



Brussels, 6 September 2016  
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FIN 534

**'I/A' ITEM NOTE**

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From:	Budget Committee
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
No. Cion doc.:	11268/16 FIN 477 - COM(2016) 462 final
Subject:	Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on the mobilisation of the EU Solidarity Fund to provide assistance to Greece following the earthquake that affected the Ionian Islands in November 2015

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1. On 13 July 2016, the Commission forwarded to the Council a proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on the mobilisation of the EU Solidarity Fund for a total amount of EUR 1 651 834 in commitment and payment appropriations.

The objective of this proposal is to provide financial assistance to Greece in response to disasters that occurred in November 2015 due to an earthquake affecting the Ionian Islands region.

2. The Budget Committee examined the proposal at its meeting on 5 September 2016 and was able to approve it.
3. The Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to advise the Council to adopt the text of the Decision on the mobilisation of the EU Solidarity Fund, as set out in the Annex.

Proposal for a

**DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL**

**on the mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund to provide assistance to Greece**

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 2012/2002 of 11 November 2002 establishing the European Union Solidarity Fund<sup>1</sup>, and in particular Article 4(3) thereof,

Having regard to the Interinstitutional Agreement of 2 December 2013 between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management<sup>2</sup>, and in particular Point 11 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

Whereas:

- (1) The European Union Solidarity Fund ("the Fund") aims to enable the Union to respond in a rapid, efficient and flexible manner to emergency situations in order to show solidarity with the population of regions struck by natural disasters.
- (2) The Fund is not to exceed a maximum annual amount of EUR 500 000 000 (2011 prices), as laid down in Article 10 of Council Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1311/2013<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 311, 14.11.2002, p. 3.

<sup>2</sup> OJ C 373, 20.12.2013, p. 1.

<sup>3</sup> Council Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1311/2013 of 2 December 2013 laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2014-2020 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 884).

- (3) On 5 February 2016, Greece submitted an application to mobilise the Fund, following an earthquake that affected the Ionian Islands in November 2015.
- (4) The application by Greece meets the conditions for providing a financial contribution from the Fund, as laid down in Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 2012/2002.
- (5) The Fund should therefore be mobilised in order to provide a financial contribution to Greece.
- (6) By Decision (EU) 2016/252 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>1</sup>, the European Union Solidarity Fund was mobilised to provide the sum of EUR 50 million in commitment and payment appropriations for the payment of advances for the financial year 2016. Those appropriations have only been used to a very limited extent. Consequently, there is scope for financing the full amount for the present mobilisation through the reallocation of appropriations available for the payment of advances in the general budget of the Union for the financial year 2016.
- (7) In order to minimise the time taken to mobilise the Fund, this Decision should apply from the date of its adoption,

HAVE ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

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<sup>1</sup> Decision (EU) 2016/252 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2015 on the mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund for the payment of advances (OJ L 47, 24.2.2016, p. 5).

## *Article 1*

For the general budget of the Union for the financial year 2016, the European Union Solidarity Fund shall be mobilised to provide the amount of EUR 1 651 834 to Greece, in commitment and payment appropriations.

The amount of the mobilisation referred to in the first paragraph shall be financed from the appropriations mobilised for the payment of advances in the Union budget for the financial year 2016. The appropriations available for the payment of advances shall be reduced accordingly.

## *Article 2*

This Decision shall enter into force on the day of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

It shall apply from ... [*the date of its adoption*].<sup>1</sup>

Done at [...],

*For the European Parliament*

*The President*

*For the Council*

*The President*

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<sup>1</sup> Date to be inserted by the European Parliament before the publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.