

VOICE webinar – SAVE THE DATE

EU restrictive measures impact on humanitarian aid: Between a principled view for exemptions and a pragmatic approach for an effective derogation process.

Friday 11th December 2020, 10.30 – 12.30 CET

VOICE has raised awareness of the impacts of EU sanctions and counter-terrorism restrictive measures for the past number of years, as these have increasingly been felt by its 88 humanitarian NGO members. VOICE recently conducted a survey of its members to gather evidence of the impacts, and of the mitigation strategies used by NGOs to ensure their principled humanitarian action is not in breach of sanctions and counter-terrorism restrictive measures. The challenges faced by NGOs are myriad and include: difficulties to access financial services; the risks of criminal and civil liability; the increased financial and administrative burden linked to mitigation measures; procurement and logistics difficulties; and reduced flexibility in programming.

Exemptions in sanctions regimes and CT measures are the most effective way to ensure that restrictions do not apply to humanitarian action. Incorporating a humanitarian exemption through an explicit reference to IHL in all UN, EU and national counter-terrorism and sanctions laws remains a priority. VOICE is encouraged that the EU is working to introduce humanitarian exemptions to all EU sanctions regimes, as recently stated by the EU Commissioner for Crisis Management.

In the meantime, in the absence of exemptions, several VOICE members operate with derogations. Little – if any – guidance on the process is provided to NGOs by EU member states or donors. The process needs to be streamlined and simplified across the EU.

Join VOICE and a panel of experts on the 11th of December for a webinar focusing on the push to introduce humanitarian exemptions to EU sanctions regimes, and the discussion on an EU-wide derogation process.

Speakers:

- Emma O’Leary, Norwegian Refugee Council
- Nathalie Thiberge, DG ECHO
- Darta Tentere and Roberto Crespi, DG Fisma
- Jean-Raphael Poitou, Acción Contra el Hambre
- Magnus Sätterberg, Permanent Representation of Sweden to the European Union

[**Register here**](#)