

Letter of Intent between

**the European Commission, through the Directorate-General for Humanitarian  
Aid and Civil Protection (DG ECHO)**

**and the Government of the Republic of Chile**

**on cooperation in the area of disasters**

A. The cooperation partners

Both the European Commission and the Government of the Republic of Chile, hereinafter "the partners", recognize the importance of and mutual interest in preventing, relieving and tackling the adverse consequences of natural and man-made disasters.

Through the European Commission Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (DG ECHO) and the Chilean National Emergency Office (ONEMI), they wish to expand their respective knowledge in the area of prevention, preparedness, response and recovery from disasters, and agree to establish a dialogue in the field of disaster risk reduction. The dialogue will take place inter alia in the context of the EU-Chile Association Agreement.

On the basis of their co-operation during and after the 2010 Tsunami in the Pacific, the European Commission and the Republic of Chile agree that collaboration will strengthen their respective institutional capacities and enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the use of their respective resources.

## B. The guiding principles

The partners realise the increase in the frequency and intensity of disasters, largely due to climate change, environmental degradation and population growth combined with increasing urbanisation as well as increased industrial activity.

They are convinced of the economic importance, the cost-effectiveness and the efficiency of prevention and preparedness for all types of disasters, including through measures taken to adapt to climate change.

An approach that balances disaster response with prevention, mitigation and preparedness is the best way to respond to the increasing threats posed by disasters. The exchange of information on such policies and on experiences in this matter can greatly benefit both cooperation partners.

For an efficient response to disasters, coordination between the various actors at local, national and international level is also necessary in order to facilitate a coherent approach and to maximise the impact of interventions. Dialogue and cooperation between the partners could explore strategies to promote an effective regionalisation of best practices on disaster risk reduction and response, optimizing the added value to be contributed by both sides on strengthening regional networks.

For the above reasons, the partners believe firmly in the benefits of international cooperation in crises.

### C. Identified areas of Cooperation

The partners will cooperate with a view to:

- 1) encouraging and facilitating mutually acceptable contacts;
- 2) participating in congresses, meetings, conferences and symposia;
- 3) facilitating the exchange of information and best practices on disaster preparedness and mitigation with local communities and institutions in disaster prone areas;
- 4) improving their knowledge base on risks and hazards;
- 5) promoting the sharing of information and lessons learned from disasters;
- 6) promoting the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in related sectors and institutions;
- 7) exchanging good practices and know-how on risk assessment and mapping;
- 8) promoting direct cooperation between the European Commission's Monitoring and Information Centre (MIC) and ONEMI 24/H 7/7 emergency response centre.

In this regard, the contact points for the pursuit of the dialogue and for the implementation of the organizational arrangements jointly agreed will be:

- A. For the European Commission: Ian Clark, Head of Unit, DG ECHO/A-5 Civil Protection Policy, Prevention, Preparedness and Disaster Risk Reduction.
- B. For the Republic of Chile: Andrés Salgado, Head of Cabinet of the National Director of ONEMI.

These contact points will take stock at regular intervals of the progress of the foreseen activities.

This Letter of Intent does not entail any legally binding effects in respect of either Party.

Signed in Brussels on 25 November 2011

For the European Commission

For the Government of the Republic of  
Chile



***Claus H. SØRENSEN***

Director-General

Directorate General Humanitarian

Aid and Civil Protection

of the European Commission



***Carlos APPELGREN BALBONTIN***

Ambassador of Chile

to Belgium, Luxembourg,

and the European Union

***Only the English text is authentic***