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E-002543/2020

Answer given by Ms Urpilainen  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(1.7.2020)

1. The Commission is concerned by the combination of the Desert Locusts upsurge and the COVID-19 pandemic in the Greater Horn of Africa region, where almost 23 million people are severely food insecure. The Commission already allocated EUR 51 million (EUR 41 million from humanitarian funds and EUR 10 million<sup>1</sup> from development funds) to mitigate the locusts upsurge and its adverse impact on food security in the Greater Horn of Africa including through control measures, food assistance and livelihood support. The Commission services are currently preparing another support measure to strengthen the regional locust control action and to enlarge the area of operation to Tanzania.

2. The new action to be developed by the Commission against the locust upsurge takes into account the restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic impact on food security and nutrition. Similarly, COVID-19 related actions, in the case of the trade programme<sup>2</sup> for example, address movement restrictions that may disrupt supply chains. The Commission is working with the African Union in the framework of the AU-FAO Task Force on the Impact of COVID-19 on Food Security and Nutrition in Africa to put in place actions responding to the current crisis.

3. To help nomadic livestock farmers, the Commission is financing measures to safeguard livelihoods such as providing cash interventions; subsidised livestock feed and supplementary feed in areas where desert locusts have severely affected pasture, as well as quality inputs that will help farmers optimise harvest. For example, livestock recovery packages in Somalia or farming reengagement packages in Ethiopia.

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<sup>1</sup> Decision C(2020) 875 final dated 21 February 2020

<sup>2</sup> 'Safe Trade Emergency Facility' programme (KE/FED/ 042-798)