



## European Humanitarian Forum

### Humanitarian logistics: a renewed approach across the sector

Tuesday, March 22, 2022, 14:15 – 16:00

Moderator: *Karen Coleman*

Panelists: *Hans Das* (European Commission, DG ECHO); *Lucio Demichele* (Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs); *Athalie Mayo* (Global Logistics Cluster); *Jean-Baptiste Lamarche* (Réseau Logistique Humanitaire); *Iñigo Vila* (Spanish Red Cross); *Prof. Maria Besiou* (Kuehne Logistics University)

**Executive Summary:** The European Commission's DG ECHO presented its new policy on humanitarian logistics, and the panel discussed the benefits of making a paradigm shift in the approach to humanitarian logistics, to help achieve a more efficient, effective and green delivery of humanitarian aid. The panel set out a vision for a more collaborative approach to logistics, recognising the vital role of logistics in all humanitarian projects.

In a first round of interventions, panellists highlighted projects and research in humanitarian logistics. The DG ECHO humanitarian logistics policy aims to support a more efficient, effective and greener humanitarian aid, through a paradigm shift in the sector's approach to logistics. A strong focus of the policy is on developing cooperation. DG ECHO is delivering projects like the EU Humanitarian Air Bridges and developing a European Humanitarian Response Capacity. Italy has worked with WFP to develop a logistics hub in Brindisi, operating through a loan and borrow mechanism. The Global Logistics Cluster has a role in coordination, preparedness, and sharing best practice across the sector, and has recently developed a five-year strategy. INGOs and International Organisations are implementing projects in humanitarian logistics, like the RLH Cooperative, which will provide a platform for NGOs to collaborate in areas like joint procurement, and IFRC's greening projects and its Guidelines for the domestic facilitation and regulation of international disaster relief and initial recovery assistance. KLU presented its latest research, which highlighted the need for collaboration, and the importance of involving local partners in developing solutions.

In a second round of interventions, panellists reflected on the future of humanitarian logistics. They welcomed DG ECHO's policy and noted the importance of implementation. In the policy, DG ECHO commits to fund development and testing of new tools for humanitarian logistics, and to work with other donors including to harmonise approaches where possible. DG ECHO calls on partners to integrate logistics planning throughout the project cycle, and to recognise, including at management level, the importance of logistics expertise.

Panellists noted that the inclusion of a panel with logistics experts at the Forum highlighted the sector's growing focus on this area. Collaboration between partners continued to be highlighted as an important area, including data sharing. Other key challenges noted were

security, the funding gap, and the need for local approaches. Panellists discussed ways to overcome the challenge of collaborating on logistics while also being in competition.