

Brussels, 16 MAI 2019
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Ms Ana Gomes
Mr Javier Nart
Ms Patricia Lalonde
Mr Janusz Lewandowski
Ms Barbara Lochbihler
Mr José Inácio Faria
Members of the European Parliament
Brussels

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to thank you for your letter in which you raise your concerns about the situation in Iran following the devastating floods that have affected the country in the context of the US sanctions.

I am pleased to inform you that of the 1.2 million € humanitarian assistance mobilised, 200,000 € have already been disbursed to replenish the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) and the remaining 1 million € has been contracted out to ECHO's humanitarian partners with access and operational presence on the ground. In addition, on 8 April the European Civil Protection Mechanism (EUCPM) was activated following a request for assistance from the Iranian authorities, for health, water and sanitation, shelter, non-food items, rescue equipment and tools. This has provided an opportunity for Member States to deliver a common response and assistance to the Iranian population. So far, five Member States have channelled support via this mechanism; This assistance has already arrived in the country and the distribution to the people most affected by the floods has already started. An ECHO Liaison officer was deployed to Tehran on 24 April to facilitate the contacts with the local emergency management authorities. Additionally, on 9 April the Copernicus Emergency Mapping Service was activated for the affected areas to support the rescue operations and more than 14 satellite maps have been produced so far. The European Commission's Joint Research Centre also supplied a simulation report covering dam release, in preparation for a worst case scenario. Also the Romanian Presidency launched an Integrated Political Crisis Response (IPCR) monitoring page to follow the situation closely from the side of the Council.

The EU assistance provided so far has been highly welcomed by the Iranian authorities and custom procedures have been facilitated to ensure speedy delivery. Despite considerable national and international efforts, the needs remain critical. Concerns are increasing over water and vector borne diseases, including malaria and cholera. WHO has airlifted lifesaving medical supplies and will continue urgent health support. Additional in-kind assistance is needed to replenish the emergency stocks already depleted and allow the response to continue, as regular procurement channels cannot be utilised by partners and in-country rescue equipment is insufficient and out of date, due to the sanctions. The list of required items distributed to participatory States through the EUCPM stands valid. Furthermore, the IFRC announced an emergency appeal of CHF 5.1 million that represents an

efficient way to provide monetary aid, as funding is directly channelled through the Iranian Red Crescent, a primer respondent to the crisis. EUMS are encouraged to continue to support the emergency response both through in-kind assistance through the EUCPM and through the IFRC's appeal.

As regards the Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges (INSTEX) this mechanism has been registered in January with France, Germany and United Kingdom as initial shareholders. The operationalisation of INSTEX is progressing with these three member states in the lead and with the Commission and the EEAS providing appropriate support. The current state of play does not allow for providing financial support to victims of the floods.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'F. Mogherini', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Federica Mogherini