



EUROPEAN COMMISSION – PRESS RELEASE

**THE EUROPEAN UNION REMEMBERS THE VICTIMS  
OF HURRICANE SANDY IN THE CARIBBEAN  
AND ANNOUNCES ADDITIONAL AID OF €1.5 MILLION**

**Jamaica and the Dominican Republic will receive aid in  
addition to the €10 million already allocated to Haiti and Cuba**

Santo Domingo/Kingston, 13 March 2013 – Almost five months after Hurricane Sandy devastated the Caribbean and North America, the European Union has decided to increase the aid granted to victims of the disaster by donating €1.5 million to the Dominican Republic and Jamaica.

This new funding comes in addition to the €10 million allocated in 2012 to provide emergency assistance to those Caribbean countries most affected, Haiti (€6 million) and Cuba (€4 million). Provided from the reserve for humanitarian aid of the European Development Fund (EDF), these funds will be managed by ECHO, the Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection of the European Commission.

*'It is precisely a few months after the disaster that many victims feel the medium-term effects of the hurricane, after their crops have yielded nothing,'* said Jocelyn Lance, Head of ECHO Office for the Caribbean. He added: *'We will work with the communities most affected to restore their livelihoods, in particular food production, and to rehabilitate housing and water systems before the next rainy season.'*

In the Dominican Republic, almost 40,000 hurricane victims will benefit from an aid package of €1 million, which will be channelled to the provinces of Barahona, Azua, Monte Plata, San José de Ocoa, Independencia and Bahoruco. ECHO's partner organisations, namely the Spanish Red Cross and Oxfam, will be responsible for the management of humanitarian operations focussing on restoring damaged housing, improving access to drinking water, raising public awareness about the prevention of water-related diseases (dengue fever, cholera and leptospirosis) and helping the people most affected regain their livelihoods.

Jamaica will receive €0.5 million in aid, which will fund the operations of the French Red Cross in three parishes (Portland, St Thomas and St Mary) aimed at repairing damaged homes and helping victims overcome their losses and regain their livelihoods.

## BACKGROUND

Heading north, Hurricane Sandy began its destructive journey on 24 October 2012 and hit Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, Cuba and the Bahamas before reaching the United States. In the hurricane's path 190 people were killed, harvests and crops were destroyed, sparking fears of food shortages, and the infrastructure was devastated in many regions.

The Caribbean is among the world's regions most exposed to natural threats such as hurricanes, floods, landslides and earthquakes. Since 1995, the European Commission has allocated nearly €140 million in humanitarian aid in the region (excluding Haiti) to cope with disasters when they occur and to better equip communities against future disasters.

### Further information:

The response of the European Commission in the Caribbean:

[http://ec.europa.eu/echo/aid/caribbean\\_pacific/caribbean\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/echo/aid/caribbean_pacific/caribbean_en.htm)

The response of the European Commission in Haiti:

[http://ec.europa.eu/echo/aid/caribbean\\_pacific/haiti\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/echo/aid/caribbean_pacific/haiti_en.htm)

The Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection of the European Commission: [http://ec.europa.eu/echo/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/echo/index_en.htm)

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