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FIN 575

"I/A" ITEM NOTE

From:	Budget Committee
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
No. Cion doc.:	11258/15 FIN 542 - COM(2015) 370 final
Subject:	Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on the mobilisation of the EU Solidarity Fund (Bulgaria and Greece)

1. On 23 July 2015, 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 16 274 765 in commitment and payment appropriations.

The objective of this proposal is to provide financial assistance to Bulgaria in response to disasters that occurred in January and February 2015 due to severe winter conditions and to Greece in response to two flooding disasters that occurred in February 2015.

2. The Budget Committee examined the proposal at its meeting on 1 September 2015 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 EU Solidarity Fund

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 and to show solidarity with the population of regions struck by disasters.
- (2) The Fund is not to exceed a maximum annual amount of EUR 500 million (2011 prices), as laid down in Article 10 of Council Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1311/2013³.

¹ Council Regulation (EC) No 2012/2002 of 11 November 2002 establishing the European Union Solidarity Fund (OJ L 311 of 14.11.2002, p. 3).

² OJ C 373, 20.12.2013, p.1.

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

- (3) Bulgaria has submitted an application to mobilise the Fund, concerning severe winter conditions.
- (4) Greece has submitted two applications to mobilise the Fund, concerning floods.
- (5) The Commission has assessed that the applications meet the conditions for awarding aid from the Fund, as laid down in Regulation (EC) No 2012/2002.
- (6) The Fund should therefore be mobilised in order to provide a financial contribution of EUR 16 274 765 in respect of the applications submitted by Bulgaria and Greece.
- (7) There is scope for reallocating appropriations in accordance with the second sentence of point 11 of the Interinstitutional Agreement of 2 December 2013. The appropriations for advances for the financial year 2015 have been used, to a very limited extent, for the three applications which are the subject of this Decision and for which the remaining balance to be paid is EUR 14 647 288. Consequently, the full amount for the mobilisation will be financed through the reallocation of the available appropriations for advances in the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2015, and no additional appropriations are needed.
- (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 European Union for the financial year 2015, the European Union Solidarity Fund shall be mobilised to provide the sum of EUR 16 274 765 in commitment and payment appropriations.

The full amount of this mobilisation shall be financed using the appropriations mobilised by Decision (EU) 2015/422 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁴ for the payment of advances in the Union budget for the financial year 2015, available on budget line 13 06 01. The amount available on that budget line for 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*] [*Date to be inserted by the Parliament before the publication in OJ*].

Done at Brussels,

For the European Parliament
The President

For the Council
The President

⁴ Decision (EU) 2015/422 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2014 on the mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund (OJ L 68, 13.3.2015, p. 47).