Humanitarian Aid

2020/0110(COD) - 29/05/2020 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to implement recovery and resilience measures within the humanitarian aid field to address the impact of the COVID-19 crisis.

PROPOSED ACT: Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: the European Parliament decides in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure on an equal footing with the Council.

BACKGROUND: the Covid-19 outbreak is having a major impact on societies around the globe, starting with health systems, and moving to severe global social and economic consequences as well as creating and aggravating humanitarian needs.

This exceptional situation represents a major challenge for third countries with weak institutions or facing conflicts or other crises such as natural disasters. Vulnerable groups, including refugees and displaced persons, may be particularly at risk.

A coherent and unified approach at EU level is needed to address the socio-economic and public health challenges and to respond to the immediate humanitarian needs generated or aggravated by the pandemic.

CONTENT: this targeted amendment to Regulation (EC) No 1257/96 concerning humanitarian aid is proposed as part of the revised MFF proposal (2021-2027) including the European Recovery Instrument. This new instrument will provide funds to humanitarian aid, alongside other programmes, for a limited period of time above the ceilings set for commitment and payment appropriations by the MFF.

Objectives

The implementation of the relevant actions under humanitarian aid would aim at helping third countries to overcome the negative effects of the VIDOC-19 pandemic and to promote resilience.

The main changes to the existing legal framework would aim to :

- enable the implementation of the measures laid down in the proposal for a Regulation establishing the European Union Recovery Instrument through the delivery mechanism of Humanitarian Aid;

- allow financing from the EU Recovery Instrument as external assigned revenue, in accordance with the Financial Regulation;

- ensure that the deadlines laid down in the proposal for a Regulation establishing an EU Recovery Instrument are respected.

Budgetary implications

The Union will make available financing for the implementation of the Humanitarian Aid Programme. An amount of EUR 5 468 000 000 (in current prices) will derive from financing from the European Union Recovery Instrument.