

**MERCREDI 3 FÉVRIER 2010**

**BRUXELLES**

**COMMISSION DÉVELOPPEMENT**

**AUDITION DE MME KRISTALINA  
GEORGIEVA**

**COMMISSAIRE DÉSIGNÉE**

**COOPERATION INTERNATIONALE, AIDE  
HUMANITAIRE ET REPONSE À LA CRISE**

3-002

**PRÉSIDENCE DE MME EVA JOLY**

*(La réunion est ouverte à 12*

3-003

**La Présidente.** – Bon après-midi, chers collègues, Madame Georgieva! Soyez la bienvenue au Parlement européen et à la commission du développement!

Nous connaissons tous le but de cette réunion, qui est l'audition de Mme Georgieva, en vue de l'évaluation de ses aptitudes à être le membre de la commission responsable de la coopération internationale, de l'aide humanitaire et de la gestion des crises, portefeuille qui lui a été désigné par le président Barroso.

Je vous rappelle que, conformément aux lignes directrices pour l'approbation de la Commission, compte tenu de l'annexe XVII du règlement, "Le Parlement évalue les commissaires désignés sur la base de leur compétence générale, de leur engagement européen et de leur indépendance personnelle". Le Parlement évalue aussi "la connaissance de leur portefeuille potentiel et leurs capacités de communication".

Je vous rappelle également que, préalablement à l'audition, la commissaire désignée a répondu, par écrit, à un questionnaire préparatoire. Les réponses écrites ont été distribuées et se trouvent dans vos dossiers. Avant d'entamer nos travaux, je vous rappelle enfin brièvement le déroulement de cette audition.

Nous commencerons par une brève déclaration des groupes politiques sur leurs priorités dans le domaine de l'aide humanitaire et de la gestion des crises. Ensuite, la commissaire désignée est invitée à faire une déclaration d'introduction, qui ne devra pas excéder 10 minutes.

Cette introduction sera suivie par approximativement 2 heures et 45 minutes de questions, qui seront ouvertes par un tour de table d'un représentant de chaque groupe politique. Ce débat se déroulera selon le principe dit "du ping-pong", par créneau de trois minutes et demie maximum: 45 secondes pour chaque question, 1 minute 45 secondes pour la réponse de la commissaire, 30 secondes pour une question de suivi – le cas

échéant – et 30 secondes pour la réponse finale – le cas échéant également.

Je vous rappelle que le temps de parole des députés est strictement limité à 45 secondes. Plus les questions seront brèves, plus il restera de temps pour la réponse de la commissaire désignée et pour d'éventuelles questions de suivi.

Je tiens à préciser que les questions de suivi doivent être effectivement liées à la réponse de la commissaire désignée et qu'elles ne peuvent pas soulever d'autres sujets. En tant que présidente de la commission et présidente de la séance, je me réserve le droit de ne pas admettre les questions de suivi qui ne respecteraient pas ces critères.

Nous aurons aussi deux brefs créneaux pour un débat selon le système "catch the eye", sur des sujets qui ont été identifiés par les coordinateurs et qui constituent des priorités pour notre commission. Les députés qui désirent intervenir dans ces débats auront entre 15 et 20 secondes pour poser leur question et j'invite la commissaire à être également très brève dans sa réponse. Je vous informe que, pour l'attribution du temps de parole, priorité sera donnée aux membres effectifs et aux membres suppléants de la commission du développement.

Nous avons également prévu quelques créneaux pendant lesquels j'inviterai la commissaire à élaborer ou à préciser sa réponse à certaines questions de députés, auxquelles il n'aurait pas été répondu de façon satisfaisante ou complète, et qui me seront signalées par les représentants des groupes politiques.

Je vous informe que nous avons invité la commission de l'environnement et la commission des affaires étrangères à participer à cette audition, et je souhaite la bienvenue aux collègues de ces commissions.

À la fin de l'audition, j'inviterai la commissaire désignée, Mme Georgieva, à faire une brève déclaration finale, si elle le souhaite.

Le débat sera interprété dans toutes les langues. Tous les orateurs peuvent donc utiliser leur propre langue. Les

orateurs sont par contre priés de tenir compte de la nécessité d'une interprétation de leur intervention et, donc, de ne pas parler trop vite.

Je vous rappelle que le débat sera transmis en direct par Web streaming, sur le site internet du Parlement, et que l'enregistrement vidéo de l'audition restera à disposition sur le même site.

Ceci étant dit, nous commençons notre audition par la déclaration des groupes politiques.

3-004

**Filip Kaczmarek (PPE).** – Pani Przewodnicząca! Pani Komisarz! Cieszymy się, że możemy z Panią porozmawiać na ważne dla Komisji Rozwoju tematy. W traktacie lizbońskim pomoc humanitarna po raz pierwszy została formalnie rozpoznana w prawie Unii Europejskiej jako jedna z zewnętrznych strategii politycznych Unii. Po raz pierwszy powołałyśmy też komisarza, którego podstawową odpowiedzialnością jest pomoc humanitarna. Stworzenie osobnego portfolio to wyraźny sygnał, dany przez Unię i przez przewodniczącego Barroso, że traktujemy poważnie pomoc humanitarną i stawiamy na wzmocnienie roli Unii Europejskiej na scenie międzynarodowej w tym zakresie. To krok w dobrym kierunku.

Unia Europejska jako największy dawca pomocy humanitarnej na świecie musi stawiać na kilka podstawowych elementów: koordynację, spójność i komplementarność oraz być przygotowana na wyzwania, nowe wyzwania, stojące przed globalną pomocą humanitarną. A te wyzwania, które przed nami stoją, są naprawdę trudne, sami zresztą widzimy to wszyscy na przykładzie ostatniej klęski na Haiti.

Jednym z najważniejszych z tych wyzwań jest neutralne i efektywne udzielanie pomocy humanitarnej. Rzeczywistość w tym zakresie nie napawa optymizmem. Na pewno będziemy tutaj często mówić o fakcie, jak wielu pracowników humanitarnych ginie, pełniąc swoje funkcje, tylko dlatego, że z różnych względów stanowią łatwy cel. I przeciwko temu musimy walczyć.

3-005

**Thijs Berman (S&D).** – Madam Commissioner-designate, humanitarian aid is, as you know, a constant struggle; a struggle between the realpolitik of the powerful, with their strategic or industrial interests, and the lives of many less powerful women, children and men – in that order, as women and children are the first victims of today's conflicts.

It is also a struggle between bringing relief to those who suffer and, cynically, the risk of perpetuating a conflict by the very arrival of new humanitarian goods that may be a source of further fighting.

Your task will be to show determination in fulfilling Europe's duty. Sometimes you will have to impose respect for humanitarian law on Foreign Ministers who do not always share this as a priority. Things may seem easy in Haiti but a natural disaster is so completely

different from man-made suffering. A tsunami is no Darfur; the real dilemmas are there, with the many horrors humans are capable of inflicting on each other. When to intervene? By which means? And, while modesty is the last thing victims are asking from us, the flood in Burma showed the limits of our resolve.

The S&D Group will be with you when you strengthen humanitarian principles throughout the world, showing that for Europe each human being deserves a decent future. We are eager to hear your views on the many dilemmas facing humanitarian aid and to see your wish to bring swift and decisive aid from Europe.

3-006

**Charles Goerens (ALDE).** – Madame, votre audition coïncide avec le début de réponse que donne la communauté internationale à la situation en Haïti. Comme l'expérience récente le démontre, vous serez sans doute la commissaire qui aura le moins de temps à sa disposition pour préparer une réponse à une question extrêmement complexe, comme c'est le cas pour les actions humanitaires.

Troisième point, vos interlocuteurs seront nombreux: les vingt-sept États membres et, au sein de la Commission, au moins deux autres commissaires qui sont directement ou indirectement interpellés par ce que vous faites, ne fût-ce que pour des impératifs de coordination.

Quatrième point: vous serez aussi interpellée par le côté moins spectaculaire - je pense notamment aux grands oubliés que sont les patients en droit d'attendre un traitement antirétroviral. Ils font partie des grands oubliés, comme il y a aussi des conflits oubliés, dans lesquels votre action sera importante.

Et, finalement, vous avez en face de vous un Parlement qui est soucieux de dialoguer avec vous, dès lors qu'il s'agit de mettre en œuvre le traité de Lisbonne, qui nous impose, notamment, ce devoir de coordination en matière de réponse humanitaire à donner aux grands défis qui nous guettent.

3-007

**Catherine Greze (Verts/ALE).** – Madame Georgieva, vos engagements, vos compétences et vos réponses écrites sont, pour notre groupe, très encourageants. Une des priorités de notre groupe - cela ne vous surprendra pas -, ce sont les réponses que l'on peut apporter aux désastres liés aux changements climatiques.

Tous les désastres ne sont pas liés aux changements climatiques - on l'a vu avec Haïti - mais beaucoup de désastres le sont: la montée des eaux sur la planète, la sécheresse, les phénomènes indirects, l'accélération des vents, les ouragans qui se rapprochent de plus en plus...

Tout comme vous, nous savons bien que l'aide humanitaire – votre domaine – est liée à d'autres politiques plus profondes de prévention des risques, qui doivent être mises en œuvre parallèlement à tout cela.

Ma question est la suivante: quelles sont vos propositions concrètes par rapport aux préventions des désastres liés aux changements climatiques, et quelle influence exercerez-vous sur vos collègues en ce qui concerne ces questions?

Enfin, je voudrais conclure en disant que notre groupe est quand même assez inquiet de la nouvelle organisation et du découpage des portefeuilles par rapport à toutes ces questions.

3-008

**Nirj Deva (ECR).** – Madam Commissioner-designate, you come to this hearing with a great deal of experience at the World Bank and elsewhere on the matters we are discussing this morning. Humanitarian assistance naturally follows humanitarian intervention, and the responsibility to protect is, I think, one of the most important responsibilities that we have as human beings.

In the old days, responsibility to protect was seen as an intrusion on national sovereignty, but in more recent times the responsibility to protect could be seen as actually building the sovereignty of a nation's capacity to protect itself. Would you agree with me, therefore, in this statement that we should intervene in places like Darfur to build the capacity of those countries and help the governments of those countries – the authorities of those countries – to do the things they should do but are not able to do? I think it is an important aspect of our future work in humanitarian assistance and care.

I also believe that the European Union has a pre-eminent role to play in this, because it is apolitical: it is based on preserving and protecting human lives and saving many thousands and millions of jobs and opportunities for people to create, post-conflict, better lives for themselves. In all these aspects I think you have a very important responsibility, and I would like to hear your views on this later.

3-009

**Gabriele Zimmer (GUE/NGL).** – Für die Linke möchte ich meine Auffassung zum Ausdruck bringen, dass die Neubesetzung des Kommissarsportfolios für humanitäre Hilfe und Katastrophenschutz sehr eng verbunden ist mit der ganzen Frage einer kohärenten Entwicklungspolitik und insbesondere auch Themen einschließt, die offenbar bisher außerhalb dieses Bereichs gelegen haben, also insbesondere auch die Frage des vorbeugenden Katastrophenschutzes. Ich möchte Sie deshalb bitten, Ihre eigenen Vorstellungen dazu darzulegen. Wie stehen Sie in diesem Zusammenhang auch zur Idee der Gründung eines eigenen Nothilfefonds der EU, um damit die Voraussetzung zu schaffen, dass von Katastrophen betroffene Länder auch in der Lage sind, Geld abzufordern und abzufragen, das ihnen durch die EIB nach den jetzigen Kriterien nicht gegeben werden kann?

Ich erwarte ebenfalls, dass Sie sich dafür einsetzen, dass Investitionen in öffentliche Dienstleistungen und öffentliche Infrastruktur getätigt werden können, und möchte die Forderung formulieren, dass die Fazilität für Wasser, die zwischen der EU und den AKP-Staaten neu geschaffen worden ist, über diesen Rahmen hinausgeht

und auch auf andere Länder ausgeweitet werden kann und dass insbesondere auch für die öffentliche Wasserversorgung dort Mittel abfließen können.

3-010

**Mario Borghesio (EFD).** – Il Commissario designato, nelle sue risposte al questionario del Parlamento europeo, ha, a mio avviso, eluso una risposta che sarebbe logico attendersi, che potrebbe essere data in occasione di questa audizione.

Come giudica l'operato dell'Unione europea svolto nei giorni immediatamente successivi, nelle settimane successive alla tragedia di Haiti, che è stato per lunghi giorni, forse per qualche settimana, il buco nero del mondo, che ha offerto, ahimè, uno spettacolo negativo di interventi massicci ma non coordinati, di uno sforzo che è costato moltissimo agli Stati, ai paesi, ai governi, ma che non ha dato certamente quello che si sarebbe potuto dare?

Mi domando, e le domando, a cosa servono i pacchi di aiuti lanciati dal cielo senza una logica, dove possono essere e vengono afferrati dal più forte, magari da quello armato e non dai più deboli, che sono in questo caso ovviamente i più meritevoli?

Cosa in particolare ritiene di dirci su alcuni punti e cioè: ritiene necessaria una maggiore trasparenza nei costi di chi opera, comprese le ONG che ad Haiti sono sembrate preoccuparsi soprattutto di esporre i loro loghi alle televisioni di tutto il mondo?

E – finisco – il ruolo dell'intervento militare ... (*audio coperto dal gong della Presidenza*) dell'aiuto umanitario.

3-011

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – Madam Chair, Madam Permanent Rapporteur, honourable Members, ladies and gentlemen, it is an honour and a privilege to be here today as the Commissioner-designate for international cooperation, humanitarian aid and crisis response. It is also a great responsibility. For those most in need around the world, this is the most important portfolio of the Commission. With it our Union recognises an unfortunate trend: the occurrence and intensity of natural and man-made disasters are growing. It is also the right step to bring together humanitarian aid and civil response – they go hand in hand – and an overwhelming majority, more than 90% I learnt, of our citizens, are keen to see Europe stepping up its disaster preparedness and response efforts around the world.

As speakers have already mentioned today, we are in the midst of a crisis that has cost more than 150 000 Haitians their lives. Words cannot express the sorrow of – and for – those affected.

Before the earthquake, Haiti was striving to overcome the legacy of structural problems and the impact of the 2008 hurricanes. Hard-won development gains are now gone. Haiti starts from scratch, but not alone. If I am confirmed, it will be my immediate duty to make sure

that we Europeans bring to Haiti the best our Union has to offer.

I looked at the response of the Commission and the Members and I was impressed by the work of our people on the ground. Our humanitarian aid and civil protection services acted very swiftly when the earthquake struck. On day one, the Commission released EUR 3 million and our staff were on the ground. On day two, humanitarian partners and civil protection ensured that tens of thousands of Haitians had access to safe drinking water.

Twenty-five European countries sent much needed support, all coordinated by our Civil Protection Monitoring and Information Centre. In the first few days this coordination was very difficult, given that the UN in a very physical sense collapsed in Haiti, and the leadership of the UN, the person in charge, unfortunately died. As always, Europe has shown unmatched generosity, committing in total more than EUR 500 million to both immediate relief and assistance for long-term reconstruction. What is equally important is that an impressive number of private donations show the solidarity of European citizens with those in need.

There are now two priority tasks in Haiti. First, to act decisively in continuing to deliver immediate relief, especially shelter, food and health services. Second, we must start the work on integrating relief, reconstruction and long-term development.

We all know that success will depend very much in the long run on the Haitian Government being able to take charge and be in the lead. For this reason we are mobilising EUR 100 million for non-humanitarian aid, primarily to help restore government functions and services. Next week the Commission will participate in an international mission to Haiti, to prepare a joint needs assessment, which will guide our collective work in the years to come.

Post-Haiti we also must address the question that is on everybody's mind today, and we have already heard this question: what can we do for a faster, more united, more visible Europe when the next disaster hits?

I was very pleased to see that next week the Union's disaster response capacity will be on the agenda of the informal European Council. I commit to very actively following up on the Council's deliberations and I will seek guidance from other proposals: the Barnier report from 2006 that has been followed up on a number of points – but not all, and not on the core issue of a more structured coordination approach – and the EUFAST idea that came before the Barnier report. I would very much like to seek an opportunity to discuss these issues with this committee as early as possible if I am confirmed.

We all know that there are too many places, like Haiti, where a hurricane or a flood or a conflict can cause loss of lives and push millions, especially women and

children, into extreme poverty. Whether it is flooding in Bangladesh or conflict in Sudan, the result is the same: people suffer. Every year, some 300 million are affected by natural disasters or man-made calamities. A staggering number of people – 42 million – move out of their homes, are forced out of their homes, and seek refuge in other countries or in other places in their country. These numbers are destined to go up because of climate change, because of rapid urbanisation, because of state fragility.

These are the pledges I make to you today, if confirmed:

I will strive to be a strong voice for those in dire need.

I will promote the priorities that we have agreed on in the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid: more efficient aid, a better response capacity, improved coordination within the EU, and between humanitarian and military actors, a very complex issue but a very important one.

I will stand up as an advocate for the respect of International Humanitarian Law and will speak up when humanitarian workers are killed, when prisoners are abused and when sexual violence is used as a weapon of war.

I will do my very best to deliver on our commitment to disaster-risk reduction – I think this is incredibly important – and to build our capacity to cope with the humanitarian impact of climate change, and I will review and strengthen our civil protection instrument.

I will implement the mandate from the Lisbon Treaty to establish the European Voluntary Humanitarian Corps, providing a pool of expertise for our humanitarian efforts but also a platform for our European values to be put to work.

Last, but not least, I will commit to working with my colleagues in the college to ensure that we use our resources effectively, we improve the coordination of our actions and make our fellow European citizens proud of their support for humanitarian aid and disaster response, and give them more visibility than we managed in the first days after Haiti.

We live at a time of increasing needs and competition for resources, both within the EU and across the development agenda. This dual challenge, of expanding needs and shrinking budgets makes the task of coordination – within the Commission, with Member States, with other partners – exceptionally important.

Inside the Commission, close cooperation with Baroness Ashton and Mr Piebalgs would allow me to leverage the Commission's full potential in achieving our common objectives.

I will also work especially closely in the area of crisis response with my fellow Commissioners in charge of home affairs.

I shall finish with this. My many years in development have taught me a very simple but very important lesson: no one person can succeed on their own, but working together we can make a difference. It is with this belief that I approach today's hearing and, if confirmed, will be coming to this committee for your guidance in the future.

I welcome your questions.

*(Applause)*

3-012

**La Présidente.** – Nous allons maintenant tenir notre première séance de "catch the eye", qui doit porter sur le déficit humanitaire - ou "humanitarian gap" en anglais -, c'est-à-dire l'indispensable coordination de différents portefeuilles au sein de la Commission – aide humanitaire, développement – et des autres composantes de notre action extérieure, que l'on appelle communément le LRRD, le lien entre l'aide humanitaire, la réhabilitation et le développement.

Donc 20 secondes pour les questions.

3-013

**Santiago Fisas Ayxela (PPE).** – Hay una parte importante del pueblo saharauí que ha tenido que dejar su país, que es el Sáhara Occidental, y que viven en condiciones precarias, en campamentos, en Tinduf, en Argelia.

¿Va a hacer algo para aportar ayuda humanitaria a esta población?

3-014

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – In DG ECHO in the Commission, we have been very committed to making sure that we do not forget this crisis, which is having a prolonged impact.

In this case we are talking about a population that suffers quite regularly, for prolonged periods, because of very difficult ecological conditions. The most significant issue there is not to forget about them, and to make sure that we are always looking to their needs and providing assistance. Of course this would be very high on my radar screen. I think that having a designated resource for the so-called 'forgotten crisis', as we do in the Commission, is a very good thing to do, and I would very much want to continue having it.

3-015

**Ana Gomes (S&D).** – In Sudan, the prime recipient of EU humanitarian aid, the EU may soon be observing elections in which Omar al-Bashir, indicted by the ICC, is to be re-elected president.

In Ethiopia, another main recipient of EU humanitarian and development aid, the EU mission will be observing elections despite the fact that NGOs are severely restricted, there is no media freedom and there are thousands of political prisoners, including Birtukan Mideksa, who is an elected MP. How do you plan to contribute to the coherence of humanitarian aid...

*(The Chair cut off the speaker.)*

3-016

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – At the heart of humanitarian aid is neutrality and caring for people. We need to make sure that those who suffer, very often through no fault of their own, get help.

In this sense we have many other instruments for putting pressure on governments. Actually, in the case of Sudan – as I am sure everybody here knows – there is no development assistance. We do not have a Cotonou Agreement with Sudan for a very good reason – or actually a very bad reason.

But when it comes to helping victims of wars or natural disasters, humanitarian aid has to be blind to the political dimensions. We should never allow humanitarian aid to fall into the hands of those who abuse power. For that reason we always work directly with organisations on the ground, not with government...

*(The Chair cut off the speaker.)*

3-017

**Corina Crețu (S&D).** – Mulțumesc foarte mult și, mai ales, mulțumesc pentru atenția deosebită pe care ați arătat-o situației din Haiti pentru că, așa cum ați spus, vă veți începe mandatul sub presiunea acestei situații de criză de excepție care necesită nu numai ajutor de urgență, dar mai ales ample eforturi pentru susținerea ulterioară a dezvoltării. Aș vrea să vă întreb cum vedeți creșterea eficienței dintre ajutor, reabilitare și dezvoltare și cum veți colabora cu Înaltul Comisar pentru Afaceri Externe și cu comisarul pentru dezvoltare pentru o reabilitare și dezvoltare ...

*(vorbitorul a fost întrerupt)*

3-018

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – This is a very important question.

Yesterday I met for the first time the Commissioner-designate for development and the question we discussed was exactly that: how we are going to make sure that in Haiti we work coherently, we work closely together.

Our expectation is that humanitarian needs will be quite prolonged. There would be a period of time when humanitarian relief will be necessary, but at the same time we need to start building up and fund the recovery efforts.

In a situation like that in Haiti, we always face this dilemma: the choice between speed and sustainability. To help people in immediate need, you have to be fast, but, to sustain your impact, you have to work with the government authorities, and we all know that the government institutions in Haiti were as badly hit as the rest of the country.

So I see a very important lesson to be learned from the tsunami follow-up.

*(The Chair cut off the speaker.)*

3-019

**Kriton Arsenis (S&D).** – Climate change is a phenomenon that we in the developed world produced, but which is affecting developing countries the most. There are amazing initiatives for afforestation and agroforestry, resulting both in increasing water availability and in mitigating, dealing with and reducing poverty. Are you familiar with these initiatives, and are you going to support them in the framework of the...

*(The President cut off the speaker.)*

3-020

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – Thank you for that question. I am very familiar with these initiatives. When I was with the World Bank, as Director for Environment, I promoted very strongly the inclusion, in the climate change regime, of avoiding deforestation because I very much believe that, if the loss of forest is 20% of the climate problem, it has to be at least 20% of the solution.

While this is not in my portfolio – it is in the portfolio of the Commissioner-designate for Development – we all know that the loss of forest cover reduces agricultural productivity and very often actually pushes countries into conflict.

I would be a very strong advocate of looking at ecological sustainability in the broadest sense, but specifically of supporting efforts for reforestation as a very significant part of our development programme.

3-021

**Åsa Westlund (S&D).** – Jag undrar hur du som kommissionär kommer att arbeta för att EU ska föra en samlad politik för utveckling, alltså för att inte bara biståndspolitiken utan också exempelvis EU:s fiske- och handelsavtal präglas av en utvecklingssyn och har fattigdomsbekämpning i fokus?

3-022

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – This is not an issue that would fall within my sphere of responsibility, but I was very encouraged and very pleased to see that President Barroso calls on all Commissioners to work as one, for the college to work as one. I would certainly link poverty caused by environmental degradation, conflicts or disasters with our development efforts and with everything we do that may be indirectly connected to causing problems around the world. Again, that is not my direct responsibility but that of the college, to the extent that we all need to pull together as one team. I would bring my professional expertise and my convictions and the relationship to my portfolio into play.

3-023

**Gay Mitchell (PPE).** – Commissioner-designate, I was happy to hear what you said about making European Union citizens proud.

The European Union is the single biggest donor of aid in the world. When we look at a situation like Haiti, we see the Americans there and then we see the French and the Irish and the Belgians. We do not visibly see the European Union there.

Now, I do not want us just to fly the flag and have a PR exercise. I would like us to have a proactive, tailored response to crises like Haiti when they arrive, so that the European Union citizen can be proud, can see our flag there as a Union.

What will you do to try and bring that about?

3-024

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – Let me first start by saying that European citizens can and must be proud of what they do. Europe provides 60% of development assistance and more than 50% of humanitarian aid, but, more than that, Europe brings values to development which helps us all to build a better world for our children.

When I looked at the Barnier report it struck me as a very good suggestion to improve coordination, and then the question I asked of my – hopefully – future colleagues was: How come it was not implemented? Then I understood that there were good reasons; there are countries which come with different perspectives to this question of increased coordination and we also have the principle of subsidiarity which means we should not be doing at Commission level something which countries can do on their own.

This being said, knowing what we know, that the 100-year floods are going to happen more frequently than once every 100 years, it is paramount for us to build in the European Union a more coherent and more integral – more ‘structured’ is the word I use, because when I say more centralised, people say: oh no, no, central planning! – a more structured approach which maps out our capabilities, identifies where the gaps are and brings them together.

Of course it will be very nice if we act as Europeans – it is easy for us Bulgarians because we are a small country and the latest newcomer. We are very proud to be Europeans. We will go everywhere. I am here with the European flag.

But, firstly, we need to work towards convincing countries that this makes sense. Secondly, we need to understand what can build a bigger tent: how we can bring consensus to move forward as one when it comes down to actions to like the one in Haiti.

3-025

**Gay Mitchell (PPE).** – We do have proposals for battle groups – in my opinion an unfortunate term, but the objective is good. Could we not develop that idea into having some sort of force ready under a European Union flag for those who are willing to go so that they can persuade European Union citizens that paying the money

they paid for development aid actually does achieve something?

3-026

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – This is the kind of question that makes me see the benefit of having Baroness Ashton and the other external relations Commissioners and me working together because it requires the kind of thinking that goes well beyond strictly humanitarian aid.

From a humanitarian aid perspective, the engagement of the military is always seen as the last resort. But humanitarian aid workers also recognise that, when a disaster is of the magnitude of the one in Haiti, you need skills and capabilities that are not necessarily available in a civil protection force.

*(The Chair cut off the speaker.)*

3-027

**Thijs Berman (S&D).** – Madam Commissioner-designate, the inconsistent division of portfolios in external relations will make it difficult for Europe to speak with one voice, as intended by the Treaty of Lisbon – the development cooperation instrument in the hands of Lady Ashton and the European Development Fund under Mr Piebalgs: inconsistency. I hope that Mr Barroso will change this in time, bringing both instruments under one Commissioner and leave the High Representative in the supervisory role defining the strategic goals.

How do you see your position between your colleagues?

3-028

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – I find actually in my case, in my portfolio, there is a very significant degree of internal logic. First it gives a voice to the voiceless, so having me in the college I think is a benefit for the people we serve.

Second, it is a rather logical portfolio because it has as its heart humanitarian aid; it brings civil protection, which, because of the increase of natural disasters and others, fits very well.

The way I think of international cooperation is from the position of somebody who stands for humanitarian aid. In other words, not just any international cooperation, but cooperation where I can bring value and make a difference: maybe reaching out to regions that are disaster-prone, such as Asia and Latin America; maybe reaching out to regional organisations like ASEAN, remembering the case of Burma and how useful this proved to be; maybe reaching out to the Arab League, so that we can seek solutions for the Horn of Africa.

That is how I see myself. As far as the organisation for the rest of the portfolio is concerned, I come from an organisation that for the last ten years lived within a matrix, so collective decision-making is something that I think now runs through my blood.

But, besides that, I really believe that it is not a question of the boxes: it is the commitment, the integrity of those

who are in the boxes in making them work. And, in this sense, yesterday I had the impression from Baroness Ashton that she is very open to finding a cohesive approach and one that is practical and works, so hopefully that would be achieved over...

*(The Chair cut off the speaker.)*

3-029

**Thijs Berman (S&D).** – No doubt Lady Ashton will be constructive and positive. 'Giving a voice to the voiceless' was the slogan of a radio station I worked at for a long time, so, yes.

But humanitarian intervention is a right recognised in the United Nations, and very rarely have humanitarian corridors been put in place. What in general is your view on the right and the duty to bring humanitarian relief in fragile situations such as in Somalia? Should Europe impose itself with a UN mandate? How do you see this? What is the dilemma you are faced with?

3-030

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – That is a really difficult question because, once one starts bringing in the military, it is like opening a Pandora's box which cannot easily be closed. Humanitarian workers always say that we should do this only as a last resort.

Well, Somalia looks like a last resort to me. However, this is the type of question that I would be much more confident discussing by using the bridge that Mrs Ashton offers to defence ministers and foreign ministers, and then making sure from my side that I am lending the voice of the humanitarian aid community. They are very strong people who can speak up for themselves but...

*(The Chair cut off the speaker.)*

3-031

**Charles Goerens (ALDE).** – Madame la Commissaire désignée, vous avez, dans vos propos introductifs déjà, accepté le principe d'une dimension opérationnelle de l'action civile et humanitaire à l'échelle européenne.

Ma question concerne la création d'un tel organisme. Cet organisme pourrait donc être conçu de façon modulaire, sur la base de l'apport des États nationaux. Comment allez-vous vous y prendre pour faire en sorte que les États nationaux contribuent – apportent une contribution utile – à cet organisme, afin qu'il puisse être endossé dans son action par l'Union européenne, comme cela aurait pu être le cas en Haïti, si un tel organisme avait été mis en place auparavant?

3-032

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – My impression is that the coordination mechanism we currently have through the Monitoring Information Centre does a very good job in view of what it is designed for. Once a disaster strikes somewhere, information comes in, it is made available to the Member States, and then needs are mapped out so Member States do not send what they have, but what is actually needed.

Going one step further to a more structured approach of course requires the Member States to be on board and to come together. From what I have learned, history shows that some are very much in favour, some have reservations and the rest sit on the fence. I think that because of Haiti we will now see a more intensive discussion.

I do feel a responsibility that we should objectively look into this issue again. It at least serves our duty to say: these are the pros, these are the cons, and let us try to bring the conversation forward. Looking at its history, the idea of EUFAST came, I believe, in 2003, and it is now 2010, so there must be a reason why it has not yet been resolved. Without knowing that reason, it would probably be very arrogant from my side to tell you any more.

3-033

**Charles Goerens (ALDE).** – Madame, concrètement, est-ce que vous voulez vous inspirer de la méthode qui a déjà fait ses preuves dans le domaine de la politique extérieure de sécurité et de défense commune, notamment par l'établissement d'un catalogue des capacités requises pour intervenir dans une situation donnée? Cela impliquerait que les États membres annoncent leur contribution au vu des *requirements* qui sont prévus par ce catalogue.

3-034

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner designate.** – I think it is a very good approach and a very appropriate approach. The more we can operate with mapping out the existing capabilities and only then looking at gaps to be filled, especially given the current financial situation, the better off we are.

The trick is, when everybody's capabilities are needed for themselves at the same time, to decide what we do then. This is where I think we need to get a more tolerant discussion.

3-035

**Judith Sargentini (Verts/ALE).** – Ms Georgieva, you said it is not about boxes but about coordination and about what we want to achieve. Still – and this question has been asked in various forms, but I want to ask it again – you are also responsible for international cooperation. We have talked about humanitarian aid, but what does 'international cooperation' entail? What is your responsibility in that area? Is it development? Does it include emergency relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction? You might see the bigger picture, I agree, but I want to know who is responsible for what, and what, as a Member of the European Parliament, I can ask you.

3-036

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – My approach to this is the following. I actually discussed it with Baroness Ashton and she said that it sounded a very logical approach.

I see my role in international cooperation as being, first and foremost, about humanitarian aid and disaster

response. This is what is at the heart and the core of my portfolio.

To take a real-life example, when we had difficulty helping people in Burma – and at that point there was a discussion that maybe it should trigger even military action – what was done was that ASEAN was approached, there was a discussion with ASEAN, and ASEAN helped humanitarian workers reach the victims.

This is what I have in mind, that I can foresee a more proactive international cooperation approach in which we build partnerships that help us in the area of humanitarian aid but, more importantly, in the area of disaster response. I have no doubt that, unfortunately, what we will see in the future will be more demands for disaster-driven action.

On how to think proactively and preparedness: just one example – when the tsunami hit, there was a big time lag. Had we at that point been equipped with an early warning system, many people would still be alive and with us. So this proactive approach in international cooperation in my portfolio is what I would be dedicated to.

3-037

**Emma McClarkin (ECR).** – Commissioner-designate, welcome. My question regards NGOs and their delivery. I think we need to have some kind of voluntary licensing process which NGOs can opt into or out of, where NGOs have their transparent accounts scrutinised and signed off by the Commission. I believe that this will improve the quality of service that they provide.

What is your general approach to dealing with NGOs?

3-038

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – In this particular area of humanitarian aid all the work is done through non-governmental organisations. There are, I believe, 186 partners that are in a sense screened and qualified to be partners for the Commission in delivering humanitarian aid.

Earlier on someone brought up the subject of accountability. The Commission has developed a fairly serious system of periodic reviews and auditing. One third of all the partners and the projects that they support get audited, so we can be confident of the results. NGOs that either do not deliver on the ground or do not deliver on the accounts side are disqualified, and the so-called 'partnership agreements' are taken away. I am very much in favour of that.

We cannot afford to waste public money, especially when we are facing constraints everywhere. For that reason, accountability for all partners is a very serious matter. Just to give you a sense of what I think about this, I spent a good two hours on Sunday with the team that works in finance and accounting in the Humanitarian Aid DG, just to be briefed on this question – so thank you for asking it!



*(Laughter)*

3-039

**Emma McClarkin (ECR).** – You have a very prestigious and important role as the Vice-President and Corporate Secretary for the World Bank, and I suspect you were not expecting to be sitting where you are today. Why do you want to be the Commissioner?

3-040

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – I have two points on that.

First, we faced a rather unusual set of circumstances, and my fellow Bulgarians were not in a very happy position.

My daughter lives in Bulgaria and my family is there. In this case, when the call came, I felt it was my duty but – and this is the second part, and this is where luck comes into play – there are 26 portfolios in the Commission, of which there are four for which I really qualify and where my heart is: environment, climate action, development and humanitarian aid.

So I really look forward to this work. Change is a good thing. Change forces you to step up and, hopefully, I will do that if I am confirmed.

*(Applause)*

3-041

**Gabriele Zimmer (GUE/NGL).** – Frau Georgieva, Sie bringen aus Ihrer Arbeit in der Weltbank Erfahrungen mit, die auch für uns hier wichtig sind. Die Weltbank hat ja als eine der ersten Institutionen einen viel breiteren Begriff von Armut entwickelt und die Frage von humanitärer Hilfe viel strikter mit der Frage des Wiederaufbaus verbunden. Deshalb möchte ich Sie fragen, ob es aus dieser Sicht heraus für Sie ein wesentlicher Ansatz in Ihrer Arbeit sein wird, dass Sie bei humanitärer Hilfe und auch bei der Wiederaufbauhilfe vor allem aus den Bedürfnissen der betroffenen Bevölkerungen und Regionen heraus handeln werden und sich nicht vordergründig von den Interessen von EU-Außenunternehmen beeinflussen lassen werden, von denen einige durch ihre Wirkung auch mit ...

*(Die Vorsitzende entzieht der Rednerin das Wort.)*

3-042

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – First, let me say that I think the link between relief, rehabilitation and development is not mechanical. We need to think of this holistically. Sometimes the time for development does not come, unfortunately, at all. I am thinking of Sudan: how good it would have been if we had been able to invest in development. Or, for that matter, Zimbabwe – there is no good reason for the country to be in the situation it is.

But these are still the exceptions; the rule is that, more often than not, we can think in this holistic way of relief, rehabilitation and development. I am sorry if I did not catch the end of your question. If I understand it correctly, you are asking how I see the role of companies engaged in this portfolio, yes?

*(The questioner confirmed this.)*

On the side of humanitarian aid – on the side of voluntary contributions and charitable giving – I do not see a role. On the side of development cooperation, of course, whenever there is a platform for private sector development that actually brings businesses in countries – at least in the Bank, whenever we do that we would like to see respect for human rights; we would like to see environmental and social requirements of the World Bank being taken into account; we actually worked from our private sector arm to promote, in the banking industry...

*(The Chair cut off the speaker.)*

3-043

**Gabriele Zimmer (GUE/NGL).** – Ja, ich habe eine Nachfrage. Und zwar geht es mir um die Unternehmen, die im Rahmen des Wiederaufbaus tätig werden und die natürlich auch davon profitieren, dass sie in dieser Arbeit mit Mitteln der EU unterstützt werden. Aber mir geht es auch um die transnationalen Konzerne, die ihren Sitz in der EU haben und die oftmals durch ihr Wirken bestimmte Krisensituationen, Umweltschäden, Zerstörung von Naturschutzgebieten mit zu verantworten haben. Wären Sie bereit, an einem Mechanismus mitzuarbeiten, um diese Unternehmen auch zur Verantwortung zu ziehen?

3-044

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – Working with the private sector in development really falls within the portfolio of the Commissioner-designate for Development, because that is where development investments would be made. My personal opinion is that our obligation is to set high standards and to try to ensure that business engagement in developing countries is such that it promotes better environmental and social performance.

3-045

**Mario Borghesio (EFD).** – La candidata Commissario mostra un grande fiducia nei controlli che l'Unione europea e la Commissione fanno sull'utilizzo delle immense somme che l'Europa dedica a questo importante settore.

Ho un'opinione decisamente opposta e vorrei sapere se il Commissario intende impegnarsi a controllare i controllori, a verificare, anche attraverso controlli che coinvolgono i paesi destinatari di questi aiuti, perché per esempio da alcuni responsabili politici dell'Africa giungono segnali esattamente opposti alla sicurezza che lei mostra in questo senso.

Mi pare poi che abbia un po' eluso la domanda sul ruolo degli aiuti, dell'intervento militare. Questa non è una questione ... *(audio coperto dal gong della presidenza)* politica.

3-046

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – There are two questions – one on whether I would halt the high standards of financial accountability, and, secondly, the role of the military in aid.

On the first question, I am a very strong believer in transparency and accountability. In my professional life I came to work on the environment because somebody close to me got very sick because of groundwater poisoning owing to a lack of information. If there is no transparency, people die. In other words, I would do everything I could to make sure that we have transparency and accountability on how we use our funds. If the mechanisms we have in place are not sufficient, then we need to build them up.

That being said, my impression is that to the extent that humanitarian aid is delivered not through government channels but through partner organisations, like the Red Cross Organisation, with a very strong track record of commitment, integrity and accountability, we actually do quite well, in the field of humanitarian aid, in terms of using resources wisely.

On your second question, the view of the humanitarian aid community is very strongly that military intervention is the last resort and that it very much wants to be consulted. It wants to have a seat at the table when there is a discussion on whether or not there should be military intervention.

I admit I need to learn more about this subject matter, but, from what I have learnt so far, I believe that this is really a complex issue that requires engagement.

3-047

**Mario Borghesio (EFD).** – Darò immediatamente al Commissario la possibilità di riprendere l'argomento perché credo – e vorrei che ci desse la sua opinione – che questo sia un argomento di fondo, non è un tema che si possa risolvere da un punto di vista un po' tecnocratico.

Si vede che lei viene dalla Banca mondiale e questo è un problema di dottrina europea degli aiuti. Vuole chiamare esperti e coinvolgere il Parlamento europeo per elaborare finalmente una dottrina chiara, europea degli aiuti ...

*(La Presidente ritira la parola all'oratore).*

3-048

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – Just to finish, with regard to the question of the military, it is very important that the humanitarian aid community has an opportunity to discuss this matter with defence ministers and foreign ministers in some way. As to what exactly the right format is, I will come back to you on that once I know more, but I can again see Mrs Ashton being very important for us as a bridge to that community of defence ministers and foreign ministers.

3-049

**Frank Vanhecke (NI).** – Mevrouw de kandidaat-commissaris, u weet ongetwijfeld dat Europees commissaris Karel De Gucht in Congo *persona non grata* werd verklaard wegens zijn opinie over het totale failliet van de rechtsstaat, het totale bestuurlijke failliet

van dat land. Dit ondanks de honderden miljoenen die de Europese Unie de afgelopen jaren in Congo heeft gepompt, specifiek voor de opbouw van de rechtsstaat, specifiek om het bestuurlijke niveau te ontwikkelen en de mensenrechten te doen eerbiedigen. Dat is een totaal failliet gebleken.

Mijn vraag aan u is: deelt u de mening van commissaris De Gucht over Congo en hoe zult u omgaan met de Congolese regering?

3-050

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – I think that reaching the point when the channels of communication are completely broken is really the last resort, but sometimes it happens. We should try as much as possible to find an avenue of dialogue that would hopefully bring us a step forward. We have seen – and we have seen it in the World Bank as well – that sometimes we take one step too many and that maybe we should have stopped a step earlier.

I will do everything I can to be well-informed. I will probably come to you, because this committee has this unique advantage, independent of the political side people come from, that everyone has the one common objective, which is better, more efficient European development assistance. So I would come to this committee as well. There are very difficult moments when judgements have to be made, and I count also on your wisdom.

Just to be very categorical. If we have exhausted all avenues for discussion, then we have to call it quits, unfortunately.

3-051

**Frank Vanhecke (NI).** – Dank u mevrouw, maar vindt u niet dat we wat principiëler moeten zijn en dat wij afgezien van noodhulp - dat is iets anders - alle andere ontwikkelingshulp aan Congo, en jammer genoeg ook aan andere Afrikaanse landen, afhankelijk moeten maken van de implementatie van mensenrechtenclausules en van absolute tastbare vooruitgang in democratisering en opbouw van een rechtsstaat? Als wij dat niet principieel vastleggen en ook uitvoeren vrees ik dat uw mooie principes een beetje dode letter blijven.

3-052

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner designate.** – I need to be careful here because, in my area of responsibility – if I am confirmed in this position of humanitarian assistance – we have to be neutral and we have to make sure that we reach people in it, meaning that our main focus is on international humanitarian law. Of course human rights are very important, no question about that, but we have a particular objective and we need to be focused on this objective.

Broadly, outside this portfolio: yes, for the European Union, it is important to have very clear principles. I think – at least this is my view – that what makes me

proud to be a European is that we have values and we came to these values the hard way. They did not...

*(The Chair cut off the speaker.)*

3-053

**Theodoros Skylakakis (PPE)**, *Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety*. – Natural disasters have been escalating in recent years and they will worsen due to climate change. We all know that. In Europe they are mainly forest fires and floods. In southern Europe, we have hundreds of thousands of hectares destroyed each year.

Now in many cases the capacity of the Member States to respond is clearly inadequate due to their capacities when the phenomenon is multiple. The European Parliament last summer asked for the reinforcement of the Community civil protection capability. Are you going to answer this demand positively? If so, please elaborate on how you are going to do that.

3-054

**Kristalina Georgieva**, *Commissioner-designate*. – With civil protection being transferred from DG Environment to DG ECHO, we have an opportunity to look anew at the civil protection instrument.

There is a review of this instrument forthcoming and then of course we will prepare for the next planning cycle – please forgive me if I am not using the correct term – for the next horizon when we define the priorities for the Commission.

This is, actually, a very fortunate time. So I can tell you ‘yes’, with a very great sense of conviction, because I personally very much believe in the necessity for us to be prepared.

Just to give one anecdote. When I was World Bank Director in Russia, we worked with the Russian Government to finance a project to modernise their hydrometeorological services. That was the time when Russia was in a bad financial condition and for the Russians to borrow from the World Bank to finance hydrometeorological services was not obvious. So we did an economic analysis and we came to the conclusion – and now with apologies for using a monetary measure that is not appropriate here, we did it in dollars at that time – that for every USD 1 spent on meteorological services we would get a USD 16 benefit in preventative action.

So I stand by this conviction. The evidence is overwhelming that prevention is critical; preparedness on the ground is critical and actually pays for itself. It is good for the European taxpayer as well. Therefore, once we have done the review and see what is an appropriate action – of course in cooperation with the Commissioner for Home Affairs, because I only look at the side that affects developing countries – it will be a good time to come back to you and everybody on this committee and in Parliament. This is an important question.

3-055

**Theodoros Skylakakis (PPE)**, *Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety*. – You said ‘review’. There was a pilot project last summer involving some European fighter aircraft. They were very useful. Is there going to be continuity, or are you going to have to – due to reviewing – stop this effort this summer?

3-056

**Kristalina Georgieva**, *Commissioner-designate*. – I learned about this project and thought it was very interesting. What is not yet clear is whether we will be able to continue. I will be honest with you: as of today, I do not know what money we can tap into to continue the project, because it ends in 2010.

But I hope that we will find a way to continue it, because the results, at least from the preliminary assessment, are apparently quite good.

I will stop so that at least once I will finish on time!

3-057

**Filip Kaczmarek (PPE)**. – W swoim wystąpieniu wstępnym Pani Komisarz mówiła o europejskim konsensusie w sprawie pomocy humanitarnej. W 2008 r. powstał plan działania dotyczący tego konsensusu. Moje pytanie brzmi: czy w planie działania są takie elementy, które uznaje Pani za szczególnie istotne, za priorytetowe dla komisarza?

3-058

**Kristalina Georgieva**, *Commissioner-designate*. – When the staff in DG ECHO briefed me on the action plan, I was very impressed. There are 49 actions outlined, and on 42 of them they have made very significant progress. To my mind, two areas of action stand out where, I hope, we will continue to work. One is coordination – not surprisingly, given the discussion we had today – and the second is the interface between military and civil actors. I will be very happy to come back to you – if, of course, I am confirmed – when I have a much more calibrated understanding and provide a more detailed answer to that question.

3-059

**Filip Kaczmarek (PPE)**. – Mogę tylko dodać, że będzie okazja, bo nastąpi przegląd planu działania w tym roku, więc będziemy prawdopodobnie mieli okazję o tym dyskutować.

3-060

**Kristalina Georgieva**, *Commissioner-designate*. – This is correct. That is very true. It gives me a little time to prepare when we come with the review.

3-061

**Patrice Tirolien (S&D)**. – Madame, dans vos réponses écrites à cette commission, vous affirmez que la catastrophe récente en Haïti doit être une opportunité pour l'Union d'améliorer ses capacités de réaction face à l'urgence humanitaire.

Or, si les efforts de coordination de M<sup>me</sup> Ashton sont louables, nous devons faire le constat que l'addition des réponses individuelles n'est pas équivalente à une réponse européenne planifiée et organisée.

On l'a vu, la multiplication des réponses conduit à un manque d'impact et de visibilité de l'Union européenne sur le terrain. En tant que titulaire de ce nouveau portefeuille, allez-vous œuvrer à la création d'un instrument communautaire intégré permettant de préparer une réponse moins coûteuse et plus efficace pour l'Union européenne?

3-062

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – The humanitarian aid instrument is used very effectively, very efficiently, but here is an interesting observation: over the last nine to ten years, the money resourced for humanitarian aid under this instrument was not enough, so, when additional resources were needed, the Commission's reserves were tapped. That, to my mind, is an indication of what we are discussing here: that the frequency and intensity of disasters are going up.

Having said that, I was very impressed at the fact that other Commission instruments have also been tapped to help people in need. For example, under the Cotonou Agreement, the European Development Fund provides EUR 150 million to be used for disasters if necessary, and already EUR 37 million have been tapped in this instrument. My feeling is that resources have been mobilised when necessary. They have been found, and of course the member countries also come through in times of need.

I think personally that we need look forward. We need to be much more creative in the way we mobilise resources to meet those needs when you have risks that come and go: they hit some more than others. As an example, one thing I am very proud of from my work in the Bank is that we came up with the idea of disaster insurance for poor countries. In this particular case, Haiti had an insurance for which the Canadian Government paid USD 300 000. When the disaster hit, the next day Haiti received USD 8 million from this insurance. So we might want to think of resource mobilisation in a way that goes beyond the traditional approach – budgets that are provided by taxpayers – so that we can be more responsive...

*(The Chair cut off the speaker.)*

3-063

**Ivo Vajgl (ALDE).** – Spoštovana gospa Georgieva, naprej bi vam rad izrazil kompliment za mir in kompetentnost, ki jo izražate danes. Najbrž ni samo po sebi umevno. Zdi se mi pomembno, da ste v uvodu postregli s podatki o katastrofah, ki jih sproža človek, ki niso naravne katastrofe. Nekaj takih, ki so jih povzročile vojske sosednjih držav, se dogaja tudi v tem trenutku, na primer v Jemnu in v Gazi.

Ali se strinjate z menoj, da bi države, ki sprožajo katastrofe te vrste, v katerih umira in trpi predvsem civilno prebivalstvo, morale prevzeti več odgovornosti in breme popravljanja škode in stabilizacije razmer. Če se strinjate z mano, ali boste zmogli pogum, da se soočite s tem vprašanjem?

3-064

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – I would come back to the principles on which humanitarian aid is based. They require neutrality, impartiality and independence for humanitarian workers. Governments very often are not at all involved in this area. Sometimes they are, but very often they are not. They are not the avenue for interaction.

Obviously, we know how difficult it is to face failed states or states that are in a very fragile environment. I do not think that dealing with this matter would be in my area of responsibility but, as I said in my opening remarks, if it is necessary to stand up for injustice that affects civilians – or, even worse, affecting women and children – then I will speak up. If I can do anything by virtue of my position to bring attention to unacceptable behaviour, I will do so.

I apologise if I have missed parts of your question. There was interference in the interpretation and I might not have picked up the whole essence of what you asked me. If there is a follow-up I will try to answer it.

3-065

**Ivo Vajgl (ALDE).** – Jaz imam „follow-up“ komentar. Mislim, da ste zelo korektno odgovorili. Plediral bi pa, da izkoristite veliko moralno moč, ki jo boste imeli, za to, da sežete v takšnih primerih do meja, ki vam jih dopušča korektno opravljanje vašega dela in vaše funkcije. Hvala lepa.

3-066

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – Thank you, I appreciate the trust. Yes, I will.

3-067

**Bart Staes (Verts/ALE).** – Dag mevrouw de kandidaat-commissaris, ik neem aan dat u de situatie in Gaza kent. De humanitaire situatie is er dramatisch. De VN-rapporten van het OCHA en de UNRWA geven duidelijk aan dat de anderhalf miljoen mensen die daar leven, in een zeer moeilijke situatie zitten.

Ik zou u willen vragen welke maatregelen u overweegt te nemen samen met uw 26 collega's om ervoor te zorgen, ten eerste, dat de staat Israël toegang geeft aan humanitaire hulpkonvoeien en, ten tweede, dat Gaza niet langer een openluchtgevangenis is.

3-068

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – I very much appreciate the way you framed your question, asking what I would do together with my 26 colleagues, because the approach has to be one of the collective of the Union. From my position, what our humanitarian workers are very concerned about is access. Access has been very restricted. What I learned is that it is down to 20%-25% of what it was before 2006. Therefore, the most important issue for us is to advocate and advocate and advocate for access, but how do you do that, aside from raising awareness?

I think there we also need to constantly tackle the reasons given why access cannot be provided and ask for

solutions. For example, I understand that one of the reasons given is that there could be goods that might be used for military purposes. In that case what we should be doing – and I believe we are doing it – is to ask them to give us their negative list: these are the things you cannot bring into Gaza, and then we will comply. Or give us a positive list: these are the things you can bring in.

The question of the collective of the Union is number one: acting as one, taking a position and making sure that we speak with one voice. And then to give humanitarian workers as much backing as we can and try to remove perceived or real technical difficulties...

*(The President cut off the speaker.)*

3-069

**Bart Staes (Verts/ALE).** – Mevrouw de kandidaat-commissaris, eventjes meer in de diepte. Wij hebben als Europese Unie met de staat Israël een aantal samenwerkingsakkoorden die ook zorgen voor preferentiële toegang van Israël tot de Europese Unie. Denkt u niet dat u dit soort gesprekken met Israël kan gebruiken om deze staat ertoe te bewegen actie in de gunstige zin te ondernemen?

3-070

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – This is exactly why I emphasised this part of your question. We need to look at the whole suite of engagements with Israel.

I do not have the competence to tell you to what extent this is being done and how it can be done, but obviously I will take this message back to the college. That is my role – to make sure that people understand that there is a serious crisis and we need to do something about it.

3-071

**Nirj Deva (ECR).** – Commissioner-designate, you will be the voice of the voiceless, the last refuge of those left behind. Different Commissioners will have different responsibilities: Cathy Ashton will be trying to promote the EU's interests in different countries; Mr Piebalgs and Mr De Gucht will be talking about trade.

You will be the person who speaks for those people who do not have a voice. You will have to fight against the vested interests of the European Union in some cases. Are you prepared to do so?

3-072

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – Yes, sir, I definitely am!

*(Laughter)*

3-073

**Chair.** – Do you have a follow-up question, Mr Deva?

*(Laughter)*

3-074

**Nirj Deva (ECR).** – Not after that answer, no! But I hope the other Commissioners hear that.

*(Laughter)*

3-075

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – Oh they will, yes!

3-076

**Michèle Striffler (PPE).** – Madame, suite au tremblement de terre en Haïti, l'aide humanitaire de l'Union européenne a été débloquée rapidement et massivement, et le mécanisme de protection civile de l'Union européenne a coordonné les moyens nationaux. Vous indiquez, dans vos réponses au questionnaire, qu'il faut tirer les enseignements sur la manière d'être plus performant à l'avenir.

Quelles mesures comptez-vous prendre pour améliorer et renforcer la coordination, la complémentarité et la cohérence de l'aide humanitaire de l'Union européenne? Quel sera le rôle du groupe de travail COHAFA – aide humanitaire et aide alimentaire – au sein du Conseil de l'Union européenne? La création d'une force européenne de protection civile sera-t-elle une de vos priorités et comment s'organisera-t-elle?

3-077

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – The very establishment of this position of a Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response is a step in the right direction. I have learned that there are two groups in the Council: the one you mentioned, COHAFA – which deals with humanitarian aid and food aid – and PROCIV – the group dealing with civil protection. It will be very important to use these two avenues and perhaps identify whether there is anything that we need to synchronise – because they might be not entirely on the same page – so that we can move the lessons from Haiti forward in a more generic sense.

Just as an observation, after the tsunami there was a very serious and objective evaluation of the lessons to be learned. If we look at Haiti, we can see that some of these lessons have been applied – actually to a high degree – but not all.

The question then is what lessons we draw from Haiti. I believe very strongly in a very systematic and honest assessment of what we have done well, what we have not done so well and how we can do better. I think that having these groups in the Council is the platform to carry this forward with the Member States – and hopefully also with this committee, not only with the Council.

3-078

**Ioan Mircea Pașcu (S&D), Vice-Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs.** – I have a problem, because I had two previous questions prepared for you but they have been asked – and answered very well by you – so now I have to improvise.

Suppose you have a crisis which is in a very politically charged area. How do you reconcile the need, on the one hand, to act quickly, and the longer time required, shall we say, by political action in that respect?

3-079

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – For humanitarian aid, the most important factor is speed. We have to mobilise it quickly, deliver it quickly and make sure it reaches the people that are in need. That has to be, and is, for us, the driving objective.

Obviously if conditions are such, as happens unfortunately in far too many places, that reconstruction and development simply cannot follow, then we have a problem. We end up with a very long period of dependence on aid; and consequently people's livelihoods are destroyed and their capacity to come back to productive life is tremendously undermined.

Therefore, the longer this process goes on, the more difficult it is to return to reconstruction and development. It is with this in mind that we have to apply judgement: when are the political conditions right?

If we set up too high a standard, we may actually do the wrong thing. We may actually hurt people more than we help. And unfortunately these are judgment calls; they often involve not only rational and political assessments but also emotions. How we carry them forward depends more than anything else on the openness and transparency of information so we can all make our minds up in the most objective manner possible.

3-080

**La Présidente.** – Nous avons prévu un créneau pour les questions de suivi, pendant lequel les groupes politiques peuvent me signaler, par écrit, les questions posées par les membres qui requièrent un complément d'information de la part de la commissaire désignée.

J'ai reçu, par écrit, les questions suivantes - je vais les prendre les unes après les autres:-

Quelles sont les leçons que vous tirez de la réponse de l'Union européenne au tremblement de terre en Haïti, et comment pensez-vous qu'elles peuvent influencer votre tâche à la tête de l'aide humanitaire?

Vous avez 1 minute 45 pour répondre à cette question.

3-081

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – The crisis is still evolving, and the time will come for a much more systematic assessment of lessons learnt but, as of today, I would make three points.

The first is that the people we trust to do this work have been on the ground. They have deployed some of the lessons from the tsunami. One lesson from the tsunami, for example, was to pre-position stocks so that we do not have to fly them over from Europe when disaster hits; they are in localities around the world. That was done and it helped very much in Haiti.

Secondly, the communication on what Europe has done was, shall we say, slightly underwhelming. I listened to the team that works there. Every 24 hours they gave me an assessment of what had been done and it was very impressive but then, when you look at how this was

communicated outside, we did not have the same story. So the immediate lesson is that we have to think of communication as much as we think of action. What people see is what they believe, not what may actually have been done.

Thirdly, I have the impression that there is still more room for a more coordinated European response, labelled as such. Again, I understand the reasons why this has not been done, and these reasons have to be taken very seriously into account, but we can think of doing better in the way of showing Europe as one and not as 27+1.

3-082

**La Présidente.** – Les États-Unis ont un bateau-hôpital qu'ils ont envoyé en Haïti. Est-ce que vous pouvez envisager un rôle similaire pour l'Union européenne dans le futur?

3-083

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – This takes us back to the question of the interface between military and civilian operations. As I said, I do believe that, as a last resort, the military can be very helpful.

I can tell you that when I was discussing with DG ECHO staff this issue of the blurring of the lines between military and civil response, I asked whether they thought it was appropriate for the United States Army to intervene in Haiti – it provided food when there was no other way of doing so because there was no government; there was nothing.

When you have that kind of situation, when a government collapses, or does not exist, or when there is a disaster, then of course there is a role for the military. Then again, this has to be done very carefully, because, once you do it you cannot undo it. Once you are in, you are in.

3-084

**La Présidente.** – Une dernière question: comment allez-vous assurer un financement européen plus prévisible, en particulier pour le Soudan?

3-085

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – Humanitarian aid is needs based, so it goes where the needs are. Therefore, better targeting depends on three things. Firstly, do we have a right assessment of the needs and do we know where the needs are? Secondly, have we mobilised the supplies that are necessary to meet those needs? Thirdly, do we have access? Can we bring these two things together?

We know that, in some cases, we have a problem with access. We know that, in some cases, we have a problem with the ability to even identify the people in need. We know that very often we have situations where humanitarian workers just cannot reach those who are in need. So, we need to work on each one of these three elements diligently: accurate needs assessment; making sure that we mobilise – getting people to send not what they have but what is actually needed; and that we have

access to, and manage to reach, those in need. Those are the three elements I would emphasise.

3-086

**Corina Crețu (S&D).** – Am să rămân cumva în acest domeniu și am să mă refer la modul în care se poate asigura creșterea securității și siguranței lucrătorilor umanitari, pentru că, mai ales în zonele de conflict armat, cum este Republica Congo, pe lângă violurile în masă, numeroase convoaie umanitare ale echipelor de ajutor sunt atacate. Acest lucru se întâmplă și în Haiti.

Cum credeți că am putea să controlăm cumva ca populația să ajungă la aceste ajutoare umanitare și cum poate fi ridicată siguranța și securitatea lucrătorilor umanitari?

3-087

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – What we learn from people who work in very difficult circumstances is that they often prefer not to be guarded by the military. They often prefer to build their own ways of reaching the needy. Why? Because, once the military is there, whether they are neutral and independent becomes questionable.

But there are circumstances when that becomes a necessity – we actually just talked about that. What I see as my job is to make sure that we are open and that we assess everything as the circumstances require.

One thing I have learned that we have in the European Commission is our own airline, which has the job of delivering mainly in the Congo, because of the size of the country; I believe they also use the flights for Sudan.

So we need to think what we can do in terms of transportation means that would be more protective for humanitarian workers – in this particular case flying them, rather than having them cross very dangerous territories, is a protective measure.

Sorry, I forgot to say something very important. One thing that we know today helps everybody is to be connected, and we invest a lot in connection services. In Haiti, apparently, one of the things the Commission did was to install a dish so people can call home: they can say, I am alive, I am OK. But in terms of safety, communications and assessment – good, on-the-ground security assessment that can be provided to humanitarian workers, these are ways...

*(The Chair cut off the speaker.)*

3-088

**Corina Crețu (S&D).** – Last year we had more than 200 humanitarian workers who died. I think it is very important that these cases are investigated properly and that these kinds of cases are prevented.

3-089

**Bill Newton Dunn (ALDE).** – Commissioner-designate, you are doing very well in my opinion. We are here to examine how you would do the job. You speak fluent Russian. You spent three years in Moscow. How would that Russian experience help in your job? Would you,

for example, consider liaising with the Russians on their aid, or would it be beyond your remit?

3-090

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – There are two parts of my Russian experience that are very applicable to this job.

Firstly, when I was Director there, there was a humanitarian operation going on from the Commission and from the UN for the Caucasus – especially for Chechnya but also for the neighbouring republics. We partnered with the Commission and the UN in the following way: We in the World Bank do not provide humanitarian aid, but we can work on providing the enabling conditions for aid to be delivered by using our access to the senior leadership in Moscow as well as in the republics. We also built a project around this humanitarian aid in Dagestan, Kabardino-Balkaria and in the neighbouring regions, where we focused on one thing only – a civil service capable of receiving money and being accountable for it. It built on transparency and how money flows. We were not allowed to operate in Chechnya but we brought people from Chechnya to Kabardino-Balkaria, I believe, to train them.

Secondly, I was fortunate to be in Russia when Russia hosted the G8 for the first time. Because I came from development, they asked me what they could do. I suggested that they have an emerging donor conference: You are a new donor and invite others such as the Chinese. They did it in 2006 and are doing another one now.

*(The Chair cut off the speaker.)*

3-091

**Bill Newton Dunn (ALDE).** – We can discuss that another time. Thank you. My follow-up is a follow-up to Mr Mitchell's very first question on how to raise the visibility of your work on behalf of the EU. Would you consider writing a blog or having your staff write a blog, and might you even consider Twittering?

3-092

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – Both. I think Twitter is great for something like this, because what you do with Twitter is you give headlines. You give headlines to journalists if you do it well.

I am from the old generation, so I am catching up with all these things. But I did follow Twitter. One thing I can tell you is that, when I was nominated, I had to very quickly get out my Rolodex and call all my relatives because Twitters were flying and I was afraid they would hear it from someone else and not from me. It is a very powerful tool because it is short; and when it is short you need to focus in what you say.

*(The President cut off the speaker.)*

3-093

**Isabella Lövin (Verts/ALE).** – I would like to ask what consequences the Commissioner-designate sees in the Copenhagen failure when it comes to EU humanitarian aid, taking into account the increased risks of disasters,

as this Copenhagen Accord presents no credible way of limiting warming to 2°C.

How will the Commissioner take this into account when planning for EU humanitarian aid over the next five years, calculating increased risks etc? What is your view on disaster prevention when it comes to multinational corporations' activities in developing countries? What concrete steps will you take to put pressure on these companies to comply with environmental standards that are needed in order to prevent disasters?

3-094

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – Maybe it is because I come from the environmental community, but I was in Copenhagen and I had mixed feelings. I was not just negative. I thought it was problematic that it was so chaotic and I thought it was problematic, from a European point of view, that the European Union somehow did not have a European Union seat at the table. I am sure that is something that we need to think about and follow up on.

Five years ago I would not have hoped to see 120 heads of state get together on the issue of climate change. I think the level of awareness in the world of how critical it is, that this might very well be the biggest challenge of our generation, has gone up. Copenhagen, including all the chaos of the 40 000 people there, also helped this awareness. It is not just black; there are some positive things that came out of it.

But to your question: I agree that we need to be prepared; that more resources are needed to help with disasters. One of the things I worked on in the Bank was vulnerability to climate change for poor countries. The question is: Are we just going to be thinking of piling up resources, or are we going to try to think of creative ways to mobilise our funds? This is why I think we have to put more energy into the latter. If we believe that aid budgets alone would be able to bale countries and people out of trouble 10 or 15 years down the road, it is just not going to be the case. My job is to work very closely with the Commissioner for Development...

*(The Chair cut off the speaker.)*

3-095

**Isabella Lövin (Verts/ALE).** – Would you elaborate a little on how you consider multinational corporations' activities in developing countries and how you could influence them in order to prevent disasters in the future?

3-096

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – They are not a sort of single entity that allows you to say: This is what I think of them. There are companies that have done very well in taking on responsibility for those who work for developing countries and there are companies that are much more short-sighted that go for profit, and what they leave behind them may be more destruction than development.

So I would not draw a common blanket over all companies. But what I can say, very responsibly, is that, because many companies are bigger than countries, they have responsibilities...

*(The Chair cut off the speaker.)*

3-097

**Iva Zanicchi (PPE).** – Signora Commissario designato, devo dire che lei mi piace molto, per la sua pacatezza e la sua classe e le auguro un buon lavoro perché rimarrà qui tra noi, ne sono certa.

Volevo però riproporle una domanda che ho fatto la settimana scorsa al suo predecessore, il Commissario De Gucht di ritorno da Haiti. Amnesty International e altre organizzazioni umanitarie hanno denunciato la scomparsa di decine di bambini sopravvissuti al terremoto, l'appello è stato lanciato alla comunità internazionale perché ponga la propria attenzione sui gravi rischi di abusi e traffici illeciti sui minori.

Quali informazioni ha la Commissione al riguardo, e soprattutto quali misure sono state prese, o intende prendere, per monitorare e tutelare i bambini (...) estrema e difficile ...

*(La Presidente ritira la parola all'oratore.)*

3-098

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – I am very encouraged that Unicef is taking this issue very seriously. They have provided a lot of information on it, which is incredibly helpful, so others can form an opinion on this matter and be more alerted.

By 'others' I especially mean governments, because I understand that part of these cases are adoptions that were legally agreed before the earthquake hit; part involve well-meaning people trying to be helpful; part may be very dangerous and may really be leading to trafficking of children.

So what I can do is join my colleagues in Unicef to speak on that, to make sure that we are aware, Parliament is aware and our Member States are aware that this goes through immigration services; those who help put a stop to this are also aware of this, and they are doing their job.

3-099

**Enrique Guerrero Salom (S&D).** – En los casos de graves crisis humanitarias, sobre todo si son por desastres naturales, necesitamos equipos de rescate, necesitamos agua, necesitamos asistencia sanitaria, pero, sobre todo, necesitamos capacidad de dirección inmediata sobre el terreno, autoridades identificables, instrucciones claras y responsabilidad en el ejercicio.

Yo creo que la Unión Europea, en su ayuda humanitaria, puede jugar un papel importante en el apoyo, en este tipo de crisis, a la gobernabilidad, al surgimiento de esta dirección sobre el terreno.



¿Estamos en disposición de crear equipos, de crear grupos que puedan ayudar sobre el terreno en este tipo de dirección de crisis?

3-100

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – I agree very much with that, and it is certainly very much needed.

What we hear from the field – and actually I hear this also from my maybe soon-to-be former World Bank colleagues – is that there is a significant degree of uncertainty as to how the Government is coming together and their capacity to handle the situation. They are doing the best they can, and let us not forget: this is not the government that had a long history of institution-building, they were just actually coming together. So help that can be provided at this time is critical.

But let me make one more point. Another area we need to think of is how we can open up opportunities for private sector action, because again, if we only rely on the public sector and on international support, we are not going to restore Haiti easily. It is going to be a much longer struggle.

So, especially when we move to reconstruction, it is very important to also create opportunities for businesses to come back. There has been some encouraging movement in Haiti in this respect, to make sure that it is not wiped out, because with jobs would come dignity and confidence, and jobs come when we can actually unleash the private sector a little.

I am bringing this up not because I underestimate the necessity for public sector intervention and for international assistance, because ultimately this was the bright light in Haiti in the last...

*(The Chair cut off the speaker.)*

3-101

**Enrique Guerrero Salom (S&D).** – Simplemente quisiera subrayar que, por supuesto, se trata de apoyar a quienes en el terreno, los naturales del terreno, tienen reconocida la autoridad por sus propios conciudadanos. Y, por tanto, no se trata de sustituirlos: se trata de dotarles del apoyo necesario para que exista esa dirección, que es quizá lo más importante para enfrentarse a una crisis.

3-102

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – That is really the right point, at this moment in time, when the institutional capabilities are weak. Obviously, the country is finding it very hard to stand on its feet anyway, but it would be having an even harder time without that support.

3-103

**Edite Estrela (S&D), ENVI.** – Senhora Presidente, Senhora Georgieva, eu gostaria de voltar ao tema das catástrofes naturais em território europeu. É que na sua comunicação sobre a prevenção de catástrofes naturais ou provocadas pelo Homem, a Comissão Europeia afirma que será explorada a possibilidade de desenvolver

uma iniciativa específica sobre os incêndios florestais. Significa isso que a Comissão Europeia vai apresentar uma directiva sobre incêndios florestais, tal como foi solicitado pelo Parlamento Europeu numa resolução de 2006, e à semelhança do que já existe para as inundações?

3-104

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – My understanding is that there is work going on in the area of forest fires from the development angle and from the agricultural angle. I do not know how advanced it is and I do not know the details of it.

It sort of makes sense when looking at floods, this very big phenomenon, you try to come up with a directive that is clear and helps the Union to respond.

Now this is my chance to be short. At this point I need to learn more and come back to you on that. I heard something, but I cannot give you a 'yes' or 'no' answer today. I will come back to you, I promise.

3-105

**Edite Estrela (S&D), ENVI.** – Gostaria também de saber - que foi outra recomendação do Parlamento Europeu - sobre o Observatório da Seca, Desertificação e para as Inundações: Acha que é importante a criação de um Observatório das Catástrofes Naturais, designadamente no sentido de se poder actuar em tempo útil, ou seja, prevenir e não apenas reagir?

3-106

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – It is definitely very important to have the skills. We need to know to what extent they exist today, where they exist and what the addition of a centre would bring to this subject. It is definitely true that, the more we know, the better the information we have, the more likely it is that we will be prepared, that we will respond appropriately and that it will be less costly for our societies in human and financial terms.

3-107

**Gay Mitchell (PPE).** – Can I ask the Commissioner-designate what she thinks can be done to strengthen the influence of the International Criminal Court in relation to, for example, heads of state or government who clearly abuse and who are charged and wanted by that court? What can be done perhaps to get more international cooperation in that field?

3-108

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – I am afraid that this steps into the area where, from a humanitarian aid point of view, because of the principles of neutrality – I am thinking of Sudan and I am thinking of the attempt of the International Criminal Court to exercise its judgement over there and the fact that, for the humanitarian aid workers in Sudan, this is a political issue that is not part of their portfolio.

So it seems to me that Mrs Ashton would be a better person to put this question to. I am not ducking the question, but I think this is hers.

3-109

**Enrique Guerrero Salom (S&D).** – ¿Cómo contempla la mejora de la defensa del espacio humanitario, dentro de la revisión del consenso europeo sobre ayuda humanitaria que se va a producir durante la Presidencia española?

3-110

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – As we discussed earlier, the review is forthcoming. It will provide an opportunity to identify areas to which more attention should be paid, where there should be additional action, or where there has been less progress and actions should be accelerated.

The most critical question is the most difficult one – namely the question of the civil-military interface. If that is something that the Spanish Presidency wants to discuss, and if some progress is made in that area, this would probably be very helpful.

*(The Chair cut off the speaker.)*

3-111

**Charles Goerens (ALDE).** – Madame la Présidente, j'aimerais poser la question suivante à Madame la Commissaire désignée. Il y a quelques années, le Myanmar a refusé l'accès des humanitaires – des institutionnels humanitaires notamment – à son pays au lendemain d'une catastrophe naturelle.

Je comprends la prudence avec laquelle vous abordez ce problème, néanmoins vous avez la capacité de faire l'inventaire, le cas échéant, des vies perdues...

*(La Présidente retire la parole à l'orateur.)*

3-112

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – This is always going to be case-specific. Under circumstances we need to assess, we make decisions that, to the best of our judgement, fit the circumstances. In that case, let me step back and say: the judgement was made for a reason. The reason was that there are very high standards to be met for the military to be called in. There has to be ethnic cleansing or, basically, criminality of a nature that leads to that. So, no universal solution: we need to be certain that we assess the circumstances and that we respect the principles on which international humanitarian relations are built.

3-113

**Bart Staes (Verts/ALE).** – Mevrouw, in uw toelichting zegt u (ik zeg het in het Engels):

3-114

'I will speak up when sexual violence is used as an arm of war.'

3-115

Dat gebeurt dagelijks in Oost-Congo. Hoe gaat u deze uitspraak concretiseren ten aanzien van de Congolese en andere autoriteiten?

3-116

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – At this point, the measures in our hands are designed to make sure that when we do something, such as building

a camp, we do so bearing in mind that we must not expose women to risk, so that we can reduce sexual abuse and violence.

When we build our communication and security platforms, we should try to think in gender terms – what it means for women. Also, of course, we need to advocate to the United Nations and our partners that more attention should be paid to this issue, and more strongly worded views expressed by leaders around the world.

The only practical thing we can do is to make sure that the people that are there...

*(The Chair cut off the speaker.)*

3-117

**Eleni Theoharous (PPE).** – Do you intend to impose sanctions on those countries, authorities and governments who are responsible for humanitarian crises or who are blocking the transfer of humanitarian aid to those in need?

3-118

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – That is not an instrument that I have at my disposal within my portfolio, because of the neutrality and impartiality of humanitarian aid. However, as we have seen in very extreme cases of abuse, the European Union would not engage in providing development assistance, nor would it in extreme cases of violation of the rights of a country's own people. What I can do is provide public information to the college so that this can be factored into political decisions.

3-119

**Charles Goerens (ALDE).** – Je voudrais revenir à la dimension opérationnelle que l'Union européenne doit mettre en place pour apporter une réponse aux crises humanitaires.

Madame la Commissaire désignée entend-elle promouvoir une sorte de "burden sharing" à l'intérieur de l'Union européenne? Allez-vous donc inviter tous les États membres à apporter leur contribution, afin de répartir un peu la charge du fardeau?

3-120

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – I am certainly in favour of burden-sharing, and I also see a role that I could play in advocating more active participation of the new Member States. I come from one of them, and therefore I have an obligation to bring more information to the citizens of our countries as to why that actually matters. Even if we are in difficult financial conditions, this is a commitment we have made but, more importantly, it actually matters for us, as Europeans, to do it.

I do not yet know enough about the way the Commission interacts with Member States in terms of promoting contributions and burden-sharing. I hope to learn this very quickly and to work with the

Commissioner for Development in this area in the years to come.

3-121

**Birgit Schnieber-Jastram (PPE).** – Herzlichen Dank, Frau Kandidatin! Ich sage mal vorweg, es macht Spaß, mit Ihnen zu diskutieren, und ich hoffe, dass es nicht das letzte Mal ist. Sie schreiben in den Antworten auf die Fragen der Kommission, dass Sie noch in diesem Jahr einen Vorschlag für ein europäisches Freiwilligenkorps unterbreiten wollen. Ich frage ganz konkret: Wissen Sie schon wann? Ich frage nicht, ob Sie wissen, wie das aussehen soll. Und Sie wünschen sich auch, dass Sie dann 2011 bereits so ein Freiwilligenkorps aufstellen. Halten Sie fest an diesem, wie ich finde, doch recht optimistischen Vorhaben?

3-122

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – I completely agree that it is optimistic, but the timing is natural because 2011 is the Year of Volunteering. So if we are to introduce this corps, this is a good time to do it. It is in the Lisbon Treaty, Article 214. It is there. So we need to work on it and make it happen.

There would be two things for us to watch. One is the budget and the other one is the purpose of this corps.

Firstly, on the budget, it cannot possibly be funded by the humanitarian aid budget that we currently have. It would be very unfair to the people we need to serve if we fund it from there. It just cannot be done.

Secondly, we need to think of what exactly this corps would look like. Obviously, we do not want to take volunteers and send them to places in crisis conditions for which very special preparation is necessary. But maybe we can borrow from models like 'Engineers without borders'. In other words, think of a way of designing the corps so that as many volunteers as possible can be included without risks to their safety and without additional costs to protect them.

I am actually very excited at this. Maybe I am over-optimistic because I am new, but I think that when something like this is in our Treaty and when we have a Year of Volunteering just coming, I think it is the right time. We have to do it, but we need budgeting and we need careful design.

3-123

**Birgit Schnieber-Jastram (PPE).** – Können Sie sich vorstellen, dass es auch mit den Mitgliedstaaten schwierige Diskussionen gibt?

3-124

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – The operative word in this is 'volunteer'. I take this to mean that it does not have to be every country. It does not have to be anybody in particular. It is voluntary. We provide the framework, we think about it, we need to mobilise a bit of money to make it work, and then Member States who are interested in being part of it are part of it. It would be very strange to have a mandatory volunteer corps.

So maybe this will help us with the Member States.

3-125

**Michael Cashman (S&D).** – Ms Georgieva, as you know, these hearings are for us to judge the capability of the candidate.

I have sat here this afternoon and I have to say, I am deeply impressed by your breadth of knowledge, your honesty and your impressive intellectual capacity, and I believe you are a brilliant example of what we call policy coherence.

Therefore I will not be asking a question, because I believe we should now move swiftly to the – positive – confirmation process.

*(Applause)*

3-126

**Chair.** – There is a consensus!

*(Laughter)*

3-127

**Ελένη Θεοχάρους (PPE).** – Κυρία Πρόεδρε, και εγώ συμφωνώ με τον κ. Cashman, ωστόσο θα κάνω μια ερώτηση. Είμαι εναντίον κάθε στρατιωτικής παρέμβασης και, να το θυμάστε, οι Αμερικανοί δεν θα φύγουν ποτέ από την Αϊτή.

Θα ήθελα να ρωτήσω, εάν προτίθεστε να οργανώσετε μία ανθρωπιστική δύναμη ταχείας ανάπτυξης, μια οργανωμένη δύναμη, η οποία να μπορεί να παρεμβαίνει σε περιπτώσεις ανθρωπιστικών κρίσεων, δεδομένου ότι η Ευρώπη βρέθηκε απροετοίμαστη και στο Νότιο Λίβανο και στην Γάζα, και στο τσουνάμι της Σρι Λάνκα και της Σουμάτρα, αλλά και στην Αϊτή τώρα.

Δηλαδή, πέρα από τον εθελοντισμό, που σίγουρα πάντα κρύβει κινδύνους, χρειάζεται να υπάρχει και μια οργανωμένη δύναμη η οποία να μπορεί να επιτελεί αυτό το σκοπό.

3-128

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – The idea of EUFAST and the idea of EuropeAid that the Barnier report proposes go in the direction of creating a force that is composed of the Member States but, where gaps are identified, these are filled by the Commission – they are filled by the Union as a whole.

To me that makes sense but, if something has not been done for so many years, there must be very good reasons why not. It would be irresponsible for me to take a position one way or another before I know what those reasons are.

However, I would engage very actively on this matter. I would follow up on the discussion in the Council to be held on 11 February. I have actually talked with Baroness Ashton about the importance of immediately moving this discussion in a more operational direction. I will come back to you once it is clearer why this has not happened and what the pathway may be for it to happen.

3-129

**Ελένη Θεοχάρους (PPE).** – Μέχρι τότε, προτίθεστε να εκδώσετε έναν τύπο διαβατηρίου για την προστασία

όλων των εθελοντών, οι οποίοι πηγαίνουν με αρκετούς κινδύνους, στις διάφορες χώρες, και να διευκολύνετε το πέρασμά τους σε δύσκολα σημεία, όπως για παράδειγμα στη λωρίδα της Γάζας;

3-130

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – Thank you for that question.

This is not an issue I have information on, although I know that in the United Nations, for example, we have the United Nations *laissez-passer*. In some countries that is a helpful document to have.

I do not know what we do in terms of documentation for the passage for humanitarian workers. Once I have learned more about that I would be happy to come back and give a response.

3-131

**Patrizia Toia (S&D).** – Signora Commissario designato, lei ha dato a tutti noi l'impressione, oltre che di voler gestire delle emergenze, anche di avere un approccio di programmazione, di preparazione. Ha più volte detto di mettere a punto la struttura, vedere come operiamo, insomma, di metterci in condizione di fare meglio.

In questo approccio, che potrebbe avere anche un'ottica preventiva, voglio sollevarle un problema – mi chiedo se sarà di suo interesse – se vogliamo avere uno sguardo un po' lungo: ci sono calamità naturali e calamità che nascono dall'intervento dell'uomo, o violento, o guerre, eccetera, o da un dissennato sviluppo che genera poi fenomeni di carestie e quant'altro.

È in atto, in molti paesi africani, un esproprio, vorrei dire, un'appropriazione da parte di economie emergenti di grandi territori, coltivati intensivamente e poi abbandonati: cosa si può fare perché poi non si debba affrontare tra qualche anno (...) una migrazione di massa? Vorrà lei occuparsi di questo?

3-132

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – This question goes back to the link between the root causes of disasters, and development which may address them or actually make them worse. From my perspective – from my portfolio – I can make sure that I work with the Commissioner for Development in particular so we can think up development strategies, keeping in mind what might be the consequences – especially in terms of ecological sustainability and its impact on people, its impact on migrants and its impact on livelihoods – and the risks and crisis.

It is not strictly in my portfolio, so the way I can and will act on this is to make sure that in the discussions we have in the college, and in particular with the Commissioner for Development, we keep this as one of the issues to pursue.

3-133

**Patrizia Toia (S&D).** – La invito, proprio per l'apprezzamento che sta riscuotendo qui, ad andare

sempre oltre le strette competenze, almeno nell'ottica dell'interazione e della collaborazione: sollevi temi che anche esulano dal suo stretto compito, perché se ha qualcosa di importante da dire, di intelligente, come sembra, lo dica e lo faccia.

In questo senso, la richiamo su un altro punto che è di tutti e di nessuno: i diritti delle donne nell'ambito anche dell'umanitario. Più facile impostare un tema di diritti umani, anche di genere, nella cooperazione, più difficile salvaguardare questi diritti nell'intervento umanitario di emergenza, di fretta e a volte (...).

3-134

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – Just to be very clear: the reason I am focusing on this division of responsibility is because I do not want to raise expectations that the humanitarian aid portfolio is going to fund, for example, watershed management in Africa, because then we would be depriving resources from our purpose. On the other hand, of course I would advocate paying attention in development to those factors that can lead to disasters in the end.

3-135

**Cristian Dan Preda (PPE).** – Madame la Commissaire désignée, je voudrais vous poser une question au sujet de la complémentarité de l'action humanitaire, respectivement au niveau européen et au niveau national.

J'aimerais, tout d'abord, savoir quelle est votre opinion sur l'état actuel des choses. Quel est, autrement dit, le niveau de cohérence dans cette jonction entre le niveau européen et le niveau national?

Et deuxièmement, bien sûr, j'aurais voulu savoir en quoi consiste, selon vous, la plus-value principale apportée par l'Union? Qu'apporte-t-elle à ce niveau-là?

3-136

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – Over the last few years there has been progress in aid coordination, especially with the Accra Agreement.

It started with the Paris Declaration, then we had Accra. Progress has been made in the sense that it primarily helps to reduce the various requirements and earmarking that different countries' partners may be putting on the developing world.

In this process, of course much more attention is paid to comparative advantage: what different donors or partners bring to the table. Europe has always been the strongest in terms of its presence in development assistance. By having this presence, Europe has actually had quite a significant influence, including on my current organisation, the World Bank, in terms of how the banks think of development.

Where I see the comparative advantage of Europe, or where I have seen it over time, is in two things. One, the tremendous attention Europe actually gives to diversity, but also to social inclusion, to matters such as women

and development, to small-scale private-sector development, and to an issue that I am very proud that Europeans brought up, which is land titling. Because once you have title, you have an asset; you can borrow money; you can develop your own business.

So conceptually, in the Year of the Environment, nobody else did so much to move forward the environment in the development agenda. Of course we can say it has not been enough. It is never enough. But I think, with money – but also with values – Europe has done quite a lot for development.

3-137

**Cristian Dan Preda (PPE).** – Madame la Présidente, plus de question mais mes félicitations.

3-138

**Dominique Baudis (PPE),** *vice-président de la commission des affaires étrangères* – Madame la Commissaire désignée, vous avez répondu à une question concernant la situation à Gaza. J'ai pris note de votre réponse, mais je voudrais y revenir un instant car, malheureusement, la tragédie qui dure depuis si longtemps va bientôt s'aggraver considérablement.

En effet, comme vous le savez, l'Égypte a décidé de fermer les tunnels souterrains vers la Bande de Gaza, où plus d'un million de personnes vont se trouver dans une situation d'isolement total. Les approvisionnements ne passent pas par Israël et ne pourront plus passer par les souterrains vers l'Égypte.

Pour faire face à cette situation, quelles initiatives urgentes envisagez-vous pour que cette crise humanitaire latente - qui dure depuis longtemps - ne se transforme pas en une nouvelle catastrophe?

3-139

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – There are a small number of very complex issues where the Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response cannot – and should not – be acting alone. It has to be done within the college. It has to be done with the Member States.

I am not going to offer a specific political initiative today because that would be irresponsible to my colleagues with whom I discussed this question in great detail. Their point was that from a humanitarian perspective there is one issue and that is access. Unless we expand access we run into tremendous problems, causing misery to many people. So I understand the problem. Of course I would offer my voice, but I alone would not be able to resolve an issue that is fundamentally an issue of trust between two people. But I would definitely make sure that this is an issue high on the agenda when we have discussions in the college, in particular among the external relations Commissioners.

3-140

**Dominique Baudis (PPE),** *vice-président de la commission des affaires étrangères* – Vous avez indiqué tout à l'heure que, dans des situations d'urgence, l'Union européenne pouvait utiliser certains instruments juridiques dans le cadre des accords qui lient l'Europe avec un État, quel qu'il soit.

Dans quelle mesure l'Union européenne pourrait-elle user de ce levier vis-à-vis d'Israël pour obtenir d'alléger la pression sur Gaza, et pour pouvoir obtenir ce droit de passage que vous évoquiez tout à l'heure?

3-141

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – I have thought of this more from the outside, as a citizen, as an issue that is of tremendous significance. My impression has been that the European Union has been very consistent in the position it takes, but also that there is still room to make an impact.

All I can say is that it is not that the European Union has not taken a position. I will have to learn to what extent all the instruments have been deployed. This is a topic that is new for me.

I will follow up with the commissioners responsible, especially with Baroness Ashton, on this question: is there anything in the instruments at our disposal that we could have deployed and that we have not deployed, and why? Then I will come back to you.

3-142

**Chair.** – We now move on to the question sequence. We have follow-up questions from the political groups that I will read. They are limited to one minute and 30 seconds for the answers.

The first question is: 'Some countries clearly blackmail the international community, starving parts of their population in order to get aid, while withholding their own resources, for example Ethiopia. What to do?'

You have one minute and 30 seconds to answer this difficult question.

3-143

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – This is a really difficult question because it goes into a deeply moral dilemma. What do you do? You know that the government is abusing its citizens so that they can get something and put their hands on it, but you also know that those that are abused really suffer.

I would say that the best we can do is very diligently try to get help to those who need it – in other words, not to the government but to the people that are needy – and expose governments for what they do, expose them relentlessly in the media. They will not necessarily listen immediately, but we have in our hands, as an international community, one instrument, and this is that, if you are breaching international humanitarian laws, then you are a pariah in the international arena, and that is it. Sometimes they do not care. Sometimes they start caring because of changes in their circumstances, for whatever reason. So I think that is the best we can do.

3-144

**Chair.** – Second follow-up question: 'How would you ensure that humanitarian aid remains strictly autonomous and is not used as an instrument of crisis management or foreign policy?'

3-145

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – One of the very first things my – hopefully – future colleagues in the Humanitarian Aid DG told me was: Do not allow lines to be blurred between humanitarian aid resources and civil protection or anything else.

I think that they are right because this is the money that goes to people who have nothing else. This is it. Whether they live or die depends on whether we can get help to them so this budget is sacred. In my mind that is it.

Within the new portfolio I would keep the two budgets separate. There is a new instrument for civil protection. This new instrument has to be separate from the humanitarian aid budget.

3-146

**Chair.** – ‘What options do you see for exploring innovative funding sources, as disclosed at the moment, for development areas? Would you support Parliament’s call for additional new funding to humanitarian assistance budgets?’

3-147

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – The very first thing I would do is to join the Commissioner for Development in advocating meeting commitments already made for development assistance, because, if we meet these commitments, we will have more resources both for long-term development and for humanitarian aid.

I also would be very interested in working with Parliament and, of course, with the Commission and with the Council on being realistic about what the demands are.

If, in nine years out of ten, we have to go to reserves to fund humanitarian assistance, that means something. It means that disasters are, unfortunately, more frequent and more severe than they were in the past. So what do we think about that?

I know there is competition of resources; I come with a very strong degree of fiscal conservatism. Money has to be used extremely responsibly and carefully. But what if disasters triple and there continue to be as many wars as in the last decade? We have the same number of fragile states that we had before, and, because of sheer population growth, we know that in the next couple of decades world population is going to go up two billion. Most of these people will live in developing countries. Some of them will live in countries that are currently – and unfortunately may continue to be – in a state of chaos or suffering disasters.

So, if this is the trend, we have to be honest and we have to say we will face this reality. At the same time, I very much believe in innovation, in thinking creatively about how we can raise financing in the most cost-effective way to resolve a problem. And as I gave an example with our insurance...

*(The Chair cut off the speaker.)*

3-148

**Chair.** – New question: ‘Would the Commissioner-designate expand on what she sees as her role in international cooperation and how this will be dovetailed with the work of the two other Commissioners, Mr Piebalgs and Baroness Ashton?’

There is also a similar question: ‘Parliament is frequently criticised for only being interested in its own powers. Given that first Baroness Ashton, then Commissioner De Gucht, were to go to Haiti and the confusion that resulted, are you clear about who is doing what in the Commission? Are you able to have complete responsibility, as you understand it, for humanitarian affairs, or are you deputising for Baroness Ashton?’

3-149

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – Let me take the question that is easiest first. I am the Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Response so I take responsibility for that. Of course, as we have discussed today, there would be many areas in which I will count on Baroness Ashton to carry forward messages, to be an amplifier for issues that require attention as regards defence, as regards foreign affairs, perhaps as regards heads of state in our Union.

I would do that but, if I am confirmed, I will be the Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Response.

On the question of international cooperation, this is really an innovation in my portfolio. I take it – and I want to repeat this because I feel very strongly it is the right approach – that I work on international cooperation as far as it relates to my main responsibilities and does not conflict with these responsibilities. Because, if I am perceived to be not neutral and not independent, I would not be of use to our humanitarian aid workers. I have to protect this position of independence and impartiality but, at the same time, bring to the college and bring to the Commission – and actually bring here to Parliament – what I can do on issues that relate to my responsibilities and then take those into the arena of international cooperation.

My future former colleagues from the World Bank are already telling me: we have a big problem with fragile states; the Bank’s next World Development Report will be on fragile states. They are saying: well, we do not want you to go but, if you do go, can we work with you, can we partner with you?

I have already been in touch with some of our bilateral partners. In other words, we can structure areas of international cooperation on this topic and especially expand it to regional operations. I could not finish on Russia. For example, we can reach out to emerging donors and we can...

*(The Chair cut off the speaker.)*

**Norbert Neuser (S&D).** – Frau Vorsitzende! Ich möchte auf die schwierige Schnittstelle zwischen militärischer und ziviler Hilfe zurückkommen und ganz konkret das Thema Afghanistan ansprechen. Wir hatten jetzt Ende Januar die Konferenz in London, auf der eine neue Strategie festgelegt wurde, wobei man verstärkt auf zivile und humanitäre Hilfe in Afghanistan setzen will, um damit auch den hoffentlich bald beginnenden Versöhnungsprozess innerhalb Afghanistans auf den Weg zu bringen. Ziviler Aufbau und humanitäre Hilfe werden überwiegend von den Vereinten Nationen und der EU durchgeführt. Ich denke, das muss effektiver werden. Hatten Sie in der kurzen Zeit jetzt schon Gelegenheit – Sie sind ja sehr tatkräftig –, darüber nachzudenken, mit welchen Ideen Sie dieses Problem angehen möchten?

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – There are some issues that are fairly clear. For example, it is not acceptable for the military to deliver humanitarian aid in a way that very visibly blurs the line between military and humanitarian assistance. Or, if we have military vehicles and say if they are painted white they are unlikely to be bombed, this is not acceptable or appropriate.

On the ‘yes’ side, when humanitarian workers ask for military support, then yes, this is something to be considered. Resources need to be provided. Then we have the whole area in-between, where judgement needs to be applied as to how far you go in bringing military assistance to humanitarian workers or getting the military to be engaged in humanitarian operations.

If soldiers in Afghanistan would like to build a school, I can see why they should be given a chance to do so. That would probably be a good thing to do for the children there. But if a team then comes from the development side – from the aid side – who offers help to that school, then is this really neutral and independent?

As I was talking about the Spanish Presidency and the mid-term review of the consensus on humanitarian aid, I do think this is a very important question to be at the centre of debate and that conclusions need to be made.

**Norbert Neuser (S&D).** – Gerne noch eine Nachfrage: Gerade in Deutschland, aber auch in vielen anderen Ländern diskutieren die Nichtregierungsorganisationen dieses Problem. Sie wollen eigentlich ganz klar und kategorisch eine klare Trennung zwischen dem Militär und den zivilen Aufgaben und wollen keine Vermischung militärischer und ziviler Aufgaben haben. Wie wollen Sie da agieren?

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – That is exactly my point – that it might look like something good, but it puts people at risk. In other words, for the soldiers that help on the humanitarian side, it is a good thing to do and they feel it is a noble thing to do, but it puts humanitarian workers at risk.

That is why we need the debate, discussion and decisions on this grey area, because we know the military should not use the platform of humanitarian assistance for military operations, and we know that when humanitarian workers are convinced that a military presence, escort or support is needed they should have it, but we need to decide on the grey area.

**Michèle Striffler (PPE).** – Je voudrais revenir une petite minute sur le cas de ces enfants et de ces femmes congolaises violés quotidiennement.

Bien sûr - comme vous le disiez -, un travail de fond, un travail de prévention, est nécessaire. Mais ne pensez-vous pas que ces crimes sont encouragés par l'impunité de la part du gouvernement, puisque les viols ne sont pas seulement commis par les militaires mais qu'ils sont maintenant aussi commis par les civils?

Un plan de prévention sera-t-il suffisant, dans la mesure où, de toute façon, le viol est impuni? Avez-vous un plan d'action à ce sujet?

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – Advocacy is important, but advocacy is not enough: what makes a difference is when people are held to account. Especially if they come from international forces, be they UN or others, they have to be held to account, because, if the leadership in the country pays no attention to what their army is doing, the international community must pay attention to what their international workers are doing.

**Véronique De Keyser (S&D).** – Madame la Commissaire désignée, j'avais une question sur Gaza mais elle vous a été posée plusieurs fois et je crois que, même si je l'arrangeais différemment, vous ne répondriez pas autrement. Je vais donc peut-être vous poser une autre question.

On apprécie beaucoup votre expérience à la Banque mondiale et la qualité de vos réponses a prouvé qu'elle avait été bien utile. Mais une chose nous tracasse un peu: au Parlement, nous avons toujours été réticents par rapport à l'utilisation des *trust funds*, parce que nous pensons que cela revient à mettre de l'argent dans une boîte noire, assez opaque, assez lente, argent sur lequel on n'a pas beaucoup de contrôle et pour lequel la visibilité de l'aide européenne tend à disparaître. Quelle sera votre philosophie en la matière?

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – At least as far as the World Bank is concerned, the Europeans are very visible. Out of our 24 board members, we have – depending on the year – eight, sometimes nine European members. This is a very strong voice on the Board of Directors of the Bank.

In fact, Europe as a whole is the World Bank's largest shareholder. When I was talking to colleagues about coming to Brussels, I said that the World Bank's Articles of Agreement state that the headquarters of the

World Bank should be in the capital of the largest shareholder, so maybe they are going to follow me to Brussels, because that is where the World Bank headquarters should be.

But I understand your point. You put money in a pool. This is good, because it puts the government in the driving seat and boosts institutional capability, but it is not as visible as an EU project or a French project with a flag. I think this is a good point.

Much more can be done to inform people where the money comes from. I will give you one example. When I worked in China, they took me to a school that was financed by the World Bank. At that time it was supported by – I cannot remember now, but I think it was Germany; bilateral. The school had a very big plaque saying that it was supported by the World Bank and by – I think – the German KfW.

I think that we can do much more in terms of this kind of recognition, but we do not. We write our reports and we do not report on the sources. We have to, because otherwise public support is not going to be there.

3-158

**Véronique De Keyser (S&D).** – Oui, peut-être. Lorsque, par exemple sur Gaza, on a développé le TIM - le mécanisme intérimaire -, la Banque mondiale avait la première partie du TIM – le "volet I" sur les médicaments et l'éducation – et il a fallu un an et demi avant de voir arriver le premier médicament, alors que les autres volets de l'Union européenne étaient développés depuis longtemps. On est donc contents de vous voir ici.

3-159

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – Admittedly, at the World Bank we are very conservative in how we design and implement projects.

On the one hand, we have done very well in tackling corruption. I think I can be proud of what the Bank has achieved. But, on the other hand, that means more checks and balances and more controls, and sometimes that slows down our actions.

So we need to find a way to bring these two things closer together, I admit that.

3-160

**Michael Gahler (PPE).** – Sie haben gesagt, Sie wollen im Bereich humanitäre Hilfe und Krisenreaktion proaktiv arbeiten. Ich nehme an, das heißt mit geeigneten Partnern möglichst gute Vorbereitungen für den Ernstfall treffen. Wo sehen Sie, vielleicht auch aufgrund Ihrer bisherigen Erfahrung in der Weltbank – die vorherige Frage ging ja schon in diese Richtung –, Defizite der EU in der Zusammenarbeit mit internationalen und multilateralen Organisationen und wie wollen Sie das verbessern? Ansonsten, finde ich, ist es schade, dass Sie hier sehr darauf achten, keinem der Kollegen in die Quere zu kommen, nicht Ashton, nicht Piebalgs, nicht De Gucht, auch nicht dem

Umweltkommissar. Die sind umgekehrt sicherlich nicht so bescheiden. Ihr Ressort heißt ja als erstes internationale Zusammenarbeit, und wenn Sie jetzt nicht am Anfang diese Kompetenz exzessiv interpretieren, schnappen die Kollegen alles weg. Und das wäre schade. Ashton war doch viel schlechter als Sie. Sie sind doch viel besser, also sollten Sie das auch hier in der Form für sich beanspruchen. Vielen Dank!

3-161

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – Obviously I would take this comment very seriously. The last thing I want is to be cut off from what should belong to my area of responsibility because I will not be able to do my job.

Accountability comes with delegation. If I am to be accountable, I also need to be responsible and I need to have a chance to do my job. But thank you very much for this alert. I will take it into consideration.

3-162

**Michael Gahler (PPE).** – Neben der internationalen Zusammenarbeit der Regierungen praktizieren wir auch als Abgeordnete internationale parlamentarische Diplomatie. Dürfen wir damit rechnen, Sie häufig auch in diesen parlamentarischen Gremien zu sehen, wo wir mit unseren Kollegen aus den AKP-Staaten zusammenarbeiten, oder bei Panafrika oder EuroMed, EuroLat und bald auch EuroNest? Die nächste Gelegenheit wäre Ende März bei der AKP-Tagung in Teneriffa. Da haben wir nämlich als Dringlichkeit die Situation in Haiti auf der Tagesordnung. Dürfen wir Sie schon einladen?

3-163

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – I would definitely be where I have to be. You can count on my taking my job very seriously. I believe in inclusion and reaching out. I think that parliaments are the voice of the citizens. The people in this room are elected. At this point I have not been, so I have to be accountable to you.

I also have to work with our partners. I must admit that this is something I need to learn more about. I need to learn what value the various fora can bring, and what value I can bring to them.

I would take my responsibility to be present where I have to be very seriously.

*(Applause).*

3-164

**Gay Mitchell (PPE).** – Commissioner-designate, I asked you the first question and it is my privilege now to ask you the last question.

On behalf of the coordinators of the EPP Group, the Christian Democrats, will you accept your congratulations on your performance here today. Will you understand that we are placing our trust in you? Do you know that one time we believed the Berlin Wall could not come down, and it did? We can make poverty



history. We need you to trust in us, and when we make our recommendation this evening, we, on behalf of 500 million people – mainly the 30 people in this committee – need to work closely with you in the future. We need you to work closely with us, you and your officials.

We expect to be able to contact you when we need to contact you, we expect you to hear our views, and we expect to work closely with you and you to work closely with us. Together we can really bring about a lot of change.

Well done and thank you.

*(Applause)*

3-165

**Chair.** – We now have follow-up questions on this last question round, which I will read. I think you did not want an answer?

*(Mr Mitchell confirmed that he did not want an answer.)*

I will therefore put this question from the political groups: ‘Without humanitarian intervention law created at the UN by virtue of a responsibility to protect, humanitarian aid, whatever our good intentions to give aid to the voiceless, will fail if the country concerned refuses access. How can we get over this?’

3-166

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – I am afraid that the start of this answer comes with great difficulty because ultimately we need sustained development that gives people choices, that allows them to prosper and that leads to government arrangements that are democratic. Only then would we not face catastrophes and restrictions on access for those who are helping people most in need.

For that, I think my portfolio absolutely depends on success in the rest of the work of the Union, and in particular in the development portfolio. I would of course be very highly motivated to give my own support to the Development Commissioner because ultimately it is only when people are free, they have choices and their economies work that we can put an end to those problems we face today.

3-167

**Chair.** – We are now at the end of this hearing. I wish to thank everybody for their questions and the Commissioner-designate for her answers. Mrs Georgieva, you have the floor, if you wish, for your concluding remarks, for five minutes.

3-168

**Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner-designate.** – This has been a very rich discussion and I do not think there is much I can add, except to thank you for this opportunity and the questions you have put to me, and for the ideas, which I have taken down, in order to follow up. It is becoming a long list, but I will follow up on everything we have discussed in this room.

I have abused my time so often that I will now try to be very brief! With your permission, I will actually finish on those votes of thanks and with one very personal comment.

Today happens to be my mother’s 89th birthday.

*(Applause)*

I would normally have been with her today, but I am here, so I want to make one last pledge. This time it is a pledge to my mother. My mother always believed in Europe. She lived through the Second World War and she lived through the division of Europe, but she always believed in Europe. One thing she wanted for me, as a European, was to learn French, which I did not. So I pledge to my mother: ‘*Si ma nomination est confirmée, je ferai l’effort d’apprendre le français*’.

*(Applause)*

3-169

**La Présidente.** – Je pense, Madame la Commissaire désignée, que nous sommes nombreux et nombreuses dans cette salle à bien vouloir vous aider à acquérir cette belle langue.

Avant de lever la séance, je rappelle aux coordinateurs qu’une réunion d’évaluation de l’audition aura lieu, à huis clos, aujourd’hui à 16 h 30, dans la salle ASP 5 G 3.

*(La réunion est levée à 15 h 30)*