

Brussels, 13 March 2018

To: Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission
Federica Mogherini, High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
and Vice-President of the Commission
Günther H. Oettinger, Commissioner for Budget and Human Resources
Christos Stylianides, Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid & Crisis Management
Neven Mimica, Commissioner for International Cooperation & Development
Johannes Hahn, Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy & Enlargement Negotiations

Subject: Humanitarian aid in the next Multiannual Financial Framework and EU annual budget 2019

Dear President,
Dear Vice-President,
Dear Commissioners,

Approaching the publication of the European Commission's proposal for the next Multi-Annual Financial Framework Regulation and legal basis regulations for financing instruments, the VOICE network of 84 European NGOs active in humanitarian assistance worldwide, would like to draw your attention to a number of recommendations.

Since the proposal for the current MFF was made in 2011, humanitarian needs worldwide have more than doubled. Over the last years, more than one quarter of humanitarian needs have stemmed from the conflicts in Syria, Iraq and Yemen, while protracted crises and displacement, famines and natural disasters have continued to add to the number of people suffering. While the MFF foresaw no increase in humanitarian budget, the EU and its member states have deployed considerable efforts to answer growing needs, stretching to its limits the budget foreseen, and they have reiterated their commitment to crisis-affected populations at the World Humanitarian Summit.

As a European network representing operational NGO partners of the EU, we are well positioned to acknowledge the role of the EU as an internationally recognised needs-based donor and its singular added value. We are convinced that by putting the humanitarian principles, International Humanitarian Law and the needs based approach at the heart of its humanitarian assistance, not only does the EU influence the international humanitarian system, but it also asserts its weight and assumes its position on the international scene.

Building on lessons learned from the current period, the VOICE network would like to share with you the following recommendations:

- 1. The next MFF should have a separate and specific budget line for humanitarian aid, to maintain principled, needs based and timely assistance to people in need.**
- 2. The next MFF should provide an increased allocation for humanitarian aid to keep up with increasing needs and global developments, aiming at 2 billion euros per year.**
- 3. The next MFF should ensure funding predictability and flexibility for humanitarian aid, by providing the same level of payment and commitment appropriations for the humanitarian aid budget line, and priority access to the emergency aid reserve.**

Please find attached to this letter, the full [VOICE Position Paper on the post 2020 Multiannual Financial Framework](#).

EU annual budget 2019

While planning for the years from 2021-2027, the EU should also address immediate humanitarian needs. People in need cannot wait. That is why we also take this opportunity to call for an enhanced EU humanitarian aid budget for 2019, to at least 1.5 billion euros. A higher allocation for 2019 would signal a will to shrink the gap between increasing needs and capped resources over the last years. It would also help ensure more realistic planning and secure continuity in operations for the crisis affected people that the EU, through its partners, supports.

VOICE members are committed to saving lives, alleviating suffering and maintaining human dignity during and after man-made crises and natural disasters. And to do so, collectively through the network, they are committed to a constructive dialogue and partnership with the EU. For this reason, we call on the EU to further translate its international commitments, its pledges and fundamental values into appropriate budgetary means for humanitarian aid.

Thanking you in advance for your consideration and standing at your disposal for any further information you may require.

I remain,

Yours sincerely,



Nicolas Borsinger

President of the VOICE network

Cc:

Monique Pariat, Director General ECHO
Nadia Calvino, Director General BUDG
Stefano Manservisi, Director General DEVCO

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