



European Council
Cabinet of the President

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To all the signatories,

President Tusk has asked me to thank you for your letter of 5 June concerning the EU's response to the humanitarian crisis in South Sudan. The President shares your concerns regarding the tragic situation. The past twenty months of reckless and selfish fighting have caused terrible suffering and an ever-increasing level of brutality.

The European Union, in particular through Special Representative for the Horn of Africa, Alexander Rondos, is actively engaged in trying to stop the violence. The EU is also fostering international efforts to address the humanitarian tragedy and to ensure an adequate level of assistance to respond to the deteriorating humanitarian situation.

In this context, Christos Stylianides, European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response, co-hosted *the High-Level Event on the Humanitarian Crisis in South Sudan and its Impact on the Region* on 16 June in Geneva with the UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Stephen O'Brien. At this occasion, Donors pledged €245 million in new funding.

The following EU pledges were announced: Austria €350,000; Belgium €3.7 million; EU Commission €50 million; Germany €3.5 million; Ireland €3 million; Italy €4.95 million; Luxembourg €1.9 million; Slovenia €30,000; UK €40 million. The EU accounts for approximately 39% of the humanitarian funding in South Sudan.

The European Commission alone increased its humanitarian funding by €50 million, bringing its total contribution for 2015 to €120 million – covering also the urgent needs of South Sudanese refugees in neighbouring countries. Commissioner Stylianides denounced the irresponsibility of political leaders acting in total disregard of the South Sudanese population, with their acts having led to a huge and avoidable humanitarian emergency. He called on the international community to intensify its engagement to stop the conflict and to take all appropriate measures to hold those responsible accountable for their actions. Participants of the event also called for a fundamental shift towards upholding humanitarian principles and facilitating protection and assistance to those in need (*see joint communiqué attached*).

As you rightly point out, genuine peace negotiations are the only way forward and need to be revitalised swiftly. The Government and opposition leaders still seem unwilling to make progress but the onus remains on them; they must demonstrate their ability to compromise and engage in a political process to achieve a lasting peace. The EU will continue to exert pressure on the parties in close coordination the whole international community – including IGAD, the AU and others.

President Tusk is grateful for the vital work of the European Parliament in raising awareness of this important matter.

Yours sincerely,



Pawel Gras

Advisor to the President of the European Council

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