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**FIN 291
COVID-19 149**

'I' ITEM NOTE

From:	Budget Committee
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee
No. Cion doc.:	7305/21 (COM(2021) 201 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 and France in relation to natural disasters and to Albania, Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czechia, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Spain in relation to a public health emergency

1. On 24 March 2021, 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 484.20 million in commitment and payment appropriations.

The objectives of this proposal are to provide financial assistance to Greece (EUR 27.42 million) and France (EUR 59.33 million) in relation to natural disasters and to pay advances to Albania (EUR 905 271), Austria (EUR 31.76 million), Belgium (EUR 37.30 million), Czechia (EUR 17.37 million), Estonia (EUR 3.59 million), France (EUR 91.37 million), Germany (EUR 13.65 million), Greece (EUR 3.99 million), Hungary (EUR 13.14 million), Ireland (EUR 20.48 million), Italy (EUR 76.27 million), Latvia (EUR 1.18 million), Lithuania (EUR 2.83 million), Luxembourg (EUR 2.86 million), Montenegro (EUR 199 505), Portugal (EUR 18.04 million), Romania (EUR 13.93 million), Serbia (EUR 11.97 million) and Spain (EUR 36.64 million) in relation to a major public health emergency.

2. The Budget Committee examined this proposal at its meeting on 30 March 2021, and was able to approve it.
3. In view of the above, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to:
 - confirm its agreement on the text of the Decision on the mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund, as set out in document 7876/21;
 - decide, in accordance with the first subparagraph of Article 12(1) of the Council's Rules of Procedure and Article 1 of Council Decision 2020/430¹, as further extended by Council Decision 2021/454², that the Council uses the written procedure for its approval.

¹ Council Decision (EU) 2020/430 of 23 March 2020 on a temporary derogation from the Council's Rules of Procedure in view of the travel difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in the Union (OJ L 88 I, 24.3.2020, p. 1).

² Council Decision (EU) 2021/454 of 12 March 2021 further extending the temporary derogation from the Council's Rules of Procedure introduced by Decision (EU) 2020/430, and extended by Decisions (EU) 2020/556, (EU) 2020/702, (EU) 2020/970, (EU) 2020/1253, (EU) 2020/1659 and (EU) 2021/26, in view of the travel difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in the Union (OJ L 89, 16.3.2021, p. 15).