



Council of the  
European Union

Brussels, 18 July 2022  
(OR. en)

11413/22

COHAFA 74  
DEVGEN 154  
PROCIV 101  
CSDP/PSDC 481  
COEST 568  
COJUR 26  
GENDER 133  
FIN 812  
ENV 756  
CLIMA 373  
RELEX 1028

**NOTE**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Delegations

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Subject: Indicative work programme of the Czech Presidency for the Working Party  
on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid (COHAFA)  
- Second semester of 2022

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On behalf of the Presidency, delegations will find in annex the indicative work programme of the Czech Presidency for the Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid (COHAFA) for the second semester of 2022.

**INDICATIVE WORK PROGRAMME OF THE CZECH PRESIDENCY**  
**FOR THE COHAFA WORKING PARTY**

**SECOND HALF OF 2022**

This indicative work programme is rooted in the trio programme, the communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on ‘the EU’s humanitarian action: new challenges, same principles’, and the related Council conclusions from May 2021. It also follows up on the first European Humanitarian Forum and takes into account current crises, including the Russian military aggression against Ukraine and its impact on the fragility of partner countries and food security.

**TRIO PROGRAMME (SUMMARY)**

We will support the implementation of the Council conclusions<sup>1</sup> on the Commission’s communication on ‘the EU’s humanitarian action: new challenges, same principles’<sup>2</sup> and will strive to ensure follow-up on the communication and Council conclusions through a progress report, to be drawn up and published on an annual basis.

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<sup>1</sup> Brussels, 20 May 2021, 8966/21 (OR. en).

<sup>2</sup> Brussels, 10.3.2021, COM(2021) 110 final.

## **CZECH PRESIDENCY CROSS-CUTTING PRIORITIES**

### **1. Disaster risk reduction (DRR)**

This will be a cross-cutting theme for both humanitarian assistance (COHAFA) and development cooperation (CODEV-PI), in the field of natural and human-induced disasters and across the crisis management cycle, thus covering prevention, preparedness, response (including anticipatory action), and recovery and stabilisation. Coordination with the Civil Protection Working Party (PROCIV) is planned. The Czech Presidency will focus on supporting the implementation of the Sendai Framework (in particular as regards international cooperation), especially in the context of fragility and climate. With respect to the war in Ukraine, the Presidency intends to focus also on the cascading effects of the conflict on the fragility of partner countries. OECD/DCD experts will present their study on DRR and resilience in the context of fragility and human security. UNDRR will follow up on the Global Platform for DRR (May 2022).

COHAFA will contribute to Council conclusions on DRR, which will be prepared by the CODEV-PI Working Party.

### **2. Triple nexus: coherence of humanitarian, development and peace actions**

The Czech Presidency will focus on the results of and lessons learnt from nexus implementation in the six EU pilot countries. In addition, and as part of the effort to scale up nexus implementation across all crises-affected and fragile countries, the Presidency will also look at nexus opportunities in other contexts, such as the Sahel, and how relevant Team Europe Initiatives (TEIs) could be used to promote nexus implementation as a collective EU effort. The COHAFA Working Party will also focus on the food security aspects of the triple nexus, with a presentation of the state of play regarding the Coalition on Conflict and Hunger (launched at the Food Systems Summit 2021) and preparation of a CODEV-PI and COHAFA (1 person per MS) field trip to Sudan in cooperation with the World Food Programme.

### **3. War in Ukraine: humanitarian response and cascading effects on the fragility of partner countries**

The Presidency will promote continuing regular coordination of humanitarian+ stakeholders, focusing on humanitarian response and stabilisation. It will also focus on the cascading effects of the war in Ukraine on the fragility of partner countries, including in terms of food security. Attention should also be paid to strategic communication and countering the Russian narrative connecting the food crisis with sanctions.

## **THEMATIC PRIORITIES**

### **1. Promotion of IHL**

Following the work of the previous trio and the French Presidency, as well as the high-level discussions at the European Humanitarian Forum, the Czech Presidency will ensure that international humanitarian law (IHL) remains at the heart of COHAFA's and COJUR's work and their respective mandates. COHAFA will start a discussion on humanitarian diplomacy, focusing on the protection of humanitarian workers, protection of healthcare from attacks<sup>3</sup>, humanitarian access and preservation of humanitarian space in particular humanitarian contexts, with the possible formulation of common messages and guidance on conducting humanitarian diplomacy in such settings or on specific issues (e.g. access to water), including prevention and anticipatory action. COHAFA will continue working on the unintended negative impact of sanctions on humanitarian assistance and ways to address it, including the promotion of dialogue amongst stakeholders (humanitarian operators, banking sector and states/donors).

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<sup>3</sup> The recent release of the 2022 report by the Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition (supported by the EU) could provide a good opportunity for a presentation by and discussion with Insecurity Insight around the protection of healthcare in armed conflicts.

## **2. Gender equality approach**

In line with the joint trio programme, in COHAFA the Czech Presidency will continue discussions on gender mainstreaming in response to humanitarian crises. We will pay special attention to a rights-based approach, in particular the fight against gender-based violence and sexual violence, to promotion of sexual and reproductive health and rights and to ensuring access to health services in times of crisis and conflict. The discussions will focus also on the empowerment of women in humanitarian response, particularly in the context of boosting the localisation agenda.

## **3. Localisation**

Ahead of the preparation of EC guidelines on localisation and building on the discussion at the first European Humanitarian Forum, the Czech Presidency will organise an exchange on how to best advance the localisation agenda and address the main challenges faced by local humanitarian actors.

## **4. Operationalisation of humanitarian aid**

The Czech Presidency will focus the discussion on maximising inclusive, effective and efficient humanitarian assistance, including through further development of a European Humanitarian Response Capacity (EHRC) and its cooperation with Member-State-funded humanitarian activities.

## **5. Responding to the growing gap between humanitarian needs and available funding**

Following the EC's communication on humanitarian action, the Council conclusions underline '*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*'. Therefore, the Czech Presidency will focus on strengthening support for innovative approaches to funding and better involvement of the private sector in responding to humanitarian crises, as well as cooperation with new donors. At the same time, it will emphasise ongoing intra-EU coordination to identify gaps and overlaps as well as 'reduction of needs' options (including timely prevention, mediation, diplomatic activity, the triple nexus approach, disaster preparedness, DRR and resilience building, and localisation). An update on EU and Member State humanitarian funding is also planned.

## **6. Strengthening the environmental and climate dimension of humanitarian response**

In view of the growing impact of the climate and environmental crises on humanitarian assistance, donors and partners must continue to develop a humanitarian response that is accountable for its climate and environmental footprint and act ahead of crises by accelerating the mainstreaming of anticipatory humanitarian action and by integrating preparedness and resilience building into their priorities and approaches, in line with the communication on humanitarian action and the Council conclusions. In line also with the joint work programme of the trio Presidency and following the European Humanitarian Forum, the Czech Presidency will also focus on the follow-up to the Humanitarian Aid Donors' Declaration on Climate and Environment and to the Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organisations. In this context, disaster- and climate-related displacement will also be discussed, with an update on the EU's term as chair of the Platform on Disaster Displacement, starting on 1 July 2022.

## **7. Current/new humanitarian crises**

COHAFA will regularly exchange views on responses to specific crises, where possible in relation with cross-cutting policy issues.

## **WORKING METHODS**

We expect four or five meetings of the COHAFA Working Party, with roughly one meeting a month, following the conventional format, i.e. two-day meetings, with a session in the afternoon and one the next morning.

COHAFA will participate in the preparation of the Council conclusions on DRR, to be adopted at the FAC (Development) meeting on 28 November 2022. The Czech Presidency seeks synergies for DRR between the humanitarian and development dimensions, following the humanitarian-development(-peace) nexus. Therefore, the aim is to prepare Council conclusions with contributions from both COHAFA and CODEV (coordination with the Civil Protection Working Party (PROCIV) is also expected). The Council conclusions will focus in particular on governance in DRR and therefore CODEV-PI will be responsible for their preparation, with contributions from COHAFA. Member States will be asked to coordinate internally in respect of their national architectures for the development and humanitarian agenda.

### **COHAFA INDICATIVE CALENDAR JULY-DECEMBER 2022**

	<b>DATE</b>	<b>TOPICS</b>
<b>July</b>	<b>12-13</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– CZ PRES presentation</li> <li>– Fragility framework (with OECD/DCD)</li> <li>– Attaché trip preparations</li> <li>– Current crises</li> <li>– poss. IHL report (in cooperation with COJUR)</li> <li>– Humanitarian diplomacy</li> </ul>

<b>September</b>	<b>21-22</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Attaché trip follow-up</li> <li>– TEIs - humanitarian contribution</li> <li>– Current crises (with focus on climate and fragility)</li> <li>– FSS HDP nexus Coalition on Conflict and Hunger</li> <li>– DRR – presentations, exchange of views, poss. Council conclusions presentation + written comments)</li> <li>– Cascading effects of war in Ukraine and its humanitarian consequences (particularly food security)</li> </ul>
<b>October</b>	<b>18-19</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– CC DRR - written comments</li> <li>– Quality financing (grand bargain, humanitarian intentions)</li> <li>– +CIVCOM/PMG nexus (instruments)</li> <li>– Current crises (with focus on localisation and gender)</li> <li>– EC guidelines presentation on localisation</li> <li>– Private sector and humanitarian assistance</li> </ul>
<b>November</b>	<b>15-16</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Nexus beyond EU pilot</li> <li>– Digitalisation in humanitarian assistance</li> <li>– Eco-footprint of humanitarian assistance (Donor Declaration and Climate and Environment Charterdonor)</li> <li>– Field trip preparation (Sudan)</li> </ul>

<b>December</b>	13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Field trip follow-up</li> <li>– Forced displacement</li> <li>– EHCR state of play overview</li> <li>– Handover SE PRES</li> </ul>
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**IMPORTANT DATES:**

- **Joint informal CODEV-PI and COHAFA meeting in Prague:** 14 and 15 September 2022:  
DRR and fragility (a joint topic)
- *poss. Field Trip (CODEV-PI + COHAFA) to Sudan* in cooperation with UN WFP,  
focusing on triple nexus; indicatively 6-10 December 2022

**INDICATIVE CALENDAR OF HUMANITARIAN EVENTS:**

	<b>DATE</b>	<b>EVENT</b>
<b>July</b>	<b>05-15</b>	High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) 2022: Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, New York.
<b>August-September</b>	<b>23-01</b>	SIWI: World Water Week 2022 - "Seeing the unseen: The value of water"
<b>September</b>	<b>6-9</b>	UNICEF Executive Board
<b>September</b>	<b>13-27</b>	UN General Assembly (Side event on fragility with OECD/DCD and WFP on 19 September)
<b>September</b>	<b>19-20</b>	UNHCR Standing Committee
<b>October</b>	<b>10-14</b>	UNHCR Executive Committee
<b>October</b>	<b>13-14</b>	Rome Summit on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support
<b>November</b>	<b>14-18</b>	WFP Executive Board
<b>December</b>	<b>06-08</b>	UN-Water Summit on Groundwater
<b>December</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> week</b>	Global Humanitarian Overview launch (Humanitarian week in NY)

**CZECH PRESIDENCY COHAFA TEAM:**

**CZ MFA:**

Petr Gandalovič (chair)

Hana Volná (CZ PRES HQ)

**CZ PERM REP TEAM:**

Eva Tenzin (deputy chair)

Kristina Hrbková (CZ PRES)

Roman Diatka (chair of CODEV-PI)

Helena Guarín-Corredor (SNE)

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