

EU's humanitarian action: Council adopts conclusions



Today the Council adopted conclusions welcoming the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the “**EU's humanitarian action: new challenges, same principles**”.

In its conclusions the Council expresses serious concern at the **unprecedented scale of humanitarian needs**, the shrinking of humanitarian space and the **growing funding gap**.

It therefore stresses the importance of putting respect for and compliance with **international humanitarian law** consistently at the heart of the EU's external action, as well as ensuring the protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure, supporting and promoting principled humanitarian action and safeguarding humanitarian space.

The Council underlines the urgent need to enhance global efforts to significantly increase the resource base for humanitarian action, as well as the importance of **delivering humanitarian aid more efficiently with available resources**.

The Council conclusions highlight the essential **coordinating role of the United Nations** in responding to humanitarian crises, and the need to step up support for local and national actors, recognising their knowledge and experience as frontline responders that are in place before, during and after emergencies.

For this reason, the Council welcomes the Commission's intention to organise a **European Humanitarian Forum** to promote a high level, strategic discussion on humanitarian issues, and sustained dialogue with its key partners from the UN system, international organisations, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, civil society and other donors.

Finally, the Council affirms the need for a more consistent and effective implementation and operationalisation of the **humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach**. It underlines that the different actors involved must work in a coordinated way, while fully respecting humanitarian principles in the provision of humanitarian assistance and in full compliance with their respective mandates and objectives.

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