



EUROPEAN UNION  
Delegation of the European Union to Armenia  
Press and Information Department

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## **The European Commission allocates 157,724 EUR to bring relief to the victims of the hail storm in Armenia's Armavir region**

***Between 12 and 17 May 2013, Armenia's Armavir region has been hit by a hail storm damaging almost all crops of more than half of the communities in the region. Among the 46 communities and 12,800 households affected by the disaster, 7,131 households in the 14 hardest hit communities have lost 100% of their harvest.***

The European Commission is providing € 157,724 to bring relief to 4,000 people. This aid will be used for distributions of basic food and hygiene parcels to the most vulnerable victims. It is channelled through the Armenian Red Cross Society from the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

### **Background**

The European Commission has signed a € 3 million humanitarian contribution agreement with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to support the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF). Funds from the DREF are mainly allocated to "small-scale" disasters – those that do not give rise to a formal international appeal.

The Disaster Relief Emergency Fund was established in 1985 and is supported by contributions from donors. Each time a National Red Cross or Red Crescent Society needs immediate financial support to respond to a disaster, it can request funds from the DREF. For small-scale disasters, the IFRC allocates grants from the Fund, which can then be replenished by the donors. The contribution agreement between the IFRC and the European Commission enables the latter to replenish the DREF for agreed operations (that fit in with its humanitarian mandate) up to a total of € 3 million.