

ORAL QUESTION WITH DEBATE O-0054/09
pursuant to Rule 108 of the Rules of Procedure
by Thierry Cornillet, on behalf of the ALDE Group
to the Commission

Subject: One year on from the signing of the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid

The European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid was signed jointly by the Council and representatives of the governments of the Member States meeting within the Council, the European Parliament and the European Commission on 18 December 2007. The negotiating process between the three institutions was an important opportunity to reach a political consensus on the way to respond to increasingly complex crisis situations and define what is the perimeter of humanitarian action for Europe. A European Commission action plan setting out practical measures for implementing this joint text was adopted on 29 May 2008 and approved by the Council on 22 July 2008.

According to Article 101 of the Consensus, 'EU progress in implementation of this Consensus on Humanitarian Aid should be discussed regularly in Council and with the European Parliament ...'.

One year after the Consensus was signed it is time to review the European Union's action in the field of humanitarian aid.

- In general terms, what measures has the European Union taken in 2008 and what measures will it be taking to implement the commitments set out in the Consensus?
- In view of the growing frequency of natural disasters and climate changes, what is the EU's political strategy for integrating disaster risk reduction and disaster preparation in developing countries into its humanitarian aid and development policy?
- What attention is being given to under-financed, neglected or forgotten humanitarian crises, where the international global humanitarian response is inadequate?
- What action will the European Union be taking in response to the International Conference on Respect for Humanitarian International Law of 16 September 2008, to preserve the 'humanitarian space' needed to guarantee access to vulnerable populations and the safety of humanitarian workers?

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Deadline for reply: 20.03.2009