

# PROVISIONS

## Title I

### Legal base and purpose of the Framework Partnership Agreement

#### **Article 1 – Legal base of the Framework Partnership Agreement**

The European Commission Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) with Humanitarian Organisations for the financing of humanitarian aid operations is based on article 16.2 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/96 concerning humanitarian aid<sup>1</sup> (hereafter RHA). It follows the objectives and complies with the requirements of article 163 of Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget<sup>2</sup>, (hereafter IRFR).

#### **Article 2 – Purpose of the Framework Partnership Agreement**

- 2.1. The purpose of the FPA is to define the common principles of humanitarian aid operations financed by the European Community implemented by non-governmental organisations and the nature of the relation established between the Commission and signatory non-governmental organisations.
- 2.2. In accordance with the provisions of the RHA and the IRFR, the FPA establishes the procedures and rules that govern the execution of humanitarian aid operations. Equally, it sets up the criteria applied by the Humanitarian Aid Office of the European Commission (ECHO) for the selection of its partners and for awarding grants.

#### **Article 3 - Objectives of the Framework Partnership Agreement**

- 3.1 The FPA aims at establishing a long-term co-operation relationship between the Humanitarian Aid Office of the European Commission and the non-governmental organisations signatories of the FPA, in order to ensure that humanitarian aid is delivered to the beneficiaries in the most relevant, rapid, efficient and effective manner.

---

<sup>1</sup>Council Regulation (EC) 1257/96 of 20 June 1996 concerning humanitarian aid, published in the OJ L 163 of 2 July 1996.

<sup>2</sup>Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 of 23 December 2002 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget, published in the OJ L 357 of 31 December 2002.

### 3.2 The main objectives of the FPA are:

a) To optimise the implementation and the results of humanitarian aid operations. Humanitarian aid operations shall be implemented in accordance with the principles of economy, efficiency and effectiveness. Specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and timed objectives shall be set out for all operations. Performance indicators shall monitor the achievement of those objectives.

b) To promote the concept of quality partnership. The signature of the FPA is based on a selection procedure and on a commitment to improve the delivery of aid. The Commission will support capacity building initiatives and other activities that aim to improve the quality of its partners.

c) To simplify the procedures and clarify the rules that govern the relations between the Commission and its partners. The FPA implements the specific provisions for humanitarian aid included both in the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities<sup>3</sup> (hereafter FR) and the IRFR.

## **Article 4 - Principles of the Partnership**

4.1 Partnership is based on trust and mutual respect between Partners. Signatory parties undertake to promote and consolidate their relationship and their co-operation by ensuring that each one knows and respects the mandate, charters or statutes of the other and by recognising the specificity of each other's contribution to the humanitarian action.

4.2 Ownership of the humanitarian aid operation is vested in the Humanitarian Organisation beneficiary of the Community contribution. It implements the operations funded by the European Community, preserving its freedom and independence, assuming its responsibilities.

## **Article 5 - Implementation of Partnership**

5.1 Partners undertake to develop jointly a *quality partnership* based on:

a) transparency and accountability towards the stakeholders. To this end, and as a complement to legal and statutory provisions, Partners will support and adhere to voluntary codes of good practices or charters;

b) the formulation of strategies and the development of initiatives for humanitarian operations so as to make the humanitarian aid financed by the European Community more effective;

---

<sup>3</sup> Council Regulation (EC,Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities, published in the OJ L 248 of 16 September, 2002.

c) the provision of fair working conditions of humanitarian workers, volunteers or salaried, with special attention to their safety in the field and, to the extent possible, to their professional development;

d) the promotion of a learning culture based on the evaluation of humanitarian operations and in sharing and disseminating lessons learnt and best practices.

5.2 Signatory non-governmental humanitarian organisations commit to highlight the Community nature of the aid and to promote the understanding of humanitarian values, in particular in Europe and in third countries where the Community funds major humanitarian operations. In information, visibility and advertising activities, victims shall be presented as dignified human beings and not as objects of pity.

5.3 In compliance with the spirit of partnership, Partners commit themselves to a regular exchange of information both on a bilateral and on a collective basis.

ECHO shall be invited to participate in meetings for the exchange of information and co-ordination, organised at the initiative of signatory humanitarian organisations.

ECHO will maintain a regular strategy programming dialogue with the signatory organisations, both at field and at headquarters level, involving them in the identification of priorities.

5.4 Once a year ECHO will organise a Partners' conference to debate issues of mutual interest.

5.5 ECHO and a representation mandated by the signatories of the Framework Partnership Agreement agree to meet once a year to monitor the implementation of the FPA.

## Title II

Selection procedure and annual assessment of Partners; suspension and loss of the condition of Partner

### **Article 6 - Eligibility of non-governmental humanitarian organisations to the signature of the Framework Partnership Agreement**

6.1. The signature of the FPA is open to all humanitarian non-governmental organisations which adhere to the values, principles and objectives herein, after verification of their compliance with the eligibility and suitability criteria following the selection procedure enunciated in this Title.

6.2. The period for presenting application starts with the adoption of the FPA and remains open until six months before its expiry date in accordance with the provisions of article 25 hereof.

### **Article 7 - Eligibility criteria and exclusion situations**