



Brussels, 22 November 2017
(OR. en)

14589/17

FIN 740

'A' ITEM NOTE

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| From: | General Secretariat of the Council |
| To: | Council |
| No. Cion doc.: | 9804/17 FIN 338 - COM(2017) 270 final |
| Subject: | Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on the mobilisation of the EU Solidarity Fund to provide for the payment of advances in the general budget of the Union for 2018 |

1. On 30 May 2017, the Commission submitted 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 50 million in commitment and payment appropriations.

The purpose of this proposal is to allow the timely payment of advances in case of natural disasters in Member States or in a country involved in accession negotiations with the European Union.

2. During the Conciliation Committee meeting on 17/18 November 2017, the European Parliament and the Council reached a political agreement on the mobilisation of the EU Solidarity Fund for that purpose for an amount of EUR 50 million in commitment and payment appropriations in the framework of the joint text concerning the 2018 budget.

3. The Council is invited to confirm the agreement reached on the mobilisation of the EU Solidarity Fund and to consequently adopt the text of the Decision, according to the first paragraph of Point 11 of the Interinstitutional Agreement of 2 December 2013¹, as recorded in the ANNEX.
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¹ 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 (OJ C 373, 20.12.2013, p. 1).

DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

on the mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund to provide for the payment of advances in the general budget of the Union for 2018

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 4a(4) 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,

¹ OJ L 311, 14.11.2002, p. 3.

² OJ C 373, 20.12.2013, p. 1.

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 amount of EUR 500 000 000 (2011 prices) as laid down in Article 10 of Council Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1311/2013¹.
- (3) Article 4a(4) of Regulation (EC) No 2012/2002 provides that, where necessary in order to ensure the timely availability of budgetary resources, the Fund may be mobilised in an amount of up to EUR 50 000 000 for the payment of advances, entering the corresponding appropriations into the general budget of the Union.
- (4) To ensure the timely availability of sufficient budgetary resources in the general budget of the Union for 2018, the Fund should be mobilised in the amount of EUR 50 000 000 for the payment of advances.
- (5) In order to minimise the time taken to mobilise the Fund, this Decision should apply from the beginning of the 2018 financial year,

HAVE ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

For the general budget of the Union for the financial year 2018, the European Union Solidarity Fund shall be mobilised to provide the amount of EUR 50 000 000 in commitment and payment appropriations for the payment of advances.

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 2

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

It shall apply from 1 January 2018.

Done at [...]

For the European Parliament
The President

For the Council
The President
