



UNHCR welcomes the European Commission's decision to release further resources for humanitarian assistance in Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and urges to do more.

Brussels/Geneva, 27 August 2015

Press Release

UNHCR welcomes the European Commission's decision, announced on 26 August, to release an additional €1.5 million in humanitarian funding to assist refugees and migrants in Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

"This measure from the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department comes as very timely - said Vincent Cochetel, Director of UNHCR Bureau for Europe – as we see increasing numbers of people arriving to the Western Balkans from countries affected by violence and conflict, such as Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan"

Most of these people are physically exhausted and psychologically traumatized and many of them are in urgent need of food, shelter and medical assistance. UNHCR urges all parties involved to provide them with protection, humanitarian and emergency assistance.

"While this is a step in the right direction and an example of EU solidarity in action – added Cochetel – we anticipate that, given the scale of the current emergency, much more resources will be needed to effectively respond to new arrivals across the Mediterranean and in the Western Balkans."

This situation affects Europe as a whole. All European countries and the EU must act together and demonstrate responsibility and solidarity with those countries whose capacities are already overstretched, such as fYRoM and Serbia.

Media Contacts:

- In Geneva, William Spindler at +41 79 217 3011
- In Brussels, Michele Poletto +32 2 6275952