



**COUNCIL OF
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Subject : The process towards an EU Consensus on Humanitarian Aid
- Conclusions of the Council and of the Representatives of the Governments of
the Member States meeting within the Council

At its meeting on 18 June 2007, the General Affairs and External Relations Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council, adopted the Conclusions set out in the Annex to this note.

**CONCLUSIONS OF THE COUNCIL AND OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
GOVERNMENTS OF THE MEMBER STATES MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL**

on

THE PROCESS TOWARDS AN EU CONSENSUS ON HUMANITARIAN AID

1. The Council highlights the importance of discussing Humanitarian Aid within the competent bodies of the Council and takes positive note of the preparatory work done by the Presidency and the European Commission towards reaching an EU Consensus on Humanitarian Aid.
2. The increasing frequency and intensity of natural disasters as well as the changing nature of conflicts and very significant changes in the international humanitarian environment necessitate a consolidated reaction of the European Union, collectively the largest provider of international humanitarian aid.
3. Taking into account the central coordinating role of the United Nations and the good progress made in reforms of the international humanitarian system, the initiative for an EU consensus on humanitarian aid is also essential in order to underline the need to ensure respect of International Humanitarian Law ¹ and to promote Good Humanitarian Donorship.
4. The consultation organized by the European Commission in close cooperation with the Presidency in December 2006 confirms that Member States, the European Commission, the United Nations family, the Red Cross/Red Crescent movement and non governmental organizations share a large number of major concerns. The fundamental principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence are strongly supported by all humanitarian stakeholders.
5. Recognizing the importance of this initiative, the Council encourages all parties to pursue the work with a view to reach an agreement on an EU Consensus on Humanitarian Aid as soon as possible.

¹ See European Union Guidelines on promoting compliance with international humanitarian law (IHL), OJ C 327 of 23.12.2005, p. 4.