

2016 Discharge to the Commission

WRITTEN QUESTIONS TO COMMISSIONER MIMICA

Hearing on 12 October 2017

Refugees

- 1. EU funding of refugee camps: Could the Commission please provide the Parliament with a list of all refugee camps worldwide that have been funded by the EU since 5, 10, 20, 30, 40 and 50 years respectively?**

The Commission would like to thank the European Parliament for the interest in the activities funded through the EU budget to provide relief to the refugees around the world. The Commission herewith provides the information concerning 2016. The Commission will provide the information for the years 2009 – 2015 by the end of November, given the complexity of collecting and processing historical data. It is important to underline that the intensity and type of the assistance provided to the refugees is needs-based and depend on the specific context of a given country or region at a given time. Therefore, given the heterogeneity of the situations, comparisons cannot be made easily.

- a) How much money has been spent to finance each of these refugee camps by the EU respectively and by which funds?**

At the end of 2016, the total number of refugees was estimated at 22.5 million¹ (17.2 million under UNHCR's mandate, 5.3 million Palestinian refugees registered by UNRWA). UNHCR estimates that at the end of 2016, 69% of refugees were living out of camps.

Elements to be taken into consideration:

- The lack of political solutions to conflicts force populations to leave their countries of origin in search of safety, often leading to protracted situations whereby the refugees are stuck 'in limbo' for many years. Forced displacement is not only a humanitarian challenge: it is also a development and political challenge. The number of forcibly displaced persons continues to rise, calling for increased assistance worldwide. The majority of today's refugees live in the developing world, which means that they flee to countries already struggling with poverty and hardship.
- In situations where governments are unable [or unwilling] to sufficiently address the needs of refugees on their territory Humanitarian and development assistance helps the forcibly

¹ At the end of 2016, 65.6 million individuals were forcibly displaced worldwide as a result of persecution, conflict, violence, or human rights violations. That represented an increase of 300,000 people over the previous year, and the world's forcibly displaced population remained at a record high. Of the 65.6 million forcibly displaced worldwide, 22.5 million people were refugees, 2.8 million asylum-seekers and 40.3 million were internally displaced people (IDPs).

displaced access shelter, protection, food and other basic services such as health, nutrition, water, sanitation and education, and, where possible, avail themselves of durable solutions.

- In order to tackle this issue in a more holistic way, the European Commission, in its Communication on forced displacement and development (COM(2016)234 final), adopted in April last year a new development-led approach to forced displacement. The aim of the Communication is to put forward a policy framework to prevent forced displacement from becoming protracted and to gradually end dependence on humanitarian assistance by fostering self-reliance and enabling the displaced to live in dignity, until voluntary return or resettlement.
- The support is aimed at addressing the needs of both refugees and host communities through a variety of approaches, such as multi-purpose cash transfers, access to livelihood opportunities, and support to integration of refugees into national social systems like health or education. As a result, the EU has significantly stepped up its engagement to address forced displacement more effectively, notably in the Middle East, Africa and Asia. We have launched numerous actions to improve access to services, create employment opportunities and improve protection. Through our actions, we foster the self-reliance and resilience of both the displaced and their hosts.
- Camps typically impose some degree of limitation on the rights and freedoms of the displaced and their ability to make meaningful choices about their lives, leading to aid dependence and impeding their self-reliance. This is why the EU approach supports alternatives to camps. UNHCR promotes a very similar approach in its policy on alternatives to camps. However, EU aid does not exclude provision of assistance and protection in refugee camps, especially where no other alternative exists. Despite strong advocacy by the humanitarian community and UNHCR, some host governments continue to insist on the establishment of camps on their territory.
- Humanitarian and development funding are complementary. Our development funding comes in addition to emergency assistance and allows for investments for both displaced and hosts.
- EU assistance to forcibly displaced is integrated to assistance to host communities; which is why disaggregated number of refugee beneficiaries cannot always be provided. In instances where refugees live in IDP hosting areas, assistance to the various groups (and to host communities) cannot be distinguished.

Contributions below are broken down by geographical area, where several EU funding instruments may apply in a given area.

Focus is given to non-EU countries hosting the largest share of refugees. Together with the case-load of the EU Member States, they cater to some 90% of the world's refugee population in 2016.

These countries are:

Turkey and the Middle East	Africa	Asia
Egypt	Cameroon	Afghanistan
Iraq	Chad	Bangladesh
Jordan	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	Iran
Lebanon	Ethiopia	Pakistan
Palestine	Kenya	Thailand
Syria	Niger	Yemen
Turkey	Rwanda	
	South Sudan	
	Sudan	
	Uganda	
	Tanzania	

Other countries may be included as well. For instance, Ecuador and Venezuela host in total around 300,000 refugees but not in camps.

For ease of reference, an excel document is attached, providing concise information.



Q1_Budget.xlsx

Middle East

Turkey

Since the beginning of the Syrian crisis and before the creation of the EU Facility for Refugees in Turkey ("The Facility"), the European Commission has mobilised around EUR 350 million to address the needs of Syrian refugees and host communities in Turkey. The EU Facility is a coordination mechanism – with a total budget of EUR 3 billion covering the period 2016-2017 - that ensures the optimal mobilisation of relevant existing EU financing instruments, either as humanitarian assistance or non-humanitarian assistance. The Facility focuses on six priority areas: education, health, municipal infrastructure, socio-economic support, migration management and humanitarian assistance.

The EU assistance addresses needs independently of the type of settings refugees live in. As indicated below, 9% of the Syrian refugees in Turkey live in camps. The Turkish National Disaster Management Authority (AFAD), the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC) as well as other humanitarian actors manage and provide assistance to the 26 camps hosting some 229,153 refugees. The remaining vast majority are living within host communities.

Therefore the EU focuses on these most vulnerable refugees, i.e. those refugees that find themselves out-of-camp. This applies to the Facility, but also to out-of-Facility funding. Since 2014, the EU's

Humanitarian Aid intervention shifted its focus largely away from in-camp refugees to neglected and underserved out-of-camp refugees. Projects implemented in the camps:

EU instrument	Implementing partner	Description	EU RM
Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace	UNDP	Support local authorities' efforts in service delivery of waste management in 4 camps in the province of Sanliurfa.	5.3
EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian crisis	WFP	Food assistance covering 41 000 refugees for 6 months in 3 camps in the Southeast.	5.0
Humanitarian Aid	WFP	in-camp assistance, mainly to e-voucher caseloads	16.7

Besides these three projects, some EU-funded activities implemented by UNICEF took place in the camps such as funding of psycho-social centres and child friendly spaces but the EU did not directly support the Turkish authorities in the camps.

Jordan/Lebanon

Since the beginning of the Syrian crisis, the EU together with its Member States have mobilised more than EUR 10.1 billion, in order to address the needs of Syrians as well as Syrian refugees and host communities in Syria and the region, including EUR 4.5 billion from EU Budget (1.6 billion from Humanitarian assistance, EUR 723 million from ENI, EUR 337 million from IPA, EUR 61 million from DCI, EUR 26 million from EIDHR, EUR 252 million from IcSP and EUR 380 million from MFA as well as EUR 1.1 billion contribution to the EUTF in response to the Syrian crisis from different instruments).

In 2016 alone, humanitarian funding targeting explicitly refugees amounted to, respectively, EUR 50.60 million for Jordan and EUR 84.55 million for Lebanon.

EU assistance addresses needs independently of the type of settings refugees live in. As indicated below, only 9% of the 5.2 million Syrian refugees in the region are living in camps.

In Lebanon, the Government has a strict no-camp policy for Syrian refugees that are living in both urban settings and informal tented settlements. The policy is different for Palestinians. See below.

Palestinian refugees (incl. in Gaza and West Bank)

In 2016, there are 19 camps in the West Bank and 8 refugee camps Gaza supported by UNRWA. Since 1971, the EU has been providing reliable and predictable support to the Palestine refugees through UNRWA's Programme Budget, special projects and emergency appeals and constitutes the largest multilateral provider of international assistance to Palestine refugees in Gaza, West Bank, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan. The EU's continuing support to UNRWA is a key element in the EU strategy of contributing to the promotion of stability in the Near East and of the two-state solution. In concrete terms, since 2000, the EU has provided over EUR 2 billion financial assistance to UNRWA for the delivery of essential services to around 5 million Palestine registered refugees.

Africa

Cameroon

Cameroon hosts Central African refugees in camps in the East, Adamaoua and North regions: 7 camps in East and Adamaoua: Ngam, Borgop, Gado, Lolo, Mbile et Garisongo and Timangolo.

The EU Trust Fund for the Central African Republic (Bekou)² - an action for a total of EUR 4.38 million was ongoing in 2016 in support of refugees from the Central African Republic, including in Mbilé refugee camp, as well as host communities.

The Humanitarian Aid instrument provided some EUR 7.3 million in for assistance in 2016.

Chad

EUR 4.5 million for Chad in 2016 (17 refugee camps and one refugee site) – East and South of Chad (Sudanese and CAR refugees).

Djibouti

European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (Regulation (EU) No 235/2014): EUR 315,000 were contracted in 2016, targeting refugees including in the camps of Ali Addeh, Holl-Holl and Markazi.

Democratic Republic of Congo

The Humanitarian Aid instrument provided EUR 1.5 million only for CAR refugees (only to live in camps) in particular in Bili, Inke, Mole et Boyabu camps.

Ethiopia

EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa³ (Adi Harush, Hitsats, My'Aini, Dollo Ado, Sheder, Awbare, Kebreibeye, Aisaita, Bahrale): EUR 30 million – disbursed in 2016: EUR 3.1 million.

The Humanitarian Aid instrument allocated EUR 22.2 million to refugee response in Ethiopia.

Kenya

EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (Kalobeyei): EUR 15 million – no disbursement yet.

The Humanitarian Aid instrument allocated EUR 12.8 million to refugee response in Kenya (Dadaab and Kakuma refugees camps)

² EU contributions to the EU Trust Fund for the Central African Republic partly stem from the general budget of the Union.

³ EU contributions to the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa partly stem from the general budget of the Union, partly from EDF. The Horn of Africa window, support i.a. refugees, including in camps.

Rwanda

The Humanitarian Aid instrument allocated EUR 2.35 million to Rwanda to respond to the Burundian refugee influx triggered by 2015 political crisis in Burundi.

Sudan

EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (Kilo 26, Girba, Shagarab I, II and III, Um Gardur, Kashm el Girba, Kassala Urban, West Darfur State, Kulbus and Jebel Moon): EUR 34 million – no disbursement yet.

The Humanitarian Aid instrument allocated approximately EUR 44 million to projects focusing on refugees in camp and non-camp settings in 2016.

South Sudan

There are 279,160 refugees in the country, mainly from Sudan. The Humanitarian Aid instrument provided about EUR 18 million in 2016 to support 10 refugee camps, in particular Doro, Yusuf Batil, Kaya, Gendrassa, Yida, and Adjong Tok.

Tanzania

The Humanitarian Aid instrument allocated EUR 19.15 million to provide assistance to refugees and their hosts. Tanzania has a strict encampment policy.

Uganda

As of end 2016 the total number of refugees in Uganda is 940,815 (source UNHCR). The breakdown by caseload is 639,007 from South Sudan; 205,363 from DRC; 41,012 from Burundi; 30,689 from Somalia; 24,744 from other countries.

Refugees are hosted in 'settlements' and not in 'camps'. Uganda's refugee asylum policy and refugee settlement approach is widely regarded as an inspirational model and is cited as an example for other countries around the world. Uganda has enshrined refugees' rights within the 2006 Refugee Act and the 2010 Refugee Regulations, which reflect international standards of refugee protection provided in international legal instruments. It recognises the rights of refugees to work, establish businesses and to move around freely within the country.

In 2016, the Humanitarian Aid instrument allocated EUR 20 million to assist refugees in Uganda.

Regional

An EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa regional programme (covering Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, South Sudan, Sudan, Somalia, and Tunisia, as well as to Uganda) "Better Migration Management" inter alia targets refugees in camps in the region, amongst other objectives. EUR 40 million – disbursed in 2016: EUR 15 million.

Asia

Bangladesh

Development Cooperation Instrument (Regulation (EU) No 233/2014): an action for a total of EUR 6 million was ongoing (financed from the budget 2014, until 2017) in 2016 in support of refugees in Bangladesh in camps Nayapara and Kutapalong.

Humanitarian Aid Instrument: in 2016 EUR 5.3 million were allocated for 350.000 Myanmar refugees, out of which 41% are in camps (Leda, Kutupalong, Balukhali, Shamlapur). Support was provided in the following sectors: Protection, Water Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion, Nutrition, Health, Mental Health and Psychosocial.

Iraq

EU's Humanitarian Aid assistance, since 2015, covers both Syrian refugees and Iraqi IDPs. There are over 3.3 million Iraqi IDPs and a total of 244,235 Syrian refugees in Iraq. Out of these, only 89,604 (37%) are in camps, while 154,631 (63%) are in out of camps settings.

Nepal

Development Cooperation Instrument (Regulation (EU) No 233/2014): an action for a total of EUR 2 million was ongoing (financed from the budget 2015, until 2018) in 2016 in support of refugees, including in camps, as well as host communities, in Jhapa and Morang districts.

The Humanitarian Aid instrument allocated a total of EUR 1.3 million to refugee response in Thailand in 2016 in support to the refugees living in camps and host communities in the surrounding areas along the Thai Burma border.

Yemen

Humanitarian Aid Instrument: in 2016 EUR 1.45 million were allocated in support of refugees in Yemen. While Yemen hosts approximately 270 000 refugees (mostly Somali), there is only one refugee camp (Kharaz) which houses approximately 18 000 refugees. The vast majority of refugees live in urban areas out of camp. Support was provided to both refugees living in Kharaz camp and urban refugees, in the following sectors: Registration, Protection and SGBV services Healthcare for refugees Cash assistance.

b) How many refugees do still live in each of these camps?

UNHCR estimates that at the end of 2016, 69% of refugees were living out of camps.

	Camp population (remarks) ⁴
Middle East	
Jordan/Lebanon	Only 9% of the 5.2 million Syrian refugees in the region live in camps. The vast majority live within host communities in urban, peri-urban or rural areas. Camps in Jordan (3): Zaatari, Azraq and Emirates Camp; two additional facilities: King Abdullah Park and Cyber City.
Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA)	<p>One-third of the registered Palestine refugees, more than 1.5 million individuals, live in 58 recognized Palestine refugee camps in Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19 camps in the West Bank • 8 refugee camps Gaza • 12 refugee camps in Syria: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dera'a Camp 2. Ein el Tal (unofficial camp*) 3. Hama Camp 4. Homs Camp 5. Jaramana Camp 6. Khan Dunoun Camp 7. Khan Eshieh Camp 8. Latakia (unofficial camp*) 9. Neirab Camp 10. Qabr Essit Camp 11. Sbeineh Camp 12. Yarmouk (unofficial camp*) • Lebanon: over 63% live in the 12 camps across the country, whilst the remaining population reside in the 42 gatherings spread over five areas of operations (Tyre, Saida, North Lebanon, Central Lebanon (including Beirut), and Bekaa). The 12 camps are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. Beddawi Camp 14. Burj Barajneh Camp 15. Burj Shemali Camp 16. Dbayeh Camp 17. Ein El Hilweh Camp 18. El Buss Camp

⁴ Details on camp population are based on operational experience of EU services and their partners. Note that these are approximations.

	19. Mar Elias Camp 20. Mieh Mieh Camp 21. Nahr el-Bared Camp 22. Rashidieh Camp 23. Shatila Camp 24. Wavel Camp <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jordan: 10 Palestine refugee camps: 25. Amman New Camp 26. Baqa'a Camp 27. Husn Camp 28. Irbid Camp 29. Jabal el-Hussein Camp 30. Jerash Camp 31. Marka Camp 32. Souf Camp 33. Talbieh Camp 34. Zarqa Camp
Turkey	229,153 individuals (9%)
Africa	
Cameroon	Approximatively 130,000 live in sites
Chad	A total of 319,610 Sudanese refugees live in 12 camps and 1 urban site in Eastern Chad. A total of 70,906 refugees from CAR still live in 6 camps and 6 host villages in Southern Chad
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	(2017) around 50% of the CAR refugees (some 58,460 refugees) still live in camps: 1. Bili: 9,249; 2. Inke: 15,068; 3. Boyabu: 18,238; 4. Mole: 15,904.
Ethiopia	Camp based assistance is a cornerstone of Ethiopia's refugee policy. In 2017 refugees in Ethiopia are as follows (number and percentage of total): South Sudanese – 404,405 (around 45.5%) - Somalis – 252,036 (around 29.6%) - Eritreans – 161,941 (around 19%) - Sudanese – 42,967 (around 5%)
Kenya	Camp based assistance is a cornerstone of Kenya's refugee policy. In October 2017, around 500,000 refugees (mostly from Somalia and South Sudan) live in refugees camps. Kakuma camp and the nearby refugee settlement Kalobeyi in the north-west host mainly South Sudanese refugees while the camps in Dadaab mainly host Somalis.

Niger	Less than 30% of refugees live in camps (more for old malian caseload, fewer for more recent caseload from Nigeria for whom an out-of-camp policy applies.
Rwanda	Of refugee caseload, about 88,000 refugees from Burundi in Mahama camp.
Sudan	Some 40% of an estimated 900,000 refugees and asylum-seekers live in refugee camps.
Tanzania	About 315,000 refugees, mainly from Burundi (almost 245,000) and DRC (more than 70,000) in the main camps: Nyarugusu, Nduta and Mtendeli
Uganda	No camps – settlement policy
Asia	
Afghanistan	90% of refugees (from Pakistan) in camp (Gulan Camp)
Bangladesh	350,000 refugees in camps Nayapara and Kutapalong(Leda, Balukhali, Shamlapur (41%))
Iran	3% of refugees in camps
Iraq	89,604 Syrian refugees in camps (37%)
Thailand	100,388 (90%+) refugees in camps
Yemen	One camp (Kharaz) which houses approximately – 18,000 refugees (5%)

c) Which projects and measures in each of these refugee camps were financed by the EU in particular?

Please refer to the attached excel table for details.

Middle East

Turkey

See details above, under question a.

Jordan/Lebanon

Since the beginning of the crisis, the EU has invested in Zaatari and Azraq camps both in terms of basic infrastructure and provision of basic services. Having said that, while some support is provided to strengthen camp management capacities of EU partners, no specific support is provided to build and maintain camps hosting Syrian refugees. Most projects are financing both people in and out of the camps and there is no specific project focused just on the camps.

Under the Neighbourhood instrument, the EU has an extensive education and vocational training programme both covering the needs of Syrian refugees living in camp and urban settings. Moreover, the Higher Education to Syrian youth programme benefits camp refugees allowing them regular and distance learning higher education programmes that improve their language and academic skills.

Through development funding, the EU has supported UNICEF and UNESCO in the period 2012-2015 for programs in the field of teacher training, psychosocial support and informal (IFE) and non-formal education (NFE). Those programmes had a component for the benefit of refugees living in Zaatari Camp.

Africa

Cameroon

The Bekou action addresses the potential for social tensions generated by the influx of refugees, particularly in relation to collecting firewood, access to water, hygiene and sanitation and through income-generating activities, while preparing the foundation for an integrated refugee management strategy.

The Humanitarian Aid instrument provided multi-sectorial assistance for refugees i.e. Shelter, WASH (Water, Sanitation, Hygiene), NFI (non-food items), Food Assistance (through in-kind or cash modality), Health.

Chad

The Humanitarian Aid instrument provided food Assistance and Livelihood support through UNHCR.

Djibouti

The EIDHR action supported the fight against sexual and gender-based violence and for the protection of women and children in three refugee camps as well as urban areas in Djibouti.

Ethiopia

The Africa TF (EUTF) action aims at implementing innovative approaches to improve the living conditions of refugees and their host communities. This includes (1) improved livelihoods, service delivery and social cohesion; (2) strengthened capacity building to local authorities to develop an integrated approach towards refugees and host communities; and (3) improved protection space, including access to and provision of basic rights and services.

The Humanitarian Aid instrument provided support in the following sectors: Food security and livelihoods, Protection, Nutrition, WASH, Education in Emergencies, Shelter.

Kenya

The EUTF action aims at creating a sustainable development and protection solution for refugees and host communities in Kalobeyei through the establishment of an integrated settlement area, in which refugees and the host community have access to social services and develop economic ties to build sustainable livelihoods.

The Humanitarian Aid instrument provided support in the following sectors: Protection, Health, Food Assistance, Nutrition, Wash, Education in Emergencies

Sudan

The EUTF actions aim at:

- strengthening the local health systems to better deliver basic packages of health services in selected areas of Eastern Sudan, with the final aim of creating a more conducive and sustainable living environment for host communities, displaced populations and refugees.
- implementing innovative approaches to improve the living conditions of refugees and their host communities. This includes (1) improved livelihoods, service delivery and social cohesion; (2) strengthened capacity building to local authorities to develop an integrated approach towards refugees and host communities; and (3) improved protection space, including access to and provision of basic rights and services.

The Humanitarian Aid instrument provided support in the following sectors: food security, WASH, health, nutrition

South Sudan

The Humanitarian Aid instrument provided support in the following sectors: food assistance, health, nutrition, WASH, protection and Education in Emergencies.

Tanzania

The Humanitarian Aid instrument provided support in the following sectors: protection, health, WASH, food, shelter and education.

Uganda

The Humanitarian Aid instrument provided support in the following sectors: Protection; Food assistance; Water Sanitation and Hygiene promotion; Education in emergencies.

Regional Programme (countries participating in the Khartoum process)

The EUTF action "Better Migration Management" aims to provide capacity building to improve migration management, in particular to prevent and address irregular migration, including smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings.

Asia

Bangladesh

The DCI action aims to support UNHCR's work for refugees in Bangladesh. This includes activities on the following: 1: A favourable protection environment for the refugees is promoted and coordination ensured with the Government to strengthen new national strategy for the Rohingya; Refugees have access to basic needs and essential services; Community empowerment and self-reliance enhanced in the camps; Support to the host community and unregistered refugees; to provide assistance in terms of service.

Nepal

The DCI action aims to support the process of achieving sustainable solutions for refugees from Bhutan in Nepal, while providing international protection and multi-sectorial assistance. This includes to 1) Continue with the large-scale resettlement of the refugees; 2) Provide key care and support services, as well as protection for the refugee population in the camps and; 3) Consolidate services in the refugee camps and enhance the absorption capacity of the hosting communities' facilities in order to facilitate refugees' access to national programmes and public services.

d) What is the background of the existence of each of these refugee camps respectively? What were the reasons why these refugees fled their home country/region or rather why the refugees can't go back to their home country/region?

Refugees are people who have left their country of nationality as a result of persecution, conflict, violence, or human rights violations. The attached excel table provides a detailed overview of the countries of origin of the refugees under-consideration. The attached table lists 23 countries⁵ though it is essential to underscore that the majority of refugees come from a restricted number of countries. The same 10 conflicts have caused the majority of forced displacement every year since 1991. In 2016, more than half of all refugees (55%) came from just 3 countries: Syria, Afghanistan and South Sudan.

As an example, please find four specific situations which are ground for camps:

Bangladesh: Since the major offensive against the Karen National Union (KNU) in 1984 by the Burmese military junta, Bangladesh has received large numbers of refugees from Myanmar (350,000). Since 2017, an additional caseload of 509,000 arrived to Bangladesh following the recent clashes in Rakhine state, and is being sheltered in Cox bazar refugee settlement. Due to the reluctance of the Myanmar government for repatriation of the refugees, as well as the ongoing insecurity in the country, repatriation is not foreseen in the near future.

South Sudan refugee crisis: Since the upsurge of the conflict in South Sudan end of 2013, the situation has continued deteriorating on all fronts and has triggered the displacement of millions of South Sudanese into the neighbouring countries of Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda. Today, two million South Sudanese refugees are hosted in these countries, including one million in Uganda, with no perspective of return as yet with a still significant deterioration of the humanitarian situation in South Sudan.

Thailand: The first caseload of 10,000 refugees from Myanmar arrived in Thailand in 1984 when the Burmese military junta launched a major offensive against the Karen National Union (KNU). Since then, numbers increased to 80,000 by 1994 and 140,000 by 2008. By May 2017, they were around 100,388 refugees. Due to the reluctance of the Myanmar government for repatriation of the refugees, as well as the current ongoing insecurity in the country, repatriation is not foreseen in the near future.

Iran: Iran has been hosting Afghan refugees for nearly thirty years resulting from the ongoing conflict in Afghanistan. The current insecurity and ongoing violence does not permit repatriation of the refugees.

⁵ Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Iran, South Sudan, Dem. Rep. of the Congo, Burundi, Somalia, Eritrea, Sudan, Rwanda, Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Myanmar, Turkey, Pakistan, Ukraine, Palestine, China, Sri Lanka, Colombia, Mali

e) What was the original planned timeframe for the existence of the refugee camps respectively?

It is important to note that refugee camps are supposed to be temporary living settlements for displaced people fleeing violence and persecution from their home countries. In Turkey for instance, camps retain this temporary dimension in their name - 'temporary protection' centres. These places are meant to accommodate refugees until such time that a more durable solution is found (ideally a returning home, integrating locally or being resettled). They are not set-up with a fixed timeframe.

The idea of “temporary” for refugees grows obsolete as their living situations become more permanent. Indeed, protracted displacement is a critical phenomenon to be taken into account. According to a World Bank study, for people who are currently refugees, the average duration of exile stands at 10.3 years, and the median duration at four years—that is half of them have spent four years or more in exile, half less. Since 1991, the average duration has fluctuated between about eight years in 1991 and a peak of fifteen years in 2006. The number of refugees in protracted situations (five years of exile or more) has been fairly stable since 1991, at 5 to 7 million. For this group, the average duration of exile reached 21.2 years (and the median 19 years), though this is largely influenced by the situation of Afghan refugees.

As stated by UNHCR, "Refugee camps are diverse. (...) The defining characteristic of a camp, however, is typically some degree of limitation on the rights and freedoms of refugees and their ability to make meaningful choices about their lives". Consequently, UNHCR adopted an *Alternatives to camps* policy which seeks to avoid the establishment of refugee camps, wherever possible, while pursuing alternatives to camps that ensure refugees are protected and assisted effectively and enabled to achieve solutions. The EU policy of forced displacement and development endorses this policy and advocates for alternatives to camps wherever possible.

f) At what time has the last political (international) initiative or action taken place in order to dispose the causes of flight and migration and to disband each of these refugee camps? Who initiated the process/conference etc. and who was involved? What was the outcome?

There are numerous initiatives to ensure that actions are taken to address the situation of refugees, including those in camps. It is a global issue which requires global solutions. To name but a few:

This year the EU hosted an international conference "Supporting the Future of Syria and the region" in April 2017 aimed at mobilising international support to the consequences of the Syrian crisis. The international community confirmed EUR 5.6 billion/USD 6.0 billion in funding to support humanitarian, resilience and development activities in 2017 for the Syria crisis response, which includes pledges in particular towards the Syria Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), and the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP). These efforts will aim to secure quality education for all children and livelihood opportunities for refugees and affected communities as well as promote basic public services and economic growth. This funding also includes support for UNRWA for Palestinian Refugees in Syria. HRVP announced that another conference will be held in spring 2018.

The European Union played a leading role in the Solidarity Summit on Refugees in Kampala, Uganda, hosted by the Government of Uganda and the United Nations in June this year. The European Union and its Member States stepped up their support to the refugee response in Uganda with an amount of EUR 210 million.

Last year the EU attended at high level, the UN Summit on refugees and migrants at the 71st United Nations General Assembly Ministerial week. The high-level summit addressed large movements of refugees and migrants, with the aim of bringing countries together behind a more humane and coordinated approach. It was the first time the General Assembly had called for a summit at the Heads of State and Government level on large movements of refugees and migrants and was a historic opportunity to come up with a blueprint for a better international response. The Summit was a watershed moment to strengthen governance of international migration and a unique opportunity for creating a more responsible, predictable system for responding to large movements of refugees and migrants.

The Commission also supports UNHCR and its roll-out of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework. For example, the Commission has increased support to Uganda and actively support the follow-up to the Nairobi Declaration on protection and durable solutions for Somali refugees.

The Commission works closely with EU Member States and together contribute actively to the work on the Global Compact on Refugees, which will be presented in 2018.

2. Which funds had been implemented for refugees in third countries and what was the contracted amount for operations related to refugees in third countries in 2016? How high was the absorption rate of these funds until 2016? How much money is still available? How many refugees had benefited of those funds? Which five countries received the highest and the lowest funding?

Commission's answer:

I. Humanitarian aid

The Commission contracted in 2016 1,181,553,946 EUR to Humanitarian Aid actions in third countries, where such actions have at least one result related to refugees. The amount is practically implemented to 100%.

It is estimated that the funded actions should have reached more than 60 million beneficiaries (although it should be noted that the same individual might be counted various times as being beneficiary of different actions).

In the following five countries, EU partners implemented projects with the total highest EU financial support:

<u>Country</u>	<u>EUR</u>
TURKEY	557,050,000
LEBANON	84,550,000
JORDAN	70,600,000
SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC	67,700,000
IRAQ	37,500,000

In the following five countries, EU partners implemented projects with the total

lowest EU funding:

<u>Country</u>	<u>EUR</u>
EL SALVADOR	700,000
VENEZUELA	600,000
COLOMBIA	544,374
MALAWI	300,000
THAILAND	300,000

II. Neighbourhood

1. Western Balkans

Migrants from various countries of origin including Central Asia, Middle East, and Northern and Eastern Africa have been increasingly trying to access EU countries through the Western Balkans migration route as other routes were posing growing challenges and dangers. The flow of extra regional migrants along this route has grown from a trickle in 2011 to becoming one of the most "popular" migration routes into the EU until its "closure" in 2016.

Approximately 13.5 million EUR from the EU budget, from the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance in particular, have been provided in 2016 for the Western Balkans linked to the refugee crisis. The funds reached mainly the countries on the WB migration route, namely Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia with allocations presented below:

<u>Country</u>	<u>EUR</u>
SERBIA	1,500,000
THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA	12,000,000

The absorption rate for the funds is around 100%.

Being transit countries, it is difficult to calculate the overall number of the refugees/migrants that benefited from EU support as there was constant in and outflow. However, for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, according to the UNHCR based on the estimated daily arrivals in 2015 were 687,819 and in 2016 were 91,721. According the Ministry of interior statistics, registered intentions to apply for asylum for 2015 were 425,099, while for 2016 were 89,623.

In Serbia, the migration flow has reached a plateau in the last quarter of 2015 with an average of 5,000 persons per day. As of January 2016, the flow has been reduced due to the policy decisions by some of the countries along the Western

Balkan route to limit the entry into their territories. After June 2016 when the Western Balkan Route was officially declared closed, migrants got stranded in Serbia for a longer period of time and the numbers increased up to nearly 8,000 on March 2017.

2. EU Syria Trust Fund

In 2016 the Trust Fund signed 12 contracts for a total value of EUR 321.07 million. Disbursements to project partners and consumption stands at EUR 158.42 million – roughly 50%. As opposed to humanitarian aid, average duration of EUTF projects is 24-36 months, with intermediate and final payments done against progress in the projects. Beneficiaries of EUTF projects in total exceed 1 million Syrian refugees. Contracts by country in terms of amounts are as follows for 2016 only:

<u>Country</u>	<u>EUR</u>
TURKEY	128,600,000
LEBANON	94,900,000
JORDAN	58,600,000
WESTERN BALKANS	14,250,000
IRAQ	14,080,000
REGIONAL PROJECTS	10,640,000

3. Turkey

For Turkey, as of 31 December 2016, under the EU Facility for Refugees in Turkey EUR 1,456.61 million had been contracted through 37 projects in both humanitarian assistance - managed by DG ECHO, approximately 1/3 of the amount contracted - and non-humanitarian assistance, managed by DG NEAR. By definition all Facility funding is aimed at refugees. The Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace is managed by FPI/EEAS. One contract was signed in Turkey in 2016 for an amount of EUR 7.5 million. EIDHR is managed by DG DEVCO.

9 contracts were signed in Turkey in 2016 for an amount of EUR 2.2 million. EUTF contracted projects through the facility are reported as facility funding, however there was also one contract financed outside the Facility for an amount of EUR 70.1 million. One IPA contract was signed worth EUR 40 million.

<u>Instrument</u>	<u>EUR</u>
Facility for Refugees in Turkey	1,456,610,000
Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace	7,500,000
EIDHR	2,250,000
EUTF – outside the Facility	70,170,000

IPA	40,000,000
Total	1,576,530,000

For the EU Facility as a whole approximately EUR 750 million had been disbursed – which represents roughly 50%.

III. Development aid

1. Development Cooperation Instrument

A total of EUR 55 million were contracted, EUR 30 million disbursed thus far and EUR 17.8 million disbursed in 2016, in support of refugees, often jointly together with other target groups. The total number of beneficiaries exceeds 1 million. Depending on each project, this may also include host communities, internally displaced persons or other migrants.

2. European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights

A total of EUR 4.8 million were contracted in 2016, out of which EUR 2.16 million were already disbursed, in support of refugees, often jointly with other target groups.

3. EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa

EU contributions to the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa partly stem from the budget.

Under the Horn of Africa window, a total of EUR 174 million were contracted and EUR 28 million disbursed in 2016, in support of refugees as well as other target groups. The total number of beneficiaries exceeds 3 million persons. Depending on each project, this may also include host communities, internally displaced persons or other migrants.

4. EU Trust Fund for the Central African Republic

EU contributions to the EU Trust Fund for the Central African Republic partly stem from the budget.

In Cameroon, an action for a total of EUR 4.38 million was ongoing in 2016 in support of refugees from the Central African Republic as well as host communities. 72% of funds were disbursed until the end of 2016. No disbursements took place in 2016. 11,400 refugees and 5,000 people from host communities have directly benefitted from the action. However, the total number of beneficiaries can be estimated higher, considering that rehabilitated local infrastructures benefitted at least 18 villages in the refugee camp area.

3. Could you please provide us with a complete overview for all projects/programmes with regard to refugees in Turkey which receive EU-money but not through the facility for refugees in Turkey at this moment in time?

Commission's answer:

Please see the Annex 1 attached:



4. According to DG DEVCO AAR the Youth Economic Employment programme in 2016 was successful. Will the programme go on and can the programme be used to create synergetic effects with other migration/refugees/climate change and renewable energy programmes?

Commission's answer:

The Commission does not intend to continue co-financing with EU funds this programme, which will end in March 2018. Based on the successful results of this programme Commission services (DG DEVCO) will explore how best to create synergies in key related areas of intervention and mainstreaming the youth dimension and in particular youth employment in other areas such as those mentioned.

In addition, and in line with the new European Consensus on Development, under the next 2018-2020 multiannual indicative programme (MIP) of the Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC), youth employment will be promoted across other sectors such as migration, private sector and investments, including climate change and renewable energy.

Syria

5. Could you please provide us with a list of aid organizations who have received EU money for project implementation in Syria together with the corresponding amounts for 2016?

Commission's answer:

In 2016, EUR 36.89 million worth of projects were contracted under the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) and EUR 6 million under the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI). Below is the list of recipient organisations

EU Instrument	Organisation	Amount of EU contribution (in EUR million)
ENI	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees in the near east	10
ENI	GiZ (in consortium with Expertise France)	7
ENI	CARE International UK (in consortium with DRC, Handicap international, IRC, MercyCorps and IRC)	15
ENI	Save the Children (in consortium with Shafak NGO)	4.89
DCI	Food and Agriculture Organisation	6

For DG ECHO: Please see Annex 2 attached:



6. The EC supported countries in Syria's immediate neighbourhood, such as Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq, where also an increasing share of the EU's non-humanitarian aid has been provided. Could the EC provide further information about this humanitarian and non-humanitarian aid? Which entities are the beneficiaries of this aid and what are the results?

Commission's answer:

Since the beginning of the Syrian crisis, the EU and its Member States have mobilised more than EUR 10.1 billion, in order to address the needs of Syrians as well as Syrian refugees and host communities in Syria and the region, including EUR 4.5 billion from the general budget of the Union. Out of this amount, EUR 3.3 billion has been mobilised for supporting refugees, as well as countries and communities hosting them in the region from all EU instruments (EUR 1.08 billion for Jordan, EUR 956 million for Lebanon, EUR 1.01 billion for Turkey,

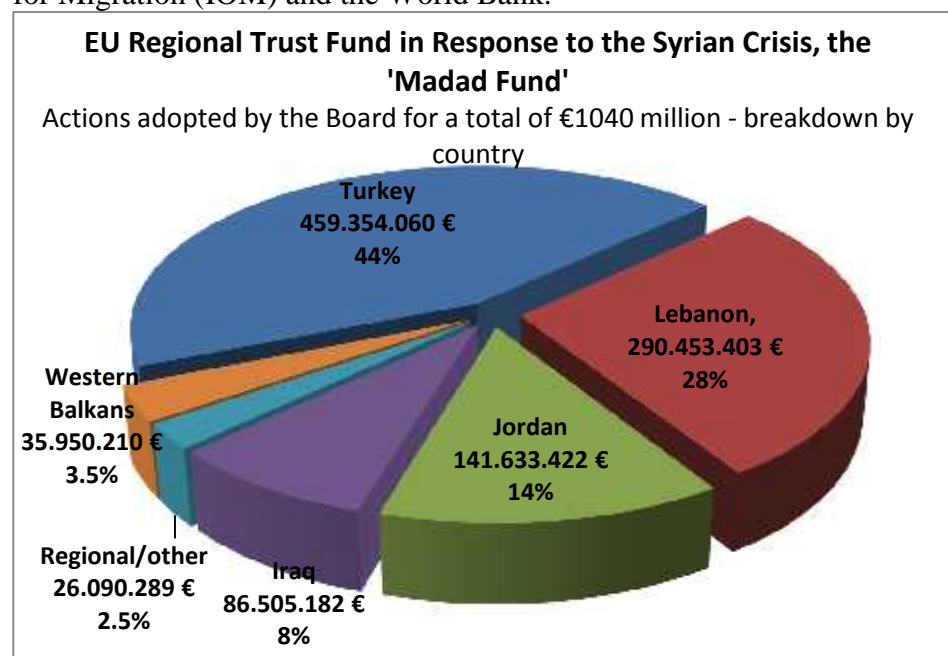
EUR 150 million for Iraq, EUR 49 million for the Western Balkans and EUR 108 million for the region). This is being provided through a whole range of implementing partners including local and international NGOs, UN and Member States agencies, as well as financing institutions. Please find below more specific information regarding the EU Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian crisis (EUTF Syria), which now channels the bulk of the EU non-humanitarian assistance in response to the Syrian crisis in the region.

In 2016, EU support to Iraq focused on a) refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) through a EUR 19.4 commitment for the EUTF Syria and a EUR 14 million for the UNDP-managed Funding Facility for Stabilisation - FFS, and b) on reconciliation, dialogue and community cohesion, focusing on the general population of Iraq and the host communities (of IDPs) in particular (via the British Council and via BBC Media action). The support to IDPs via the FFS has allowed (with all donors' funding) to implement over 1,000 projects in areas retaken from Da'esh, 300 of which in Mosul, proving income to thousands of workers, supporting the resumption of critical services such as health, electricity and water distribution, contributing a/o to the return of some 2,000,000 Iraqi IDPs to their homes. The reconciliation activities will provide results for the long term, addressing the serious damage that the years of conflict inflicted to the social tissue and providing bridges between the communities.

EU Syria Trust Fund:

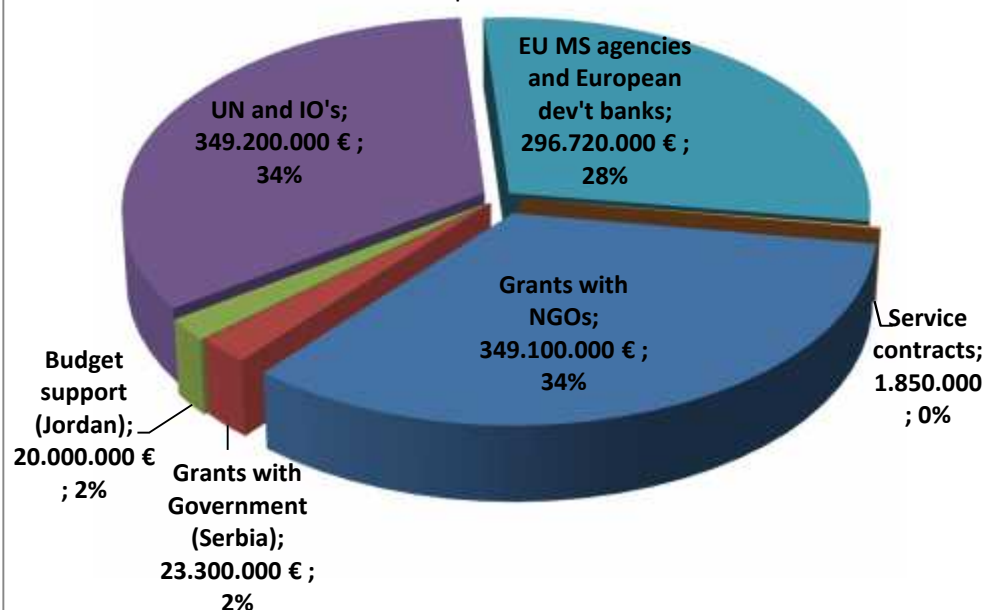
For the projects adopted by the EUTF Syria Operational Board in the amount of 1.04 billion, the share of beneficiary countries is aligned to the burden of hosting refugees, see table below.

In terms of implementing partners, there is an almost equal share of 1/3 each being delivered through European and local NGOs, EU Member States' development agencies and banks, and UN agencies, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and the World Bank.



EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis, the 'Madad Fund'

Actions adopted by the Board for a total of €1040 million - breakdown by partners



Examples of results:

Keeping in mind that results are not evident immediately after a contract has been signed, impact and results of the EU Syria Trust Fund are taking shape, such as in higher education, where projects financed from the EUTF have provided Syrian refugees, who's academic path has been disrupted due to the displacement and conflict, with the chance to continue their higher education, through:

3,847 full scholarships

5,741 language courses

Up to 40,000 counselling sessions

Resilience and economic self-reliance 'Qudra': In cooperation with the Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Expertise France and AECID Spain, 975,000 youth in refugee camps and host communities in Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Turkey receive direct support towards greater economic self-reliance. The project is financed with EUR 70 million.

Primary Education and Psycho-social care: In cooperation with UNICEF, the EUTF Syria provides up to 663,000 Syrian refugee and host community children and youth with access to quality education, protective services and psycho-social care in Lebanon, Turkey and Jordan. The project is financed with EUR 90 million.

Health, livelihoods and capacity building: Flagship programme in 5 countries with the RCRC, with the Danish Red Cross in the lead. A Consortium of several European and local Red Cross and Red Crescent societies reaching and benefitting at least 700,000 refugees in Turkey, Lebanon, Iraq, Jordan and Egypt, with targeted projects on livelihoods, health and capacity-building. The project is funded with EUR 53 million.

Higher Education: The 'HOPES' project is implemented by four European agencies: DAAD, British Council, Campus France and EP-Nuffic. The project aims to offer scholarships, educational counseling and language training to reach up to 50.000 Syrian refugee and host community youth in Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Iraq and Turkey. The project is funded with EUR12 million.

DG DEVCO staff in delegation

7. Which costs occurred in 2016 for DG DEVCO staff in delegations concerning:
- annual leave entitlement
 - the installation allowance
 - taking up duty ticket
 - moving, housing
 - annual travel
 - local conditions allowances
 - weightings coefficients
 - school allowances
 - medical cover
 - accident insurance to family
 - rest leave?

Commission's answer:



Performance

8. The development of the Key Performance Indicators draw a positive picture when it comes to support for human development and cooperation addressing climate change. Compared to this the key performance Indicator of promoting gender equality is falling behind. The target for 2020 is to increase the share of EU-funded cooperation and development initiatives promoting gender equality to 85%. By 2016 the share is 45.5%. What further actions will the EC undertake in order to reach this target?

Commission's answer:

According to the EU Gender Action Plan's (GAP) Annual Implementation Report 2016 (SWD(2017) 288 final) the commitment to mainstream / integrate gender analysis and perspectives across all instruments and modalities is gaining prominence. In 2016 an average of 57.75% of new initiatives were marked as being principally aiming at gender mainstreaming or significantly contributing to it (OECD Gender Marker 1 or 2), compared to 47.3% of initiatives in 2015.

To achieve the target to mainstream gender actions across 85% of all new initiatives by 2020, full compliance with GAP reporting and implementation is key. Gender Focal Points both at Headquarters and EU Delegations level are available to guide and support the process. At operational level, gender issues are to be integrated across the programme cycle, as early as the formulation. Furthermore, gender analysis is to be part of the planning process and the design of new initiatives: it must be included in each sector's financial resources and requires a thorough review of the identification and formulation methodologies. At the implementation level, where feasible, gender-sensitive indicators (in particular GAP indicators) and sex-disaggregated data must be used to better demonstrate gender-sensitive programming. Specific training on this issue is to be reinforced.

9. What were the five most successful projects of DG DEVCO in 2016 and why? What were the five projects which weren't successful enough?

Commission's answer:

The Commission does not rank projects in its reporting. In the 2016 External Assistance Management Report (EAMR) more than 4,500 projects were listed. Projects are assessed mainly using two key performance indicators (KPIs 5 and 6 provide an indication of progress implementation and results achievement respectively) which are based on subjective, forward-looking criteria designed to signal potential risks rather than actual performance. Ranking these projects would thus be a subjective exercise primarily reflecting EU views and to a lesser extent those of the final beneficiaries, recipient Governments and other stakeholders. Commission services (DG DEVCO) aim at evaluating a minimum of 50% of the funds disbursed during a given programming cycle. Evaluations are independent assessments, conducted on the basis of well-established criteria, of the extent to which projects' objectives (targeted outcomes) have been achieved in practice.

Despite the often challenging context in which development cooperation actions take place, the number of "red flagged" EU-funded projects (those with significant implementation problems) remains low: 3.87% in 2016 versus 4.43% in 2015. In most cases these projects are seriously affected by external factors such as civil unrest, conflict or natural disaster.

10. In its Special Report No 9/2017: "EU support to fight human trafficking in South/South-East Asia" the Court concludes that it is difficult to link the overall development to the results achieved by EU action. What has been done in order to improve the definition of the objectives and to develop sound indicators? Through which actions is the Commission trying to increase the ownership and the commitment of the implementing actors?

Commission's answer:

The Commission welcomed the European Court of Auditors' Special Report on EU support to fight human trafficking in South/South East Asia and the overall positive assessment of the efforts in this area. The Commission agrees that the fight against human trafficking in the region has improved overall but that more work remains to be done to ensure more tailored-made solutions and better impact.

On objectives and targets, the Commission recalls the difficulty of formulating non-subjective specific objectives and indicators. This is due to the limited availability of data and the difficulties linked with this area of intervention since human trafficking is often linked with organised crime.

Nevertheless, the Commission will make full use of the lessons learnt from previous activities and relevant documents, such as the joint staff document "EU's activities on gender equality and women's empowerment in the EU's external relations"⁶, which covers trafficking in human beings of women and girls, and presents indicators and examples of positive activities. There is a plan to update and extend operational guidance for activities in the region as well as to enhance political and technical reporting accordingly.

Human trafficking is discussed in increasingly constructive policy dialogues with countries in South/South East Asia, and in regional formats as Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM). This is a process that requires time, resources and strong cooperation with the counterparts in the region. An even greater focus will be put on the operational steps mentioned by the Court when preparing and implementing actions in the area of trafficking in human beings in the priority countries and regions in South/South East Asia. In the recently adopted Special Measure 'Addressing migration and forced displacement challenges in Asia and the Middle East: a comprehensive regional EU Response', EUR 12 million have been allocated to address human trafficking in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, Iraq and Bangladesh.

Blending

11. What was the amount allocated to the blending facilities in 2016? What were the administrative costs for EU blending facilities in 2016? Could you please provide the Parliament with a list of entities participating in the blending facilities and their respective financial contribution?

Commission's answer:

In 2016, the EU contribution to projects under the blending facilities amounted to EUR 414.1 million. These projects had received the positive opinion of the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) and the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) Blending Framework Boards. The indicative administrative fees paid to the so-called 'Lead Finance Institutions' for these projects were EUR 11.6

⁶ SWD(2015) 182 final

million.

The following table lists the Lead Finance Institutions of these blending projects together with their corresponding financial contributions:

Lead Finance Institution	Contributions to 2016 projects - DCI and ENI Blending Frameworks - (EUR million)
AECID The Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo, AECID)	18
AFD Agence Française de Development	775
EBRD European Bank for Reconstruction and Development	151
EIB European Investment bank	606
KfW Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau	109
PROPARCO Promotion et Participation pour la	20

	Coopération Economique		
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12. The FAO director sent a greeting card for a prosperous 2017 with the title "FAO and EU driving sustainable agricultural growth" (see annex). This document has been produced with the financial assistance of the EU. How many of these greeting cards are produced in total? What were the total costs? What is the EU share of the total amount and how much pays FAO or if any other contributors?

Commission's answer:

In total, 14,000 calendars and cards for 12 selected EU-funded FAO projects were produced. The total costs for both, calendars and cards, were of about EUR 35,000. 100% of these costs were covered by the EU under the visibility budget line of the selected projects. As visibility is a requirement for EU-funded projects, implementing partners do not contribute to such costs. The desk calendars and accompanying greeting cards are used by EU Delegations, partners and FAO offices, and communicate the main features of the selected projects.

Trust funds

13. The European Commission has launched several Trust Funds from the EU budget and European Development Fund, combined with contributions from EU Member States and other donors. Could the Commission provide an exhaustive explanation on:
- how the funds are composed?

Commission's answer:

Composition of funding / The Emergency Trust Fund for stability and addressing root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa (EUTF Africa)	Contributions pledged (MEUR)	Contributions received (MEUR)
EU Budget	638.50	88.50
EDF	2,289.90	258.41
Austria	6.00	3.00
Belgium	10.00	6.00
Bulgaria	0.05	0.05
Czech Republic	0.74	0.74
Denmark (approximate)	6.00	6.00
Estonia	1.45	1.45
Finland	5.00	5.00
France	3.00	3.00
Germany	51.00	23.00
Hungary	0.70	0.70
Ireland	3.00	1.20
Italy	102.00	92.00
Latvia	0.05	0.05
Lithuania	0.05	0.05
Luxembourg	3.10	3.10
Malta	0.25	0.10

Netherlands	16.36	13.36
Norway	3.59	3.59
Poland	1.10	1.10
Portugal	0.45	0.45
Romania	0.10	0.10
Slovakia	0.60	0.60
Slovenia	0.05	0.05
Spain	3.00	3.00
Sweden	3.00	3.00
Switzerland	4.10	3.60
United Kingdom	3.00	1.20
Total	3,156.14	522.40

Composition of funding / EUTF Colombia

	Contributions pledged (MEUR)	Contributions received (MEUR)
EU Budget	72.00	12.00
Cyprus	0.01	0.01
Czech Republic	0.02	0.01
Germany	3.00	1.50
Spain	3.00	1.02
France	3.00	0.60
Croatia	0.02	0.02
Hungary	0.02	0.02
Ireland	3.00	0.60

Italy	3.00	3.00
Lithuania	0.01	0.01
Luxembourg	0.04	0.00
Latvia	0.01	0.01
Malta	0.01	0.01
Netherlands	3.00	3.00
Portugal	0.20	0.10
Sweden	3.12	0.61
Slovenia	0.01	0.01
Slovakia	0.02	0.02
United Kingdom	1.51	1.51
TOTAL	95.00	24.07

Composition of funding / EUTF for Central African Republic

	Contributions pledged (MEUR)	Contributions received (MEUR)
EU Budget	55.00	39.00
EDF	113.00	12.00
Germany	30.00	15.00
France	30.00	15.00
Netherlands	3.00	3.00
Italy	1.00	1.00
Switzerland	1.00	1.00
Total	233.00	86.00

Composition of funding / EU Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian Crisis

	Contributions pledged (MEUR)	Received (MEUR)
EU Budget	1181.26	200.92
Turkish co financing for IPA I	24.65	24.65
Austria	11.50	11.50
Belgium	3.00	3.00
Bulgaria	0.10	0.10
Czech Republic	5.00	5.00
Denmark	20.00	15.41
Estonia	0.55	0.55
Finland	3.00	3.00
France	3.00	3.00
Germany	15.00	15.00
Hungary	3.00	3.00
Italy	8.00	8.00
Latvia	0.05	0.05
Lithuania	0.10	0.10
Malta	0.02	0.02
Netherlands	5.00	3.33
Poland	4.20	4.20
Portugal	0.20	0.20
Romania	0.08	0.08
Slovakia	3.00	3.00
Spain	3.00	3.00
Sweden	3.00	3.00
United Kingdom	3.00	3.00
Subtotal Member States and other donors	118.45	112.19
Total	1,299.71	313.11

b. what are the results of the monitoring and audit system?

Commission's answer:

The EU Trust Funds (EUTFs) managed by the Commission use EU best practices, resources and tools to monitor and evaluate their programmes.

As an example, in the case of the 'EUTF Africa', each programme has a specific budget set aside for monitoring and evaluation by implementing partners, EU Delegations and independent experts. To ensure full transparency, the EUTF Africa has decided to use the publicly available AKVO ('water' in the Esperanto language) Really Simple Reporting platform (AKVO is a not-for-profit foundation that creates open source, internet and mobile software and sensors) to present, on a regular basis, expected and actual results, outcomes and impact of programmes according to specific indicators.

Another important tool used at programme level is the EU Results-Oriented Monitoring (ROM) system, which includes short visits by independent experts to assess the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, potential impact and sustainability of each programme and the production of reports. Most programmes under the EUTF Africa will receive ROM missions starting with 38 ROM missions planned between Q4 2017 and Q1 2018. To measure the collective achievements of programmes, a EUTF Africa Results Framework, constructed around our four strategic priorities, has been developed. Each strategic priority area is broken down into expected results, and each result measured by a set of indicators. Moreover, for the three Trust Fund windows (Sahel and Lake Chad, Horn Of Africa, North Of Africa), a set of 19 macro indicators was defined in close collaboration with EU Member States' agencies, covering the four strategic priorities. These indicators are included in all projects in order to aggregate targets and results at country, region and EUTF level.

EU Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian Crisis

Three Results-Oriented Monitoring missions (ROMs) have been carried out already in Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon. In addition to normal reporting obligations, all implementing partners and grantees are also obliged to submit Quarterly Information Notes (QINs) to enable real-time monitoring of progress and results against the EU Syria Trust Fund overall results framework.

From November 2017, a separate Monitoring and Evaluation mechanism will provide the EU Syria Trust Fund with the aggregation and analysis of this quarterly monitoring and also putting in place an online platform to track and report results by project and country.

Gender-disaggregation has been included as criteria for reporting on indicators both at output and outcome level.

A full mid-term TF evaluation will be conducted in 2018 to look at results and impact achieved, added value created, lessons learnt, and strategic recommendations for future orientations and interventions.

As of November 2017, all EUTF projects should be available on the website of the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI:

<http://www.aidtransparency.net/>)

c. what amount the Member States has already provide?

Commission's answer:

Please see above

14. Bêkou Trust Fund:

- a. What are the full costs for managing the Bêkou trust fund (including the salary for the Manager and back-office costs)? How much percent of the amounts pooled into the Bêkou trust fund are used to cover its management costs?

Commission's answer:

As per the constitutive agreement of the European Trust Fund for the Central African Republic (Bêkou Trust Fund), "*The Commission shall be authorised to deduct a sum of up to 5% of the amounts contributed to the Trust Fund to cover its management costs.*" It excludes the salary for the Bêkou Trust Fund manager, who is a Commission official, and the back-office costs (e.g. provision of offices in Commission premises in Brussels, mission costs for the Trust Fund Manager) which are covered by the Commission's administrative budget, like for other aid instruments.

- b. What are the administrative fees that contracted international organisations and NGOs charged in addition to the Bêkou trust fund's fee?

Commission's answer:

For grant or delegation agreements signed with international organisations the remuneration/indirect costs may be claimed on the basis of a flat-rate which shall not exceed 7% of the total eligible direct costs to be reimbursed by the Contracting Authority. These costs, while necessary and arising as a consequence of implementation, are supporting the implementation of the action and not considered part of the activities that the Union finances such as horizontal and support staff, office or equipment costs.

For grant contracts signed with NGOs: the indirect costs incurred in carrying out the action may be eligible for a flat-rate funding not exceeding 7% of the total eligible direct costs. The indirect costs for the action are those eligible costs which may not be identified as specific costs directly to the implementation of the action but are incurred by the beneficiary in connection with the eligible direct costs of

the action.

15. EU Trust Fund for Colombia: Could the Commission please provide the Parliament with further information on

- a. the respective parties and how many people are in charge of the management of the Trust Fund and

Commission's answer:

Parties involved in the EU Trust Fund for Colombia are the Colombian Government, 19 contributing EU Member States (Croatia, Czech Republic, Cyprus, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom, Slovakia and Slovenia) as well as the European Commission (DG ECHO and DG DEVCO) and the EEAS.

The EU Trust Fund Manager is the Head of the Cooperation Section in the EU Delegation in Bogota. The Cooperation section was reinforced upon creation of the EU Trust Fund. Its members (1 Administrator, 3 Contract Agents and 5 Local Agents) support, among other responsibilities, the Trust Fund Manager in the daily management of the Fund.

- b. the administrative costs of the fund (including staff costs)?

Commission's answer:

The administrative costs for the EU Trust Fund for Colombia have been estimated at EUR 3 million for five years.

16. In its Special Report No 11/2017: "Bêkou EU trust fund for the Central African Republic" the ECA has identified a number of weaknesses. What does the Commission do in order to improve donor coordination, selection procedures and performance measurement?

Commission's answer:

The general donor coordination under the Central African government is expected to improve with the implementation of the coordination mechanism of the National Recovery and Peacebuilding Plan. The Bêkou Trust Fund already ensures a systematic and regular coordination among its contributors through its Operational Committee and Board meetings.

The selection procedures in the Bêkou Trust Fund are the same as other EU aid delivery mechanisms under crisis situation. They follow the same rules. The situation in Central African Republic (CAR) fully justifies the use of crisis situation procedures.

The monitoring and evaluation mechanisms have been developed by the Bêkou

Trust Fund (TF) at project level. Improvements have been gradually made, particularly with the integration of the TF's projects into the global Results Oriented Monitoring (ROM) system. The Bêkou Trust Fund is also looking into (technical) options to enhance the transparency of its results and establish a more comprehensive performance framework.

17. Did the Commission develop further guidance for the choice of aid vehicle and for needs analyses, in order to define the scope of trust funds?

Commission's answer:

The Commission has developed EU Trust Fund guidelines which include a section on the conditions necessary to establish a trust fund in line with the requirements of Regulation (EU, EURATOM) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union⁷ and its Rules of Application⁸.

Following a performance audit by the Court of Auditors, the Commission is currently revising the scope of these guidelines to include, amongst other elements, a more detailed description of the criteria laid out in the Financial Regulation in order to evaluate the extent to which those necessary conditions are met. The revised guidelines are intended to provide a better assessment of the reasons for the establishment of an EU Trust Fund as well as the operational definition of EU added value and the added value of the EU Trust Fund as an implementing tool. By assessing whether the conditions for the establishment of an EU Trust Fund have been fulfilled, the question of the comparative advantages of other aid vehicles will necessarily be addressed.

The Commission intends to finalise the revised guidelines on EU Trust Funds - to incorporate all new developments and legal requirements - as soon as the new Financial Regulation is in place.

18. In 2016 the EU Trust Fund for Africa was set up, with the aim to increase capacities in partner countries to better manage migration and refugee flow. In the annual activity report it is stated, that 106 projects have been approved in this respect. Can the Commission give us a brief insight into these projects? What kind of projects are these and what are the results?

Commission's answer:

As of 31 December 2016, 106 projects were indeed approved across the three operational windows of the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF for Africa).

⁷ OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1;

⁸ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 of 29 October 2012 on the rules of application of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, OJ L 362, 31.12.2012, p. 1;

The EUTF for Africa aims to foster stability and to contribute to better migration management, including by addressing the root causes of destabilisation, forced displacement and irregular migration across three regions: the Sahel and Lake Chad, the Horn of Africa and North Africa.

The work of the EUTF for Africa covers 26 countries facing growing challenges in terms of demographic pressure, extreme poverty, weak social and economic infrastructure, internal tensions and institutional weaknesses as well as insufficient resilience to food crises.

Programmes funded under the EUTF for Africa focus on:

- Economic development addressing skills gaps, and improving employability through vocational training, and supporting job creation and self-employment opportunities with a focus on strengthening micro, small and medium size enterprises (MSMEs);
- Strengthening resilience for improved food and nutrition security, in particular for the most vulnerable, as well as refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs);
- Improving migration governance and management, including addressing the drivers of irregular migration, effective return, readmission and reintegration, international protection and asylum, legal migration and mobility, and enhancing synergies between migration and development;
- Supporting improvements in overall governance, in particular by promoting conflict prevention, addressing human rights abuses and enforcing the rule of law

Most of the programmes approved so far have been contracted with implementing agencies in the course of 2016 and 2017. Some preliminary results include:

- Senegal: 22,000 jobs and 20,000 vocational trainings and technical assistance to micro-small and medium enterprises;

- Niger: the AJUSEN Programme is expected to deliver 1,340 trainings to staff from governmental institutions and internal security forces. The TVET Programme supporting training and integration of 6,000 youth has started aiming at giving access to productive micro-finance loans to 1,200 youth;

IOM Programme: 2,600 stranded migrants were protected and assisted in 5 IOM centres and through mobile assistance for stranded migrants in the desert;

Djibouti: measures taken to support 500 migrants stranded in northern Djibouti through provision of basic services;

Somalia: support provided to schooling of over 7,700 displaced children; also 450 returnees, IDPs and host farmers received tools and agricultural support;

Uganda: support provided to 2,700 out-of-school children, 30% of whom are from host communities;

Libya: IOM assisted the voluntary return of 1000 stranded migrants to their countries of origin (Nigeria, Senegal, Ghana and Gambia);

In the last 6 months, the EUTF has facilitated the return and reintegration of over 6,500 irregular migrants from Niger and Libya to their communities of origin.

Kenya

19. Kenya: In 2016 roads on both sides of Mount Kenya were upgraded with the help of 2.4 million Dollar in EU funding.⁹ Under which programme has this infrastructure project been financed? What were the overall costs of the upgrade of these roads? Who was responsible for the project and who were the partners? What other touristic projects like this were financed? What is the EU share of the total amount of these projects?

Commission's answer:

In 2016-2017, 27 km of roads to and within Mount Kenya National Park were upgraded for an amount of EUR 3.4 million (EU contribution: EUR 2.2 million – 64.7%) to improve tourists access to Mount Kenya. This infrastructure project has been financed under the programme "Regional Economic Integration by means of Transport Infrastructure - Tourist Roads Component" 11th EDF - overall amount of the programme is of EUR 20 million consisting of an EDF contribution of EUR 13 million (65%) and a contribution of the beneficiary country (Government of Kenya) of EUR 7 million (35%). The Government of Kenya (Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure as Contracting Authority and Kenya Wildlife Service as Supervisor) is responsible for implementing the project. Other touristic projects similar to this one were financed in Aberdare National Park and Tsavo East National Park through the same programme (upgrading of 42 km of roads in Aberdare National Park and construction of a bridge across the Galana River in Tsavo East National Park).

Humanitarian aid

20. Could the Commission please list the 10 International Organisations which have received the highest amounts of financial support from the EU in the field of humanitarian aid in 2016? In which countries were they operating?

Commission's answer:

Top 10 International Organisations per received EU financial support in the field of Humanitarian Aid in 2016 (in EUR):

1	WFP	625,988,769
2	UNHCR *	238,590,000
3	CICR	176,652,500

⁹ <https://www.ft.com/content/6ce1d08e-2067-11e7-a454-ab04428977f9>

4	UNICEF *	171,122,218
5	IOM *	79,594,000
6	WHO	44,434,076
7	FICR *	39,661,113
8	UNFPA	23,510,000
9	OCHA	18,550,000
10	UNRWA	10,000,000

* Amount including assistance provided under the Emergency Support Instrument (ESI, Heading 3 of EU Budget)

Countries of operation with EU financial support in the field of Humanitarian Aid of the top 10 International Organisations per amount received



Q20b_Question...

IMG

21. Follow-up on the resolution Discharge 2015: EU general budget - European Commission: Which contracts with International Management Group are still underway at present?

Commission's answer:

No new contracts have been signed with IMG since January 2014.

There is currently still **one** contract underway (not expired yet) with IMG (NEAR service contract financed by ENPI on Support to Parliamentary Development in Lebanon).

There are also **five** contracts for which the period of implementation has expired and financial closure is concluding. These are:

- one DEVCO contribution agreement (financed from the EDF) with IMG (South Sudan), the implementation under that operation ended in April 2016;
- one FPI grant contract for the "Support to Reform of the Myanmar Police Force

in the areas of crowd management and community policing", where a recovery order is possible pending the results of the complementary financial audit launched in March 2017.

- three NEAR service contracts:

- 1) "Strengthening Democracy, Good Governance and Civilian Culture in the Security and Justice Sectors":
- 2) "Public Administration Capacity Building Facility Libya"
- 3) "Procurement, Civil Society, Communication and Media support to Libya"

Members of Parliament in African countries

22. In the article „Abgeordneten-Gehälter – Berlin bescheidener als Afrika“¹⁰ you can find an overview over the entitlements of Members of Parliament in the African countries. How much money earn the presidents and ministers of these African countries per month respectively?

Commission's answer:

The Commission regrets that it does not have this information.

EAMR

23. What prevents the Commission from the full disclosure of the EAMRs to the public

Commission's answer:

External Assistance Management Reports (EAMR) were transmitted to the European Parliament and to the Council on 12/05/2017 (Ares(2017)2435972) and 18/05/2017 (Ares(2017)2528866) respectively.

EAMR reports include sensitive information, including in relation to the policy dialogues carried out by the Commission with the beneficiary countries in the context of the implementation of EU external aid. The disclosure of this information to the public might lead to self-censorship and reduce the effectiveness of the EAMR as a management and reporting tool.

Therefore, the Commission considers that the reports should not be disclosed to the public and requests the Parliament to ensure their confidentiality in accordance with Article 67.3 of the Financial Regulation.

¹⁰

http://www.achgut.com/artikel/abgeordneten-gehaelter_berlin_bescheidener_als_afrika

24. If during the implementation of a project problems occurred in 2015 or 2016, the Head of Union Delegations had to categorize these problems. For a number of projects the Heads of Union Delegations reported at the end of 2015 and 2016 problems for projects in the following areas.

	Problems	Number of projects	Amount affected
P1	Substantial flaws in the intervention logic, in assumptions or in risk assessment	293	2.574.730.715,00 €
P2	Low capacity/performance of impl.partner / T.A. / beneficiaries (absorption / procedures)	86	1.185.950.022,00 €
P3	Procurement issues/delays (calls for tender/proposals/other)	87	873.197.910,00 €
P4	Low interest/commitment of stakeholders - insufficient coordination among stakeholder	34	582.363.485,00 €
P5	Insufficient co-financing/staff contribution by Government or partner organisation	44	399.987.866,00 €
P6	Blocking conditions (e.g. awaiting voting of a law, an administrative reform, a resettlement...)	56	293.389.730,00 €
P7	Insecurity/unrest	8	58.000.048,00 €
P8	Natural disaster/hazard	12	260.633.254,00 €
P9	Fiduciary risk (corruption, fraud...)	57	397.141.015,00 €
P10	Political or economic instability or general/sector policy issues	47	397.639.833,00 €
P0	OTHER	46	282.912.190,00 €

As the problems occurred in 2015 and 2016, the problems in the 770 projects (affecting: 7.305.946.068,00 €) and did not vanish in 2016, they can be considered to be persistent.

- a. Judging by the total number of projects and the total amount affected (EUR 2.5 billion), the major problem of European Assistance seems not to be the administrative performance of EU delegations, however, the strategic decisions, intervention logic and the risk assessment. These are all areas in which the Commission is directly responsible. How does the

Commission intend to improve the situation? Which actions has the Commission undertaken to improve the „intervention logic and assumptions” and „risk assessment” of European External Action?

Commission's answer:

The Commission has taken several actions in order to improve the formulation of EU-funded actions – including improving the intervention logic and risk assessment. Since 2015, revised template and instructions for Action Documents have been introduced with mandatory sections on context analysis; risk assessment and detailed logframes – clearly indicating results, indicators and associated targets.

A specifically dedicated technical assistance focusing on the above issues have been introduced in the framework of the Quality Support Groups – where the formulation of EU funded actions take place. Further guidance (e.g. new sector indicated guidance) and trainings (e.g. webinar series on logframe drafting) are being introduced in the course of 2017 in view of the same objectives.

In addition, the Results Oriented Monitoring (ROM) system is intervening in support of EU Delegations throughout the implementation of projects displaying the above-mentioned problems as well as other issues related to efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability.

- b. Almost EUR 1.2 billion in project amounts are affected by low capacity or performance of implementing partners, T.A. or beneficiaries (absorption / procedures) and another EUR 0.4 billion struggle with insufficient co-financing/staff contributions of governments and partner organizations. How will the Commission improve the situation? Which steps are taken to improve the commitment of implementation partners and the resources in European projects?

Commission's answer:

Commission services undertake regular assessments together with implementing partners to ensure that activities in the field respond to the highest possible standards. These assessments are done in the framework of regional seminars and/or annual or ad-hoc working meetings. Specific, corrective measures to improve capacity of our implementing partners may subsequently include changes in contractual arrangements adaptations to the budget.

- c. How does the Commission address these persisting problems in these affected projects in all other areas?

Commission's answer:

The category of "other problems" concerned 47 projects in 2015 and 2016. The

nature of the problems varies considerably requiring ad-hoc measures taken mainly at EU Delegation level. For instance in one project a new audit had to be called which delayed payment. Another one experienced problems with the expert team which required substitutions. In one project, lack of rain delayed the project implementations which lead to a no-cost extension of the project contract.

- d. The projects affected by blocking conditions are concentrated (in numbers and committed amounts) to a few countries. Namely, Yemen, the Delegation to Yemen (22 projects – 138.875.409 EUR), Burundi (6 projects – 21.320.001 EUR), Sudan (5 projects – 14.550.000 EUR), South Sudan (6 projects – 7.705.872 EUR), Central African Republic (3 projects – 44.110.650 EUR). What are the blocking conditions in the respective countries? What does the Commission intend to do to remedy the situations?

Commission's answer:

Due to a bug occurring during the extraction of the data, the problem flag selected for these projects appeared as "blocking conditions". Following the correction of the bug, the problem type for these projects should read "Insecurity and unrest". In the countries above, categorised as under a crisis situation, the ongoing conflicts/fragilities have resulted in blocking conditions for multiple projects. As a result, actions had to be redesigned to take into account the changing situation. Wherever possible, the redesign resulted in amendments to the contracts, but in some cases the initial concept of the project would be lost and the projects were suspended. Other projects were affected by the evacuation of the implementing partners/contractors whom, for a variety of reasons, it was decided that they were not appropriate actors for a conflict scenario.

All countries listed have seen EU staff also being evacuated at different times since 2015. As a result, projects are suspended and regularly reviewed. In due time it will be necessary to assess whether to invoke force majeure and terminate certain contracts subsequently de-committing the corresponding amounts. In countries where there is a perspective of a possible end to the conflict, a rapid resumption of development activities to support a peace and reconstruction process may be considered.

- e. From the 57 projects (EUR 0.4 billion) affected by Fiduciary risk (corruption, fraud...), for 2 projects (EUR 6.25 million) it has been decided in 2015 to put them under increased monitoring (internal/ROM/MTR) or the increased fiduciary control mechanism. For all other projects no such decision has been taken. Why? What other measures have been taken to handle the fraud and corruption risk associated with these projects?

Commission's answer:

In 2015, there were 18 projects so affected. Eight were specifically the subject of the "Increased monitoring (internal/ROM/MTR) - increased fiduciary control mechanism" corrective measure.

In 2016 there were 22 projects affected. Eight are specifically the subject of the "Increased monitoring (internal/ROM/MTR) - increased fiduciary control mechanism" corrective measure. Eight are subject to intensified political dialogue and/or donor coordination.

In both years, the comments provided by the delegation show that steps were taken to address the fiduciary risk directly – including suspending the project and recovery of lost amounts.

25. During the discharge 2014 and 2015, the Commission argued that projects classified as problematic by the key performance indicators 5 and 6 (KPI5 – implementation delays and KPI6 – risk of reaching their objectives) still have the possibility to improve during their lifetime.
- a. How many projects have been canceled in 2014, 2015 and 2016 due to implementation delays and/or the risk of achieving their output objectives?

Commission's answer:

Since the introduction of the new system in 2016, 85 projects have been suspended or terminated as part of corrective measures.

- b. Based on KPI5 and KPI6, EU projects are categorized into a traffic light system depending on how problematic the project by the Heads of Union Delegations. The table below shows the transitions among these categorizes from 2015 to 2016.

	Number of projects categorized as problematic (by the Heads of Union Delegations)					
		2015				
	Frequency Percent Row Percent Col Pct	NA	Green	Orange	Red	Total
2016	NA	2	1	0	1	4
		0.05	0.03	0.00	0.03	0.11
		50.00	25.00	0.00	25.00	
		0.24	0.05	0.00	0.64	
	Green	676	1628	319	22	2645
		18.19	43.80	8.58	0.59	71.16
		25.56	61.55	12.06	0.83	
		81.25	81.73	43.34	14.01	
	Orange	143	321	359	57	880
		3.85	8.64	9.66	1.53	23.68
		16.25	36.48	40.80	6.48	
		17.19	16.11	48.78	36.31	
	Red	11	42	58	77	188
		0.30	1.13	1.56	2.07	5.06
		5.85	22.34	30.85	40.96	
		1.32	2.11	7.88	49.04	
	Total	832	1992	736	157	3717
		22.38	53.59	19.80	4.22	100.0
						0

Almost 15% of projects are persistently categorized as problematic (red or orange traffic light). What does the Commission do to improve the situation? How are these projects treated? Only 38 % of projects categorized as problematic in 2015, are not problematic in 2016. Is the Commission still convinced that the problems are not as severe and the overall situation of projects should only be evaluated after all projects are concluded?

Commission's answer:

In view of the context and the conditions under which many EU projects are implemented, this 15 percent share of "persistently" problematic should be considered as a structural problem. This is particularly true in countries and/or sectors where the Commission is asked to intervene despite a high risk level.

Once these projects have been identified, the Commission services at both geographical and thematic level are notified and increase the follow up and supervision.

Furthermore, for projects where problems persist across years, EU Delegations have been allowed to request further ROM missions in order to follow up and strengthen corrective measures.

- c. From the project list, reported to Parliament in 2014 by the Union delegations, 618 projects can be matched to still running projects in 2016. Among these 618 projects the transition rates among the categories (green, orange, red) of KPI6 (Risk of reaching objectives) are tabled below:

		Number of projects in category of KPI 6			
		2016			
	Frequency Percent Row Pct Col Pct	Green	Orange	Red	Total
2014	Green	300	110	11	421
		48.54	17.80	1.78	68.12
		71.26	26.13	2.61	
		74.07	60.44	35.48	
	Orange	97	66	12	175
		15.70	10.68	1.94	28.32
		55.43	37.71	6.86	
		23.95	36.26	38.71	
	Red	8	6	8	22
		1.29	0.97	1.29	3.56
		36.36	27.27	36.36	
		1.98	3.30	25.81	
	Total	405	182	31	618
		65.53	29.45	5.02	100.00

Among these 618 surviving projects, 55% have escaped an orange or a red traffic light in KPI6 and are now categorized with a green traffic light. Simultaneously, 29% of projects that were categorized with a green light, are now categorized as problematic. What happened to the other projects? How many were closed early? How many were concluded in time? How many reached their objectives?

Commission's answer:

It is not possible to provide a generic answer to the question without analysing the projects on a case-by-case basis including the corrective measures taken by the Commission Services. Projects on average last between 3-5 years, sometime even less (for instance small projects or Technical Assistance contracts) and therefore there is a structural quota that is normally completed in a given year. Detailed explanations on the issues by country are available in the respective EAMRs. In 2016 a total of 85 projects were suspended or terminated as corrective measure.

- d. From the project list, reported to Parliament in 2014 by the Union delegations, 618 projects can be matched to still running projects in 2016. Among these 618 projects the transition rates among the categories (green, orange, red) of KPI5 (Risk of implementation delay) are tabled below:

	Number of projects in category of KPI 6				
		2016			
2014	Frequency Percent Row Pct Col Pct	Green	Orange	Red	Total
	Green	273 44.17 79.13 58.96	67 10.84 19.42 52.76	5 0.81 1.45 17.86	345 55.83
	Orange	35 5.66 77.78 7.56	3 0.49 6.67 2.36	7 1.13 15.56 25.00	45 7.28
	Red	155 25.08 67.98 33.48	57 9.22 25.00 44.88	16 2.59 7.02 57.14	228 36.89
	Total	463 74.92	127 20.55	28 4.53	618 100.00

Among these 618 surviving projects, 68% have escaped an orange or a red traffic light in KPI6 and are now categorized with a green traffic light. Simultaneously, 21% of projects that were categorized with a green light, are now categorized as problematic. What happened to the other projects? How many were closed early? How many were concluded in time? How many reached their objectives?

Commission's answer:

It is not possible to provide a generic answer without analysing projects on a case-by-case basis including the corrective measures taken by the Commission Services. Detailed explanations on the issues in country are available by the respective EAMRs. However, since KPIs 5 and 6 indicate the risk with regard progress implementation and result achievement, and considering that a number of such risks (for instance climate conditions, insecurity) remain outside the control of the EU Delegation, it is to be expected that a given proportion will remain flagged red/orange over time.

26. What is the reason for drop in overall green KPI result for Congo (DRC) and Timor Leste to less than 60 %?

Commission's answer:

The drop in the overall number of green Key Performance Indicator (KPI) in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is mainly due to two unexpected factors. First, the working environment was strongly disrupted by a fire in the IT room at the beginning of 2016 (just after submission of the EAMR), which created an overall backlog of 3-4 months of work according to our estimations (the archives were only recovered 4 months later and internet and IT means were dysfunctional for around 2 months). Secondly, the degradation of the political situation in the absence of progress towards due elections provoked tensions, violence and overall increased insecurity around the country, including in Kinshasa, in 2015 and 2016. This affected the day to day work of the Delegation and its partners. The adoption of new programmes was also slowed down in 2016 in the wake of what *in fine* has become an unconstitutional situation of the Government in the absence of elections by December 2016. According to procedure, an Action Plan proposing corrective measures for each KPI was produced and is under implementation by the Delegation.

The drop of the overall green KPIs for Timor-Leste was due to worsening of results related to the internal control standards. Delegation saw a high turnover of staff, including colleagues that in some cases were not replaced. Limited staff made difficult to cope with the heavy workload of the Delegation, which experienced difficulties to follow strictly the standard procedures. Moreover, the EU Delegation's performance was also affected by external factors not under its control, such as elections, changes in the ministries, etc. DEVCO and the Delegation are working together in order to improve the situation.. The regionalisation of the Finance and Contracts section that has been covered by the Delegation in Thailand since 2017 is also expected to have a positive impact on the overall performance of the Delegation in Timor-Leste.

Errors

27. In its 2016 annual activity report the DG of DG DEVCO points out that there are two high-risk pending areas: Direct Management - Grants and Indirect Management - International Organisations and Member State Agencies. This was already highlighted in its 2015 annual activity report. What steps did the EC undertake in order to solve the matter?

Commission's answer:

Following the reservation raised in DG DEVCO's 2016 Annual Activity Report (AAR) as regards the error rate, a new action plan has been adopted in order to tackle further remaining weaknesses in DG DEVCO's control system. This action plan replaces and strengthens the one set up as a result of the reservation in the 2015 AAR. It encompasses previous actions which targeted grants in direct management, as well as indirect management with international organisations and

which were not fully implemented.

Some other significant measures have been taken already:

Regarding direct management through grants:

- Amendment of the methodology for annual planning of audits and verifications;
- Development of a quality review grid (to assess the reliability of audit/expenditure verification reports) for verifications missions to International Organisations and audits contracted by Commission, integrated into the new Audit Module;
- Simplifications and clarification of procedures and contractual conditions for grants, which will be pursued in line with the possibilities offered by the new Financial Regulation.

Regarding indirect management with international organisations:

- Adaptation of the Terms of Reference for Verification Missions to International Organisations other than the World Bank and the UN;
- Amendment of the General Conditions (GC) for all contractual templates - including for indirect management - with the statement that non-provision of documentation to the Commission's auditors can constitute a breach of contract;

Cooperation with the United Nations and the World Bank Group has been intensified regarding provision of information for the DAS (Déclaration d'Assurance) and RER (Residual Error Rate) exercises. These are to be reinforced with all other international organisations in view of a sustainable reduction of errors.

28. DG DEVCO has set up internal control processes, the so called RER study, which was carried out for the 5th time. Since 2012 it shows a decrease in the error rate. Could you elaborate on this development? What effective measures had been taken and what could be improved for the future to decrease the error rate even more?

Commission's answer:

The decrease in the residual error rate suggests on one hand increased awareness and on the other that the actions chosen for the action plans following reservations in the Annual Activity Reports had some effects.

In addition to the measures mentioned in the reply to question 27, general actions have been implemented in the framework of the previous action plan resulting from the reservation in DG DEVCO's 2015 Annual Activity Report. These have become permanent elements of DG DEVCO's internal control system:

- Close follow-up of the amounts affected by errors identified in the RER studies and déclaration d'assurance (DAS) exercises through the Audit Module in order to facilitate the follow-up and systematic recovery wherever appropriate.
- In-depth analysis of the results of the control system, which led to a more

risk-differentiated assurance. Risk assessments were conducted for the 2015 and 2016 AARs and are now part of the Terms of Reference for the RER study.

- Systematic sharing of good practices and information on frequently occurring errors in regional seminars.

New actions included in the Action Plan established following the reservation in the 2016 Annual Activity Report target the high risk areas as identified in the 2016 RER study, notably:

- Further awareness-raising on recurrent errors in financial and document management for the implementation of grant contracts;
- The preparation of a road-map towards systematic reinforcements of controls, taking into account their expected benefits and costs;
- The adaptation of the pillar assessment and delegation agreement template for indirect management with International Organisations to the requirements of the Financial Regulation revision once adopted.

Specific measures intended to enhance the consistency of the functioning of audit and verification tasks have been taken, in line with their centralisation at DG DEVCO Headquarters.

29. According to the ECA Annual Report page 259, paragraph 9.18 “The Commission and its implementing partners committed more errors in transactions relating to grants, as well as contribution agreements with international organisations, than it did with other forms of support”. Could the Commission please provide the Parliament with further information on the above-mentioned errors and the involved international organisations?

Commission's answer:

The comment is made in a context where the overall error rate for the 'Global Europe' chapter of the Budget has come down from 2.8% to 2.1%. The situation with regard to grant operations and contribution agreements with international organisations has improved in line with this general trend.

A still important part of errors is due to inadequate or insufficient documentation at the level of beneficiaries or other cases of failure on the part of beneficiaries to follow contractual requirements set out in their respective agreements. Examples include:

- o proofs of payment missing,
- o missing or incomplete documentation on procurement procedure,
- o expenditures not related to the project or outside contractual period,
- o VAT included in costs charged to a project,
- o missing proof that expenditure is related to the project funded,
- o overstated costs charged to the funded project.

The organisations most concerned are not the same from one year to the next. It is

for that reason that one key mitigating measure is to continuously recall the importance of close coordination and cooperation in relation to controls.

The relative underperformance of control systems for these operations was recognised in DG DEVCO's Annual Activity Reports for 2015 and 2016 and a differentiated reservation was issued. Remedial actions are ongoing.

30. According to ECA AR 2016 DG DEVCO is responsible for the majority of unquantified and quantified errors. As the most common errors are absence of essential supporting documents, not incurred expenditure and ineligible cost. The error rate of not incurred expenditure and ineligible costs/expenditure remained almost the same, but absence of essential supporting documents more than doubled. What are the Commission's actions in order to learn lessons from past and not repeating the same errors? Why is the Commission not using all information at disposal to detect and correct the errors before accepting the expenditure? From the data shown in ECA AR 2016 it looks like there is almost no improvement in errors structure, rather the opposite.

Commission's answer:

The analysis of most common errors needs to be seen against the background that the overall error rate for the 'Global Europe' chapter of the Budget has come down from 2.8% to 2.1%. The increase of the absolute volume of errors attributable to the absence of essential supporting documents is, thus, lower than the increase of its share in the overall absolute volume of errors.

In a number of cases, the lack of documentation is due to *force majeure*. For example, documents were not retrievable due to an earthquake in Nepal and due to an epidemic in Cambodia. In other cases, the documentation is not provided for confidentiality reasons. The Commission always acts with diligence in order to overcome such a situation and to find workable solutions for all parties.

The Commission continues its efforts to address remaining control weaknesses in line with an updated action plan adopted in reaction to the differentiated reservation issued in DG DEVCO's Annual Activity Report 2016. The use of available information for the purposes of controls regarding the legality and regularity of expenditure comes at a cost. An excessive use even of available information would lead to an unacceptable increase of control costs.

31. To what extent is the calculation of the residual error rate by the Commission based on facts and/or on future expectations, assumptions? How reliable is the residual error rate

Commission's answer:

The methodology of the Residual Error Rate (RER) study is based on the analysis of selected invoices from contracts closed during a given 12-month period. It is therefore based on facts (which may include only any corrections that have

actually been made) and not on future expectations or assumptions. The European Court of Auditors (ECA) has been checking the application of the methodology every year and wrote in its 2014 Annual EDF report: "The RER study is based on an appropriate methodology and provides useful information, which allows DG DEVCO to identify where the implementation of control systems should be improved. Our review of the 2014 RER study found that it was carried out overall in accordance with the methodology and provides sufficient evidence that the RER is material." Another indication on reliability is the fact that the ECA decided to rely on the results of the RER study for the transactions that match with the scope of its own analysis.

32. ECA Annual Report page 255 – Paragraph 9.8 reads the following: "In five cases of quantifiable error, the Commission had sufficient information to prevent, or to detect and correct, the error before accepting the expenditure. Had the Commission made proper use of all the information at its disposal, the estimated level of error for this chapter would have been 0.7 percentage points lower." Moreover, the Court identified control weaknesses in the Commission's 'Global Europe' DGs' systems.
- Could you elaborate further on these cases? What actions will be undertaken by the EC in order to prevent this problem?

Commission's answer: The use of available information for the purposes of controls regarding the legality and regularity of expenditure comes at a cost. An excessive use even of available information would lead to an unacceptable increase of control costs.

In 2016, the Commission managed to reduce the error rate quantified by the European Court of Auditors (ECA) from 2.8% to 2.1%. The residual error rate continued its steady decrease from 3.63% in 2012 to 1.67% in 2016. At the same time, the total cost of control as a percentage of the total amount paid reported by DG DEVCO in its Annual Activity Report went down from 5.11% to 4.26%.

While neither a further reduction of the overall error rate nor a continuation of the downward trend of control costs can be guaranteed, the Commission intends to continue its efforts to reduce the overall error rate, notably by focussing on the relatively riskier areas of expenditure in line with an updated action plan adopted in reaction to the differentiated reservation issued in DG DEVCO's Annual Activity Report 2016, while at the same time avoiding unjustifiable costs of control.

Budget support

33. As regards Honduras the Court noted in its Special Report 30/2016 that the Commission did not always react consistently when Honduras did not comply with the budget support eligibility conditions. Could you elaborate on this a bit further, as the situation as described by the Court is really worrying: poverty has increased, the area of forest has decreased, and there is still widespread violence with a very high homicide rate - despite the increasing EU aid provided.

Commission's answer:

Budget support provided to Honduras has been coherent and consistent. It ensured a close policy dialogue with the partner country and its adaptation to difficult circumstances. In this context, the Court did not question any of the Commission's disbursement decisions. Withholding several payments until the prospects for macroeconomic stability had improved and the IMF was able to make progress in the negotiations of a new agreement, was perceived as a good practice. It also helped to redress the situation by send a strong signal to the Government. .

When the Court mentions the inconsistency in the EU approach, it refers to one specific case of signing a new budget support agreement in the forestry sector while several payments were being withheld in other areas of intervention.

The Commission insists on the fact that the preparation of budget support programmes can occur while other programmes are not making disbursements. Engaging in discussions on this particular forestry programme was a way to push for further improvements in macroeconomic and Public Finance Management (PFM) conditions. Furthermore, it was made clear that there would be no payments under this programme until the situation was back on track (in fact, the first payment was released with a delay). The Government's commitment towards reforms remains a key element of policy dialogue and eligibility for budget support.

Indeed, high levels of poverty and widespread violence, remain one of the most pressing challenges in Honduras. Yet, there are external factors outside the EU control such as the 2009 political crisis that unfortunately have negatively affected the outcomes and impact of EU interventions.

As the Court states in its report, in those difficult circumstances, the EU actions were relevant, generally delivered the expected outputs, and contributed to a number of positive developments. In conclusion, the Commission considers that without the EU's intervention, the impact of the 2008 global financial crisis on poverty levels would have been much worse.

34. Concerning government revenue generation from domestic tax in Sub-Saharan Africa as a result of EU funding, the Court found in its Special Report 35/2016 that the mobilisation of the revenues is not yet effective, despite 1.7 bn EUR spent between 2012-2016 in budget support. While understanding the local difficulties, such as the widespread poverty and illiteracy, hard-to-tax groups in subsistence agriculture and the informal sector, problematic accounting in the private sector, deficient rule of law, and a high incidence of corruption and weak administrative capacity, the Commission made the disbursement of budget support funds conditional on specific reforms in only five of the 15 contracts audited. Why did the Commission not insist on the fulfilment of certain reforms before providing further tranches of support?

Commission's answer:

The amount of EUR 1.7 billion represents budget support covering a wide range of sectors and granted between 2012 and April 2016 in Sub-Saharan countries. As stressed by the European Court of Auditors, it is not possible to identify unambiguously the share of which that supported Domestic Revenue Mobilisation (DRM) Directly.

Budget support is a results-based mechanism where disbursements are commensurate to the results achieved. The emphasis is put usually on the results in the supported sector policy (health, education, justice, etc.). The Commission only provides budget support to countries which demonstrate sufficient progress in terms of macroeconomic and fiscal management, and national or sector policy implementation.

The Commission underlines that DRM is an integral part of macro-economic (fiscal policies) and public finance management (tax and fiscal administration notably). Sufficient progress needs to be made in each of the criteria before disbursements can take place. At the same time, flexibility is vital. The example cited in the audit report concerned reforms in a country which was severely hit by the Ebola crisis. In this context the Commission deemed understandable that administrative reforms took longer than planned. In many other cases reforms went ahead as planned.

Evaluations point to significant developmental results and the Commission monitoring of budget support countries shows that these have consistently outperformed other developing countries in terms of poverty reduction, public finance management and control of corruption. A detailed overview is available under https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/annual-report-eu-budget-support-2016-0_en. The new report, which is to be transmitted to the European Parliament and published in the coming weeks, increases the focus on sector results.

The Commission considers Domestic Revenue Mobilisation (DRM) an essential driver for development efforts, as expressed in the new European Consensus on Development. Under the 'Collect More – Spend Better'¹¹ approach, the EU supports DRM through a number of instruments and actions of which budget support is only one. DRM and tax reforms are long-term efforts that do not immediately translate into measurable results. This is also expressed in the Courts press release stating that EU support was "not yet effective". In response to the audit, the Commission services are further strengthening the DRM dimension of budget support.

35. Does the Commission know the origin of the motorcycles purchased in Niger? (Example 5 on page 266 of the ECA annual report)

Commission's answer:

The motorcycles were produced in China. The Commission agreed with the

¹¹ SWD(2015) 198

<https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/swd-collect-more-spend-better.pdf>

Court's finding and has already initiated the recovery procedure.

New European Consensus on Development

36. In 2016 the New European consensus on Development has been adopted. What kind of actions are to be expected in this context and how does it affect the budget implementation and the financial management? Can you please explain how will the control and accountability be ensured for new instruments in this context?

Commission's answer:

The new European Consensus on Development (ECD) provides the framework for a common approach to development policy to be applied by the EU and its Member States in their cooperation with all developing countries. The ECD maintains the focus of EU development policy on poverty eradication. It also integrates in a balanced manner the three dimensions (economic, social and environmental) of sustainable development, and helps ensure the 2030 Agenda implementation by the EU.

While the Consensus itself is not intended to result in specific new instruments, we are reviewing all our ongoing work and tools to make them gradually consistent with the Consensus framework. Programme proposals will progressively be built around the Consensus, and the 5 Ps highlighted: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership, and contribute to the achievement of SDGs by our partner countries.

Fully in line with the Consensus, we are pressing forward with a range of initiatives (including the European External Investment Plan, blending facilities to mobilise additional resources for development, the Gender Initiative with the UN, and 'Collect More, Spend Better').

The processes of control and accountability will remain robust and transparent. Concerning initiatives to pool resources and apply quick and flexible decision-making, such as the EU Trust Funds used for emergency, post-emergency or thematic actions, the Consensus contains specific commitments on transparency. They are being applied in existing Trust Funds and will apply to the European Fund for Sustainable Development.

The 2030 Agenda and the ECD are also informing our work for our future collective relations with the ACP countries, the mid-term review of external financing instruments and, at a further stage, the new multi-annual financial framework (MFF). The question of control and accountability for instruments under the new MFF are to be addressed during discussions on the instruments and it is intended to aim for continued high standards and full transparency.

Root causes of migration

37. In 2016 the EC proposed an European External Investment Plan for Africa and the European Neighbourhood as a means to address the root causes of migration. What is the state of the play for this Investment Plan?

Commission's answer:

The Regulation on the European Fund for Sustainable Development (EFSD) entered into force on 28 September 2017. The EFSD is at the core of the EU's ambitious new External Investment Plan (EIP).

The EIP is intended to leverage and encourage investment in EU partner countries in Africa and the EU Neighbourhood region. It is expected to promote job creation and sustainable development and thus tackle some of the root causes of irregular migration.

The first EFSD Strategic Board took place on the same day the Regulation entered into force. The Board includes the EU Member States and the European Investment Bank (EIB) as well as the European Parliament as observer. Discussions of the first Board touched upon the rules of procedure, the strategic orientations, and the proposals for concrete areas for investment, the so-called "investment windows". These will define priority sectors for the EFSD Guarantee identified as essential for the creation of decent and sustainable jobs in Africa and the EU Neighbourhood.

As of 4 October 2017, the planned next steps in the implementation process are as follows:

- End of October 2017: First meeting of Operational Board and adoption of the first investment windows.
- Beginning of November 2017: Issuance of Call for Proposals for first batch of Proposed Investment Programmes
- End of November 2017: First deliverables presented to EU-Africa and Eastern Partnership Summit.

38. In order to address the root causes of irregular migration there have been established partnership frameworks on migration which was adopted in 2016. How will be ensured that this partnerships deliver on jointly agreed targets and commitments, including areas such as resilience and job creation, infrastructure, investments, border management and disrupting the business model of migrant smugglers and traffickers in human beings, and the resources not being used for other purposes?

Commission's answer:

Under the EU Agenda for Migration and the Partnership Framework approach, the EU has identified a number of priority countries for engagement and dialogue. The degree to which targets and commitments are formulated and delivered is documented in the regular progress reports of the partnership framework, the fifth and last one having been issued on 6 September 2017 (COM(2017) 471 final). The latter report also notes that the upcoming EU-Africa Summit will constitute an opportunity to take stock of progress made within the context of the Partnership Framework with African countries and to add new dynamics to the ongoing efforts.

All operational and programmatic commitments made in alignment with the Partnership Framework Approach are subject to their respective legal frameworks and corresponding monitoring arrangements.

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