The European Commission (EC) ranked 7th in the HRI 2011, dropping one position from 2010. Based on the pattern of its scores, the EC is classified as a Group 2 donor, “Learning Leaders”. Donors in this group are characterised by their leading role in support of emergency relief efforts, strong capacity and field presence, and commitment to learning and improvement. They tend to do less well in areas such as prevention, preparedness, and risk reduction efforts. Other Group 2 donors include Canada, France, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The EC’s overall score is above the OECD/DAC and Group 2 averages. The EC scored above the OECD/DAC and Group 2 averages on all pillars, with the exception of Pillar 1 (Responding to needs), where it scored below the OECD/DAC and Group 2 averages. In all pillars, the EC scores significantly higher in the qualitative, survey-based indicators than in the quantitative indicators.

The EC did best compared to its OECD/DAC peers in the indicators on Funding NGOs, Participating in accountability initiatives, Funding accountability initiatives, Implementing evaluation recommendations and Facilitating safe access. Its scores were relatively the lowest in indicators on Un-earmarked funding, Timely funding to sudden onset emergencies, Timely funding to complex emergencies, Flexibility of funding and Appropriate reporting requirements.