

Proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion of an exchange of letters between the European Community and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) concerning additional funding in 2001 under the current EC-UNRWA Convention for the years 1999-2001

(2002/C 103 E/04)

COM(2001) 741 final — 2001/0288(CNS)

(Submitted by the Commission on 7 December 2001)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 181 in conjunction with Article 300(3) first subparagraph thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament,

Whereas:

- (1) The current crisis in the Middle East has put additional burden on UNRWA.
- (2) The Community assistance to UNRWA is an important element in stabilising the situation in the Middle East and furthermore forms part of the campaign against poverty in developing countries and therefore contributes to the sustainable economic and social development of the population concerned and the host countries in which the population lives.
- (3) Support of UNRWA operations would be likely to contribute to the attainment of the Community objectives described in the above paragraph.

- (4) The current Convention between the European Community and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) for the years 1999 to 2001 (EC-UNRWA Convention ⁽¹⁾), and in particular Article 6 thereof foresees adjustments to the financial contributions,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The exchange of letters between the European Community and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) concerning an additional contribution of EUR 15 million to the existing funding in 2001 under the current Convention is hereby approved.

The text of the exchange of letters is attached to this Decision.

Article 2

The President of the Council is hereby authorised to designate the persons empowered to sign the exchange of letters in order to bind the Community.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 261, 7.10.1999, p. 36.

AGREEMENT**in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Community and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) concerning additional funding under the EC-UNRWA Convention for the years 1999 to 2001***A. Letter from the European Community*

Done at Brussels,

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to the negotiations between the representative of the European Community and UNRWA concerning additional funding under the Convention, signed on 19 September 1999, between the European Community and UNRWA covering aid to refugees in the countries of the Near East, for the years 1999-2001.

Pursuant to Article 6 of the abovementioned Convention, we are pleased to inform you that the Community agrees to provide a contribution to UNRWA in addition to the contribution for the year 2001 referred to in Article 2. The size of this additional contribution shall be EUR 12,7 million for the education programme and EUR 2,3 million for the general health programme.

All other conditions of the Convention shall remain unchanged.

I shall be grateful if you could confirm the agreement of UNRWA to the foregoing.

Please accept, Sir, the assurance of my highest consideration.

*On behalf of the European Community**B. Letter from UNRWA*

Done at Brussels,

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of today's date with the following content:

'I have the honour to refer to the negotiations between the representative of the European Community and UNRWA concerning additional funding under the Convention, signed on 19 September 1999, between the European Community and UNRWA covering aid to refugees in the countries of the Near East, for the years 1999-2001.

Pursuant to Article 6 of the abovementioned Convention, we are pleased to inform you that the Community agrees to provide a contribution to UNRWA in addition to the contribution for the year 2001 referred to in Article 2. The size of this additional contribution shall be EUR 12,7 million for the education programme and EUR 2,3 million for the general health programme.

All other conditions of the Convention shall remain unchanged.

I shall be grateful if you could confirm the agreement of UNRWA to the foregoing.

Please accept, Sir, the assurance of my highest consideration.'

I confirm the agreement of UNRWA to the foregoing.

Please accept, Sir, the assurance of my highest consideration.

For UNRWA