

Brussels, 10 September 2012

Evaluation of the Action Plan 2008-2013 of the Humanitarian Consensus

Political demands for COHAFA

Following on from research conducted by 8 member organisations of Caritas Europa in 2011 and published in the report; Bridging the Gap between Policy and Practice: The European Consensus on Humanitarian and the Humanitarian Principles, we wish to raise the following points for consideration by COHAFA representatives:

On the evaluation of the Action Plan 2008-2013 of the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid:

Our Advocacy points:

Caritas welcomes the commitment to the evaluation of the Action Plan being independent.

1. Consideration of COHAFA to ask the Commission for consultation/involvement of civil society and humanitarian NGOs at the following stages:

a. each MS should be required/strongly requested to consult with their own national NGOs as part of their own input into the evaluation

b. there should be also EU open consultations with humanitarian NGOs

2. The evaluation Terms of Reference should specifically include an examination of what mechanisms have worked best in enabling Member States to action the Consensus in their humanitarian policies and practices, including whether peer reviews are a useful mechanism, particularly for Member States with smaller humanitarian budgets.

3. The evaluation should also build its conclusions on the Mid-Term Review namely on a more regular monitoring of progress in implementation of the Action plan would improve the further implementation of the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid. Proactive strategic exchange, dialogue and lessons-learning between EU donors and partners to ensure good donorship would link clearly with operational practice. The evaluation should take into consideration good practices of different MS such an own evaluation of theirs Humanitarian Aid strategies.

4. A capacity assessment of each Member State may improve the Division of Labour. If the evaluation analyses the added value of MS in different sectors, the new Action plan could already establish a protocol/guidelines to proceed in different multi-donor scenarios. The capacity assessment may also contribute to the identification of volunteer facilitators and teams of EU Member State representatives, who will commit to pursuing joint action under the Consensus Action Plan,

5. A reference of the Consensus should be made in the national Humanitarian Strategies. In case there is not a Humanitarian Aid strategy, the new action plan should establish a roadmap to conceive one. ECHO should produce guidelines and materials in different languages that would serve at raising awareness about the Consensus and to enhance capacities to develop Humanitarian Aid strategies.

6. The final evaluation should be a public document, readily and immediately available on the EC website. A Communication instead of a Staff Working paper should follow the results.

Council Conclusions on the evaluation should follow the EC Communication, since we would like to request the EEAS to sign the EU Consensus on Humanitarian Aid.

7. The evaluation should be conducted in a timely manner, in order to ensure the timely development of the next stage post-2013 action plan, and to support MS improve their adherence to commitments within the Consensus. This means the evaluation ToRs should ensure completion by March 2013 at the latest to allow for elaboration of the next tool.

8. We strongly feel that as far as possible there should not be a time gap between the end of the current Action Plan in September 2013 and whatever comes next as its successor.

For more information, please contact:

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