Statement by

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EU assistance in the Wake of the Kashmir Earthquake

October 27th 2005

Congressional Human Rights Caucus

The European Commission's Response

- The needs arising from the earthquake in Pakistan and India continue to increase as assessments are ongoing. To date there are estimated to be more than 70,000 injured, over 2.5 million homeless, and deaths estimated at up to 100,000.

- Within two days of the earthquake the European Commission Humanitarian Directorate-General (ECHO) had allocated € 3.6 million and despatched a team of humanitarian experts to Pakistan to reinforce our office there.

- Within a week of the earthquake, and advised by reports from field team, ECHO has allocated a further 10 M€

- On Monday 24th October Commissioner Michel announced a further € 30 million for relief, with an additional € 50 million for reconstruction.. The **total European Commission contribution** is thus now € 93.6 million, or **$ 112 million**.

The EC Humanitarian Aid Effort

- Similarly to the US DART team approach, the European Commission does not respond to appeals, but to concrete proposals, guided by our field teams on what are the priority needs and which agencies are most effective.

- ECHO field teams are coordinating closely with national authorities, aid agencies (especially UNDAC/OCHA), European Union Member States, and other major donors such as USA.

- European Commission humanitarian aid is neutral and non-partisan.

- We are focusing on health (especially first aid), shelter/NFIs, logistics and water and sanitation. ECHO funded assistance already underway includes a field hospital, and 3 helicopters with 8 more foreseen.

- Shelter is a main concern. Given the shortage of tents, we are working with partners on packages of tools and key materials to distribute for the construction of temporary shelters in situ.

- Following field feedback, we are concerned at the limited extent of aid agencies really operational in the field, especially away from the main centres.

- In addition we are concerned at the weak or non-existent coordination in the field at key disaster affected areas such as Balakot and Batagram.

- While scale of the disaster and the logistics challenges are huge, especially with the race against winter, we feel it is not a lack of funding that is constraining the response.

EC Reconstruction Assistance

- On reconstruction, we plan to provide € 50 million during 2005/06, subject to approval by the budgetary authority (Parliament and Council). We expect that most of these funds (€ 30 million) will already be committed before the end of this year so that activities on the ground can commence swiftly in 2006. We want to ensure the effective link between relief and rehabilitation.

- We appreciate a reconstruction damage needs assessment mission carried out under joint leadership of World Bank and Asian Development Bank has already been on the ground since 24 October. The European Commission is participating in this assessment. We expect to get a report by mid-November which will be of great help to define priorities. Coordination between government and donors as well as among donors themselves is essential so that we can be as effective as possible.

- We are prepared not only to help during the initial relief and rehabilitation phase but, if necessary, also in the years to come. The Commission will discuss with the Government of Pakistan to what extent our future programming should take rehabilitation of the quake affected regions into consideration

Annexes:

Press release 24th October
Key figures on ECHO Humanitarian Assistance
Information on ECHO partners (in French)

IP/05/1332

Brussels, 24 October 2005

Pakistan earthquake: Commission proposes €93.6 million aid package

The European Commission is proposing that an additional amount of at least €80 million be made available to address the immediate needs of survivors of the earthquake in Pakistan on 8th October (€30 million), and to contribute to the costs of rehabilitation and reconstruction (€50 million). This is in addition to the €13.6 million emergency humanitarian aid already released, bringing the total proposed for 2005/6 to €93.6 million ($111.7 million). The very substantial sum proposed underlines the European Commission's commitment to Pakistan and to its people. The Commission has approached the budgetary authority (Council of Ministers and European Parliament) with this proposal, and has called for an early response to this proposal so that the EU can continue to act swiftly to help those still suffering the terrible effects of the earthquake.

Commissioner for External Relations Benita Ferrero-Waldner said: *"With millions now homeless, and practically all infrastructure destroyed, the challenge of reconstructing lives and livelihoods in the aftermath of this terrible natural disaster will be with us for many years. Pakistan can count on Europe as a friend and reliable partner not only in this moment of crisis, but also in the long years of hard work to come".*

European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid Louis Michel declared: *"We are facing an enormous humanitarian catastrophe and with winter just around the corner, a second humanitarian disaster looms for the four million people without a roof over their heads and the 70,000 injured people needing medical attention. For all humanitarian organisations, it is a race against the clock. Aid funding must be significantly increased to speed up the purchase and delivery of tents, blankets and other assistance as well to boost the transport capacity of humanitarian agencies."*

Humanitarian Aid

As the humanitarian funds available to the Commission for 2005 have been exhausted, the Commission is seeking to draw down an extra €30 million from the emergency reserve of the European Union budget. This requires the approval of the budgetary authority. The Commission hopes and expects that the Parliament and Council will recognise the urgency of the situation and move as quickly as possible to unblock these additional funds to provide humanitarian assistance for hundreds of thousands of earthquake victims in Pakistan. As the humanitarian needs will continue to exist over the next months, further humanitarian funds may be required in due course.

The funds, to be channelled through the Commission's humanitarian partners (NGOs, Red Cross/Crescent and UN agencies) will be used to meet a wide range of humanitarian needs including shelter, medical support, medicines, household items, hygiene kits, water supplies and sanitation.

Humanitarian Aid

Important legal notice

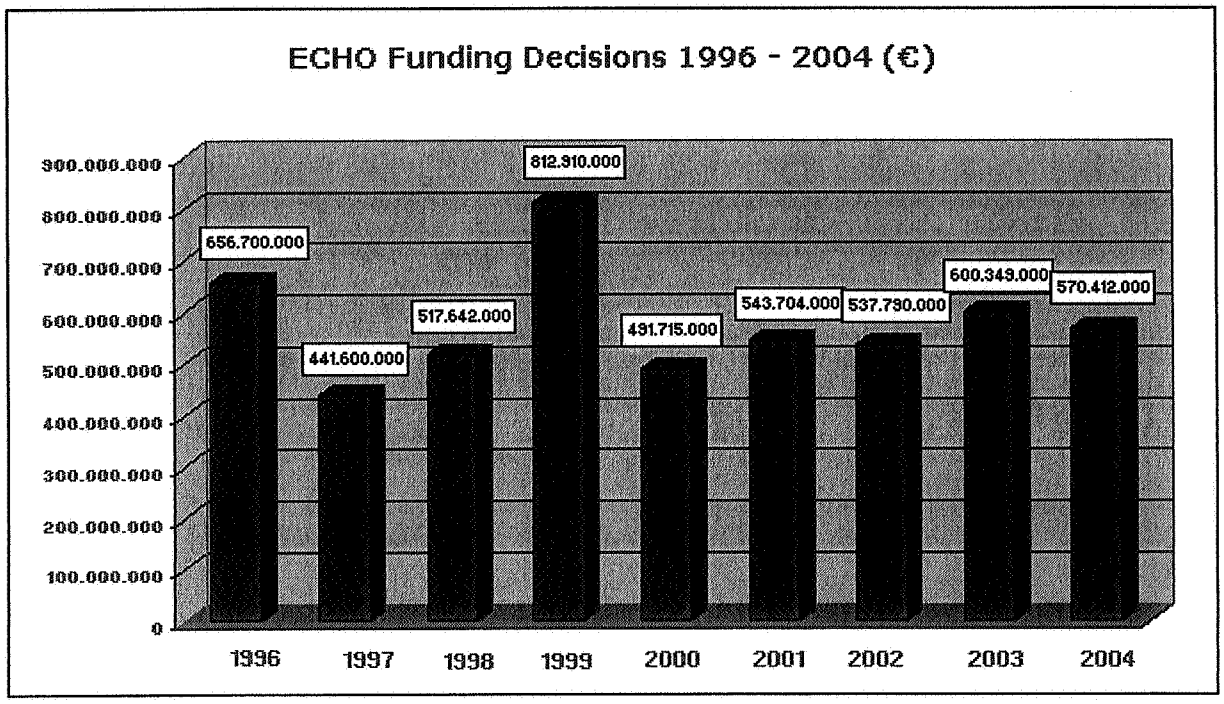
Key figures on ECHO Humanitarian Assistance

This section provides statistics on ECHO's contribution to assist the victims of humanitarian disasters worldwide. They are based on ECHO's financial management database HOPE (Humanitarian Office Programme Environment), in operation since 1996.

More details are available from the tables below.

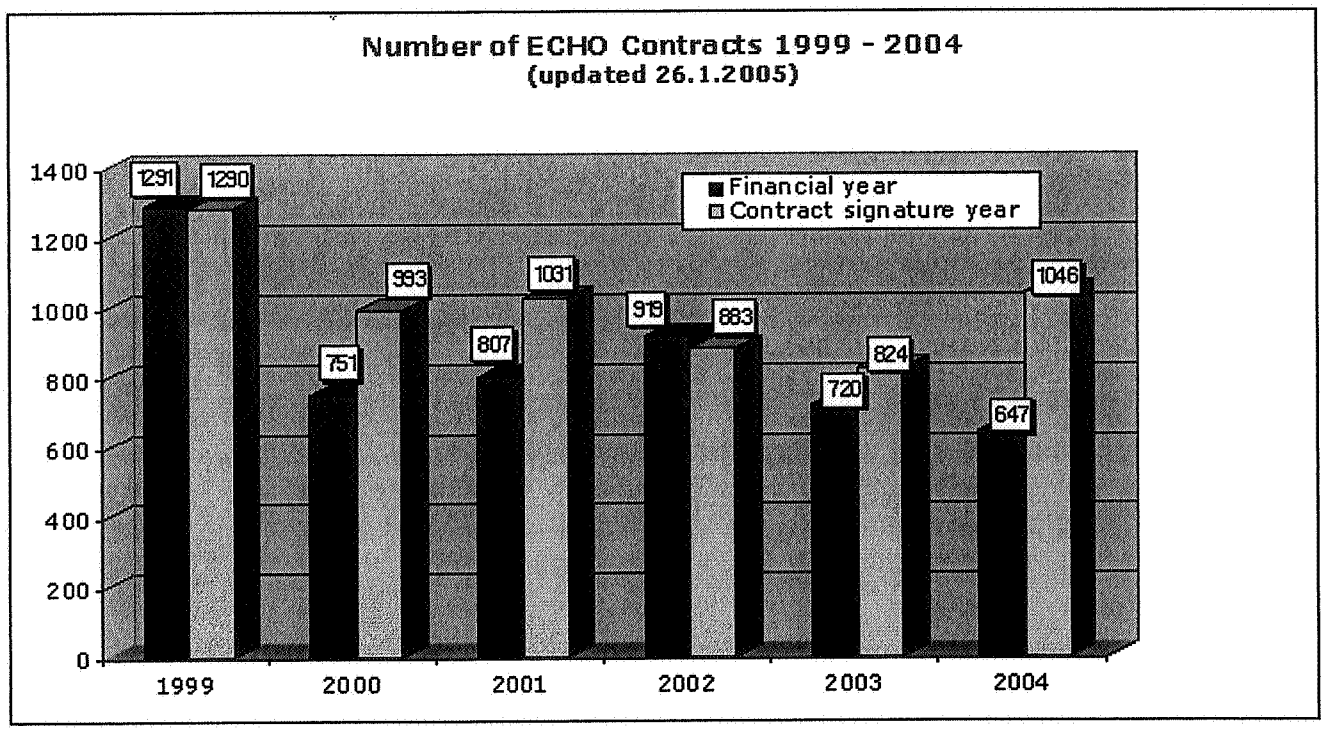
1. ECHO funding Decisions 1996 – 2004
2. Number of ECHO Contracts 1999 – 2004
3. Funding Decisions for Humanitarian Aid by Region 2000 – 2004
4. Distribution of ECHO funding by Groups of Partners 2001 – 2004
5. ECHOs 20 main partners 2002 – 2003
6. Funding decisions for Humanitarian aid by recipient countries/region 2003
7. ECHO funding by disasters 1998 - 2004

ECHO Funding Decisions 1996 – 2004



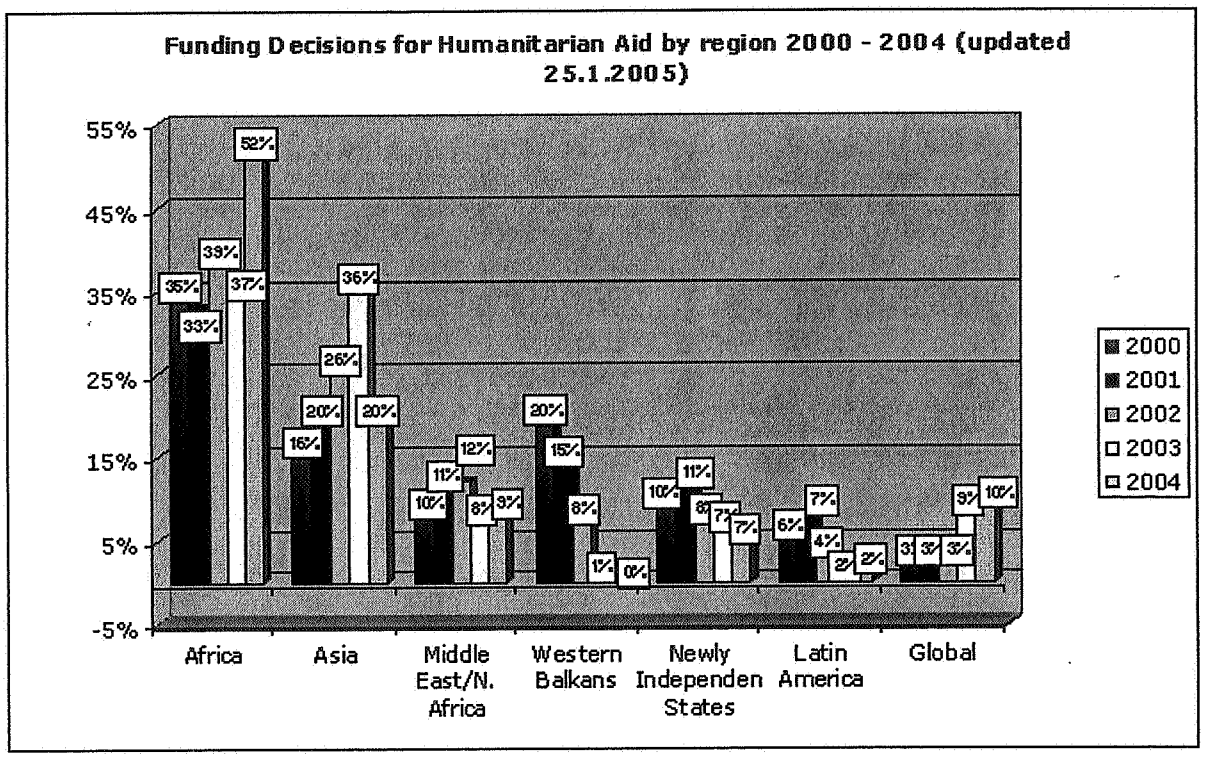
Number of ECHO Contracts 1999-2004

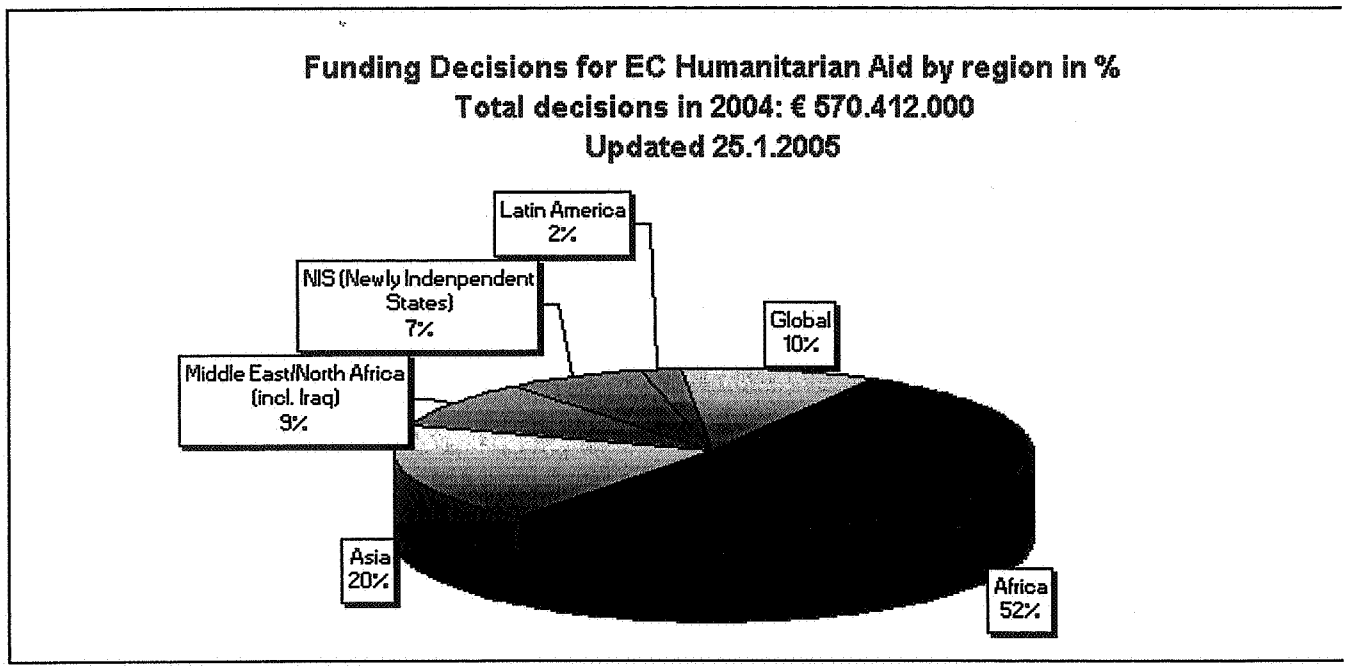
This table shows the number of ECHOs contracts by signature and financial year. The table refers to finalised contracts (that is; when partners have signed). The figures will change continuously during 2004 as more contracts are finalised.



Funding Decisions for Humanitarian Aid by Region 2000 – 2004

These tables show funding decisions by region. The increase under "Global" is due to a new strategy of thematic fundings being introduced in 2003. There were four such decisions: for United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) (protection/security), United Nations Children Funds (UNICEF) (children), United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) (information/co-ordination) and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) (protection to victims in armed conflicts).

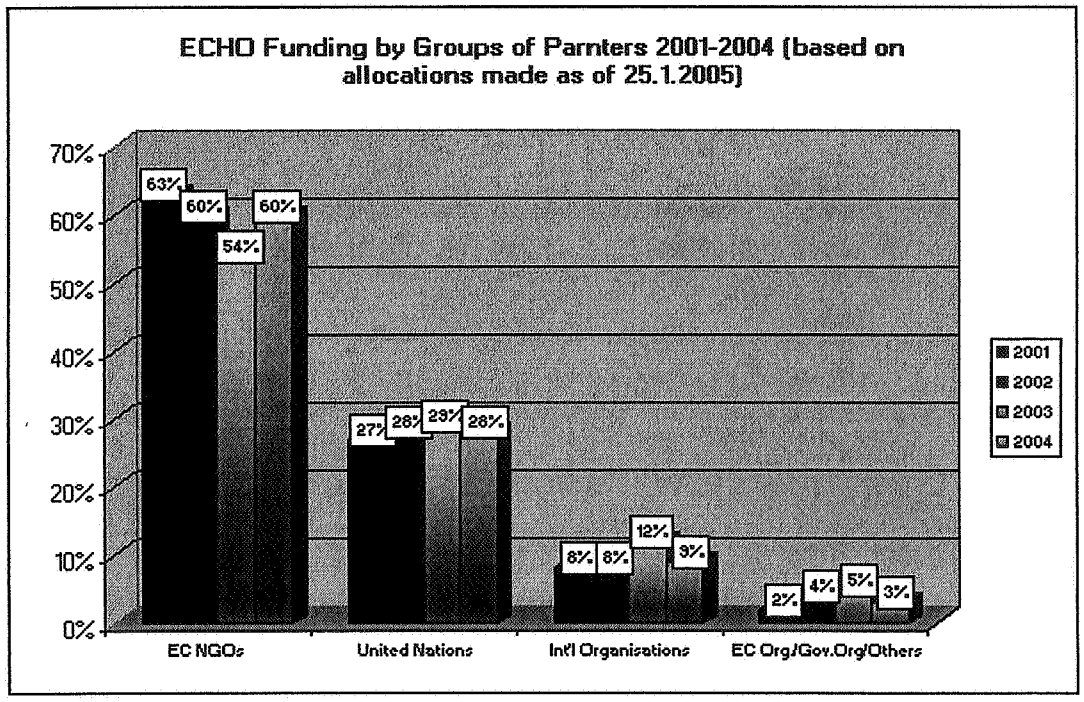




Distribution of ECHO Funding by Groups of Partners 2001 – 2004

This table shows funding decisions by Groups of Partners. It is based on finalised contracts and contracts in the process of being finalised.

International Organisations include: International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC), International Organisation for Migration (IOM).



For information purposes, the 2002 and 2003 statistics are still available on this website.

Important legal notice

Humanitarian Aid

ECHO funding by disasters 1998 - 2004

(as of 10.10.2004)

Operational decisions

	1998	%	1999	%	2000	%	2001	%	2002	%	2
Conflict	398.448.000	81,07%	702.863.000	89,35%	380.420.000	81,56%	412.554.668	79,64%	401.925.000	79,76%	510.292
Cyclone/hurricane /tropical storm	26.705.000	5,43%	23.600.000	3,00%	7.170.000	1,54%	20.590.000	3,97%	5.130.000	1,02%	6.000
Drought	26.190.000	5,33%	0	0,00%	33.085.000	7,09%	35.367.000	6,83%	69.179.000	13,73%	16.000
Earthquake	4.295.000	0,87%	34.150.000	4,34%	2.000.000	0,43%	26.150.000	5,05%	3.078.000	0,61%	4.300
Epidemic	6.715.000	1,37%	4.890.000	0,62%	9.675.000	2,07%	4.100.000	0,79%	3.170.000	0,63%	15.445
Flood	21.137.000	4,30%	12.759.000	1,62%	26.585.000	5,70%	11.131.800	2,15%	7.960.000	1,58%	7.990
Volcano	0	0,00%	790.000	0,10%	0	0,00%	160.000	0,03%	5.448.000	1,08%	
Dipecho	7.975.000	1,62%	7.570.000	0,96%	7.500.000	1,61%	8.000.000	1,54%	8.000.000	1,59%	12.000
	491.465.000		786.622.000		466.435.000		518.053.468		503.890.000		572.027.

Total: all decisions including administrative and technical decisions

Man-made disasters	398.448.000	76,97%	702.863.000	86,80%	380.420.000	77,37%	412.554.668	75,85%	401.925.000	74,79%	510.292
Natural disasters	93.017.000	17,97%	83.759.000	10,34%	86.015.000	17,49%	105.498.800	19,40%	101.965.000	18,97%	61.735
Other	26.192.060	5,06%	23.092.998	2,85%	25.280.000	5,14%	25.850.000	4,75%	33.480.000	6,23%	24.996
Total	517.657.060		809.714.998		491.715.000		543.903.468		537.370.000		597.023.

More statistics on humanitarian assistance financed by ECHO are also available on this website.

INFOS sur partenaires ECHO

- **Partenaires de la décision « première urgence » (3 million Euro):** FICR, Actionaid, Safe the Children - UK, Oxfam et Telecom Sans Frontières → 2 million Euro déjà payé aux partenaires

- **Partenaires potentiels pour la décision d'urgence de 10 million Euro:** Actionaid, Aga Khan Foundation, CARE – UK, CROIX-ROUGE - CICR- ICRC – CH, CROIX-ROUGE – DEU, CROIX-ROUGE – DNK, CROIX-ROUGE – ESP, -ROUGE – FIN, CROIX-ROUGE – FRA, HANDICAP (FR), IRC – UK, MEDAIR UK, Norwegian Refugee Council, OXFAM – UK, Save the Children – UK.

- **Intervention OTAN** : Voté le 21/10/2005. OTAN va envoyer un contingent de 1000 personnes sur le terrain, entre autres :
    1. Un bataillon pour débarrasser/refaire les routes
    2. 1 unité santé mobile
    3. 1 « unité de contrôle » (coordination)
    4. 1 water purification plant