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FIN 173

'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	Budget Committee
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
No. Cion doc.:	5681/17 FIN 45 - COM(2017) 45 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 the United Kingdom, Cyprus and Portugal

1. On 26 January 2017, 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 71 524 810 in commitment and payment appropriations.

The objective of this proposal is to provide financial assistance to the United Kingdom in response to floods that occurred in December 2015 and January 2016, to Cyprus in response to drought and fires that occurred between October 2015 and June 2016 and to Portugal in response to fires that occurred in August 2016.

2. The Budget Committee examined the proposal at its meeting on 31 January and 13 February 2017 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 the United Kingdom, Cyprus and Portugal

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 Fund¹, 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 management², 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 1311/2013³.

¹ OJ L 311, 14.11.2002, p. 3.

² OJ C 373, 20.12.2013, p.1.

³ 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 26 February 2016, the United Kingdom submitted an application to mobilise the Fund, following floods that affected 11 regions during the period of December 2015 to January 2016. In their application the authorities of the United Kingdom stressed that the damage assessment was incomplete and that the relevant figures were only provisional. The final application file was completed on 22 September 2016.
- (4) On 5 September 2016, Cyprus submitted an application to mobilise the Fund, following the consequences of severe drought built up since October 2015 and wild fires on 18 and 19 of June 2016.
- (5) On 21 September 2016, Portugal submitted an application to mobilise the Fund, following wild fires in the island of Madeira between 8 and 13 August 2016.
- (6) The applications by the United Kingdom, Cyprus and Portugal meet the conditions for providing a financial contribution from the Fund, as laid down in Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 2012/2002.
- (7) The Fund should therefore be mobilised in order to provide a financial contribution to United Kingdom, Cyprus and Portugal.
- (8) 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:

Article 1

For the general budget of the Union for the financial year 2017, the European Union Solidarity Fund shall be mobilised as follows in commitment and payment appropriations:

- (a) the amount of EUR 60 301 050 shall be provided to the United Kingdom;
- (b) the amount of EUR 7 298 760 shall be provided to Cyprus;
- (c) the amount of EUR 3 925 000 shall be provided to Portugal;

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*]**.

Done at [...],

For the European Parliament
The President

For the Council
The President

****** *Date to be inserted by the Parliament before the publication in OJ.*