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FIN 683

'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
No. Cion doc.:	13281/19 (COM(2019) 496 final)
Subject:	Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on the mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund to provide assistance to Greece

1. On 18 October 2019, 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 4 552 517 in commitment and payment appropriations.

The objective of this proposal is to provide financial assistance to Greece in response to exceptionally heavy rain and storm which hit Crete in February 2019 and led to floods and landslides.

2. The Budget Committee examined the proposal at its meeting on 24 October 2019 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.

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 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.
- (3) On 15 May 2019, Greece submitted an application to mobilise the Fund, following exceptionally heavy rain and storm which hit Crete between 23 and 26 February 2019 and led to floods and landslides.

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).

- (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) 2019/277 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁴, the Fund was mobilised to provide the sum of EUR 50 000 000 in commitment and payment appropriations for the payment of advances for the financial year 2019. 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 the appropriations available for the payment of advances in the general budget of the Union for the financial year 2019.
- (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:

Article 1

For the general budget of the Union for the financial year 2019, the European Union Solidarity Fund shall be mobilised to provide the amount of EUR 4 552 517 to Greece, in commitment and payment appropriations.

The amount 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 2019. The appropriations available for the payment of advances shall be reduced accordingly.

⁴ Decision (EU) 2019/277 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2018 on the mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund to provide for the payment of advances in the general budget of the Union for 2019 (OJ L 54, 22.2.2019, p. 5).

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

For the Council

The President

The President

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