</sup> of March 2013 and encourages all stakeholders to express their views and concerns on the Stakeholder consultation document: "**The Union's humanitarian aid: Fit for purpose?**", as well as any other issues related to increasing the impact of EU's humanitarian aid by filling in the provided questionnaire (see below).

Following the conclusion of the consultation, the Commission shall invite stakeholders to a meeting to discuss the findings. The resulting document shall not attribute comments to individual stakeholders and shall be made public upon the finalisation of the process.

To access the questionnaire follow this link:

<http://ec.europa.eu/yourvoice/ipm/forms/dispatch?form=fitforpurpose>

## The Union's humanitarian aid: Fit for purpose?

<b>Registration</b>	
Name and first name -open reply-( <b>compulsory</b> )	Helmut Schwabach
Official title -open reply-( <b>optional</b> )	PSCE President
Email -open reply-( <b>compulsory</b> )	secretariat@psc-europe.eu
Your contribution can be best described as coming from: -single choice reply-( <b>compulsory</b> )	Consolidated reply on behalf of partner NGOs
If you selected 'other', or if further information needed, please explain: -open reply-( <b>compulsory</b> )	
Public Safety Communication Europe Forum provides a unique common platform for researchers, industry and users.	
<b>1. GLOBAL TRENDS AND THE UNION'S ACTION</b>	
a) Are there other important trends and issues that should be taken into consideration to further increase the efficiency of the Union's humanitarian action? -open reply-( <b>optional</b> )	
b) Are there other concrete ways in which the Union's comparative advantages could be further used to fulfil the EU's humanitarian mandate? -open reply-( <b>optional</b> )	
<b>2. Contemporary humanitarian challenges: is the Union adequately equipped to respond?</b>	
<b>2.1 Upholding humanitarian principles, IHL and advocacy</b>	
<b>2.1.1 Humanitarian principles</b>	
a) Has the EU sufficiently insisted on the respect for humanitarian principles in general and in specific crisis contexts? -single choice reply-( <b>optional</b> )	No
b) If not, what actions should be taken by EU to uphold the principles and objectives of European humanitarian aid, as well as humanitarian aid globally? -open reply-( <b>optional</b> )	
c) Are there other issues that need to be covered under this section? -open reply-( <b>optional</b> )	
<b>2.1.2 Advocacy for international humanitarian law</b>	
a) Should the EU act more forcefully to increase	Yes

*the respect of and compliance with the IHL?*

-single choice reply-(optional)

If Yes, how? -open reply-(optional)

*b) Are there other issues that need to be covered under this section?* -open reply-(optional)

## 2.2 Effectiveness of aid and thematic issues

### 2.2.1 Resilience, emergency preparedness, disaster risk reduction (DRR), and linking relief, rehabilitation and development (LRRD)

*a) Should the Commission reconsider financing principles and priorities (i.e. by adjusting focus from geographical criteria to (more) horizontal ones and scaling up activities that increase the resilience of vulnerable communities?* -single choice reply-(optional)

Yes

Explain -open reply-(optional)

*b) Should the Union's humanitarian capacity-building measures be expanded to regional/national levels in disaster-prone parts of the world?* -single choice reply-(optional)

Yes

Explain -open reply-(optional)

*c) Should the scope of preparedness work be extended beyond the current focus on natural disasters in recognition of links between the natural, man-made/technological and complex emergencies?* -single choice reply-(optional)

Yes

*d) Should the DIPECHO's 'community-based approach' be also used to build the capacity of emergency response structures of disaster-prone countries, possibly building on the experience of civil protection authorities inside the Union?* -single choice reply-(optional)

Yes

Explain -open reply-(optional)

*e) Should ECHO remain involved in protracted crises through humanitarian aid or should there be clearer humanitarian exit strategies?* -single choice reply-(optional)

Yes, should remain involved

Explain -open reply-(optional)

f) Should DG ECHO jointly with its development colleagues develop risk analysis, define strategic priorities for resilience and align its programming priorities?

-single choice reply-(optional)

Yes

Explain -open reply-(optional)

g) Should the Commission undertake (i) mandatory fragility analysis, (ii) joint humanitarian/ development funding strategies for specific post-crisis contexts, and/or (iii) joint assessment missions to ensure that an early post-disaster recovery facilitates an effective LRRD?

-single choice reply-(optional)

Yes

Explain -open reply-(optional)

h) Are there other issues that need to be covered under this section? -open reply-(optional)

## 2.2.2 Quality of aid and sector policies

a) Should the Union more forcefully pursue the quality of humanitarian aid and donorship (at European and/or global level)?

-single choice reply-(optional)

Yes

If Yes, how? What should be priority actions in that respect (standard-setting, peer-reviews, cooperation with emerging donors)? -open reply-(optional)

b) Should the Commission and Member States aim to develop joint/common reference policy guidance in the thematic/sector humanitarian aid areas, based on international best practices? Should there be common sets of key indicators and measurement of results?

-single choice reply-(optional)

Yes

Explain -open reply-(optional)

c) Are there other issues that need to be covered under this section? -open reply-(optional)

## 2.2.3 Direct and indirect aid delivery

a) Should the Commission conduct more direct operations? -single choice reply-(optional)

I don't know

b) Are there other issues that need to be covered under this section? -open reply-(optional)

## 2.2.4 Coherence with civil protection assistance

a) In which additional areas synergies between humanitarian aid and the European civil protection assistance would be most beneficial? Why?

-open reply-(optional)

b) Are there other issues that need to be covered under this section? -open reply-(optional)

## 2.2.5 The use of military assets and Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) crisis management tools

a) Do you think that the interaction between humanitarian and military actors is sufficiently well-framed and articulated or does it need to be better spelled out? -single choice reply-(optional)

No, it needs better spelling out

Explain -open reply-(optional)

b) Should the Commission further step up its dialogue with crisis management structures and military actors with a view to further clarifying the scope for coordination and eventual cooperation? -single choice reply-(optional)

Yes

Explain -open reply-(optional)

c) Should the EU step up its efforts to support the promotion of the Oslo/MCDA Guidelines globally? -single choice reply-(optional)

Yes

Explain -open reply-(optional)

d) Are there other issues that need to be covered under this section? -open reply-(optional)

## 2.3 Coordination with Member States

a) Should the EU step up its efforts in the coordination of the response to crises? -single choice reply-(optional)

Yes

If Yes, what measures should be taken to achieve this objective? -open reply-(optional)

b) Should the EU step up its efforts in the cooperation among Member States in the field of sectoral policies? -single choice reply-(optional)

Yes

If Yes, what measures should be taken to achieve this objective? -open reply-(optional)

c) How can the expertise and know-how of the Member States be better brought into play to ensure the best outcome of EU's action in these fields? -open reply-(optional)

d) Are there other issues that need to be covered under this section? -open reply-(optional)

## 2.4 Work with partners

### 2.4.1 Scope and reach of partnerships

a) Should the Commission engage more with humanitarian NGOs in third countries? -single choice reply-(optional)

Yes

Explain -open reply-(optional)

b) Should the Commission interact more with specialised agencies of non-EU countries? -single choice reply-(optional)

Yes

Explain -open reply-(optional)

c) Are there other issues that need to be covered under this section? -open reply-(optional)

### 2.4.2 EU contributions to pooled third-party funds

a) Should the Commission contribute to pooled third-party funds? -single choice reply-(optional)

I don't know

b) How could the Commission ensure that contributions to the third-party funds are used fully in line with humanitarian principles and based on needs? -open reply-(optional)

c) Are there other issues that need to be covered under this section? -open reply-(optional)

## 2.5 International system, new donors, public-private partnerships and visibility

### 2.5.1 International response system

a) What additional measures should be taken to further operationalise the objectives of the Transformative Agenda? -open reply-(optional)

b) How can the Union and its Member States best work together to ensure a genuinely more responsive and cost effective international response system? -open reply-(optional)

### 2.5.2 Outreach to the emerging donors



a) Should the Union step up its outreach to emerging donors? -single choice reply-(optional)	Yes
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b) What should be the guiding principles of the cooperation with new donors?  
-open reply-(optional)

Their track record and financial capacity

c) Are there other issues that need to be covered under this section? -open reply-(optional)

### 2.5.3 Public-private partnerships

a) Should the Commission step up its work with the private sector? -single choice reply-(optional)	Yes
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If Yes, how and in which sectors of activities? -open reply-(optional)

b) Should the Commission take advantage of private businesses' social responsibility schemes for humanitarian purposes in a more systematic way? -single choice reply-(optional)	Yes
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Explain -open reply-(optional)

c) Are there other issues that need to be covered under this section? -open reply-(optional)

### 2.5.4 Information, communication and visibility

a) Is media coverage of EU funded humanitarian aid sufficient? -single choice reply-(optional)	No
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If Not, what in your opinion is the main reason? -open reply-(optional)

b) Do you see potential to improve it? -single choice reply-(optional)	Yes
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If Yes, in which concrete ways? -open reply-(optional)

c) Should the volume of communication activities on EU funded aid by implementing partners correspond to the financial size of their partnership with the EU? -single choice reply-(optional)	No
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d) Should requirements in terms of ensuring EU's visibility as a donor on the part of the implementing partner organisations be revised or increased in order to achieve better visibility of EU funded aid in the field? -single choice reply-(optional)	Yes
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Explain -open reply-(optional)

e) *Should the EU funded partner organisations play a role in the efforts for better media outreach?* -single choice reply-(optional) Yes

Explain -open reply-(optional)

f) *Should DG ECHO take a lead in a joint communication strategy with partners in order to increase effectiveness in its communication with the EU citizen?* -single choice reply-(optional) Yes

If Yes, what should be the main tools to implement such joint strategy? -open reply-(optional)

g) *Are there other issues that need to be covered under this section?* -open reply-(optional)

## 2.6 Humanitarian decision-making

### 2.6.1 Decision-making for the Union's emergency humanitarian aid

a) *In your experience, does the decision-making process of the EU allow a timely and appropriate response to the various types of humanitarian crises?* -single choice reply-(optional) I don't know

c) *Are there other issues that need to be covered under this section?* -open reply-(optional)

### 2.6.2 Evidence-based decision-making

a) *In your experience, does the EU' approach to evidence-based humanitarian decision-making through GNA/FCA/FINAT deliver adequate results?* -single choice reply-(optional)

b) *How the Union can best contribute to the global evidence-based decision-making?* -open reply-(optional)

c) *Are there other issues that need to be covered under this section?* -open reply-(optional)