Basic information

2000/2016(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Humanitarian aid: assessment and future of Community activities (Regulation (EC) No 1257/96) **Subject** 6.50 Emergency, food, humanitarian aid, aid to refugees, Emergency Aid Reserve	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
DEVE Development and Cooperation	IMBENI Renzo (PSE)	23/02/2000

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security, Defense	BRIE André (GUE/NGL)	25/01/2000
CONT Budgetary Control	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Council of the European Union

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO)	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
26/10/1999	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1999)0468	Summary
21/01/2000	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
27/06/2000	Vote in committee		Summary
27/06/2000	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0191/2000	
04/09/2000	Debate in Parliament		
05/09/2000	Decision by Parliament	T5-0354/2000	Summary

05/09/2000	End of procedure in Parliament		
07/05/2001	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2000/2016(COS)
Procedure type	COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)
Procedure subtype	Commission strategy paper
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 148 Rules of Procedure EP 050
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	DEVE/5/12194

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0191/2000 OJ C 135 07.05.2001, p. 0010	27/06/2000	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0354/2000 OJ C 135 07.05.2001, p. 0035-0072	05/09/2000	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1999)0468	26/10/1999	Summary

Humanitarian aid: assessment and future of Community activities (Regulation (EC) No 1257/96)

2000/2016(COS) - 05/09/2000 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution on the Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on an assessment and future of Community hummanitarian activities. In adopting its resolution, the European Parliament called on the Commission to overcome confusion and uncertainty by unambiguously opting for a strategy for the future of stepping up the humanitarian aid policy entrusted to ECHO. Furthermore, it asked the Commission to submit to it and the Council, a clear strategy on the role that the humanitarian aid supplied by ECHO should play within external and development policies. In adopting the resolution, the European Parliament addressed the following requests to the Commission: - an increase in the administrative and financial capacities necessary for carrying out reorganisation and rehabilitation tasks in post-emergency situations; - the creation of a system for overall coordination of all the donors involved in humanitarian aid at the international level; - that the Commission and the Council give ECHO the function of a coordinating platform for all the Member States' emergency aid services at times of major natural disasters or other serious crises; - that disaster preparedness be integrated into all European development and technical cooperation programmes; - that the Commission take certain steps with regard to the management of ECHO; - that preference should be given to the NGO system and associations of civil society when partners are chosen to carry out humanitarian tasks; - that ECHO maintain a flexible approach; - that the Commission take the appropriate steps to put a stop to the increased politicisation of humanitarian assistance; - that ECHO's strategy for

communicating with the outside be strengthened; - that the Commission and the Member States back the efforts made to ensure that the European Union's presence and influence in international organisations are more representative of its political strength and the extent of its contribution to humanitarian aid.

Humanitarian aid: assessment and future of Community activities (Regulation (EC) No 1257/96)

2000/2016(COS) - 26/10/1999 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE : To present a report on Community humanitarian activities CONTENT : This report is submitted in accordance with the requirements of Article 20 of Regulation 1257/96/EC. Outside consultants were appointed to carry out two evaluations, and in broad terms, the Commission agrees with the findings. This Communication is not a substitute for the reports but rather a reading of their principal conclusions correlated with other sources. The report discusses the main factors behind ECHO's way of working which have been identified as the root of the problems experienced. The Commission comments on these findings and has produced an action plan to address the issues. The reports highlight problems at both managerial and strategic level. In response the Communication discusses a framework for both the policy direction and the management of Community humanitarian activities in the future, in terms of a performance contract between ECHO and its main stakeholders - With regard to stakeholders, the Commission will study the possible introduction of requirements to monitor the attitudes of direct beneficiaries or at least include this aspect in ex-post evaluations. It also intends to establish best practice benchmarks and overall performance targets and report to the Humanitarian Aid Committee on the targets. This latter will continue to be a key forum for policy co-ordination with Member States in the field of humanitarian aid. - ECHO provides assistance exclusively through partners. The Commission will discuss with partners additional ways to improve the joint work, and offer key multilateral agencies such as the UN and Red Cross programmed support for activities of mutual interest. It will reinforce its strategy of assisting the NGO community to build capacity through the recently introduced Grant Facility for Studies, Training and Networks. - The Commission lays out plans for a strategic management plan, with mission statement, clearly defined objectives for all Global Plans, together with measurable indicators. It will document best practice in all major humanitarian donors. It will carry out a review of the Framework Partnership Agreement, and specify the policy applying to funding decisions. Staff will undergo obligatory courses on financial management and project management if they are involved in management contracts. - A longer-term strategy review will take place on intervention in crisis situations. This will include conflict prevention/early warning, disaster preparedness, and operational emergency response. There is also a discussion as to whether the Regulation should be modified.