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10978/17

FIN 452

'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	Budget Committee
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
No. Cion doc.:	10693/17 FIN 415 - COM(2017) 540 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 Italy

1. On 27 July 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 1 196 797 579 in commitment and payment appropriations.

The objective of this proposal is to provide financial assistance to Italy to a series of earthquakes that took place between August 2016 and January 2017 in the regions Abruzzo, Lazio, Marche and Umbria.

2. The Budget Committee examined the proposal at its meetings on 29 June and 7 July 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;
 - agree, by unanimity, to use the written procedure for this purpose.

**DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL
on the mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund to provide assistance to Italy**

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.

¹ OJ L 311, 14.11.2002, p. 3.

² OJ C 373, 20.12.2013, p. 1.

- (2) The Fund is not to exceed a maximum annual amount of EUR 500 000 000 (2011 prices), as laid down in Article 10(1) of Council Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1311/2013¹. The entire 2016 allocation remained unspent, was carried over to the following year in accordance with Article 10(1) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1311/2013 and was partially used in April 2017. The 2017 allocation was not yet drawn on.
- (3) On 16 November 2016, Italy submitted an application to mobilise the Fund, following an earthquake that affected the regions of Abruzzo, Lazio, Marche and Umbria on 24 August 2016. Additional earthquakes struck the previously hit areas and significantly increased the level of previously reported damage. Italy then submitted its final application on 15 February 2017 with revised estimates including all damage caused between 24 August 2016 and 18 January 2017.
- (4) The application by Italy 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 Italy.
- (6) Since the amount that may be mobilised for 2017 is not sufficient to cover the full contribution, the difference should exceptionally be financed through the annual amount available for 2018 as provided for in Article 10(2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1311/2013.
- (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:

¹ 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).

Article 1

For the general budget of the Union for the financial year 2017, the European Union Solidarity Fund shall be mobilised to provide the amount of EUR 1 196 797 579 to Italy in commitment and payment appropriations.

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 Brussels,

For the European Parliament

For the Council

** *Date to be inserted by the European Parliament before the publication in the Official Journal.*