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COVER NOTE

From:	Mr Piotr SERAFIN, Member of the European Commission
date of receipt:	17 September 2026
To:	Mr Simon HARRIS, President of the Council of the European Union
No. Cion doc.:	BUDGET DEC(2026) 16
Subject:	Proposal for transfer of appropriations No DEC 16/2026 within Section III - Commission - of the general budget for 2026

Delegations will find attached document BUDGET DEC(2026) 16.

Encl.: BUDGET DEC(2026) 16



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

BRUSSELS, 17/09/2026

GENERAL BUDGET - 2026
SECTION III - COMMISSION TITLES: 16, 30

TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS N° **DEC16/2026**

FROM

CHAPTER - 30 04 Solidarity mechanisms (special instruments)

ITEM - 30 04 01 01 European Solidarity Reserve	Commitments	-385 582 412,00
	Payments	-385 582 412,00

TO

CHAPTER - 16 02 Mobilisation of solidarity mechanisms (special instruments)

ITEM - 16 02 01 01 Assistance to Member States in relation to events eligible under the European Union Solidarity Fund (EUSF)	Commitments	385 582 412,00
	Payments	385 582 412,00

Decrease

a) Heading

30 04 01 01 European Solidarity Reserve

b) Figures at 03/09/2026

	Commitments	Payments
1 Appropriations in budget (Initial Budget + AB)	1 140 405 931,00	1 140 405 931,00
2 Appropriations in budget (carried over from previous years)	449 506,00	449 506,00
3 Transfers	-215 141 182,00	-215 141 182,00
4 Total appropriations for the year (1+2+3)	925 714 255,00	925 714 255,00
5 Appropriations already used	0,00	0,00
6 Appropriations available (4-5)	925 714 255,00	925 714 255,00
7 Decrease proposed	385 582 412,00	385 582 412,00
8 Total appropriations up to year end (6-7)	540 131 843,00	540 131 843,00
9 Decrease as percentage of appropriations in budget $[7/(1+2)]$	33,80%	33,80%
10 Decrease, as a percentage of the final appropriations for the year, in the sum of transfers referred to in Article 30(1)(b) of the Financial Regulation	n/a	n/a

c) Receipts arising from recovery (carried over from previous year)

	Commitments	Payments
1 Appropriations available at start of the year	0,00	0,00
2 Appropriations available on 03/09/2026	0,00	0,00
3 Implementation rate $[(1-2)/1]$	-	-

d) Detailed grounds for the Decrease

Pursuant to Article 9(1) of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) Regulation, the Solidarity and Emergency Aid Reserve (SEAR) is constituted of two instruments which may be used to finance, respectively:

a) assistance to respond to emergency situations resulting from major disasters that are covered by the European Union Solidarity Fund (EUSF), the objectives and scope of which are set out in Council Regulation (EC) No 2012/2002 (the “European Solidarity Reserve”); and

b) rapid responses to specific emergency needs within the Union or in third countries following events which could not be foreseen when the budget was established, in particular for emergency responses and support operations following natural disasters not covered by point (a), man-made disasters, humanitarian crises in cases of largescale public health, veterinary or phytosanitary threats, as well as in situations of particular pressure at the Union’s external borders resulting from migratory flows, where circumstances so require (the Emergency Aid Reserve”).

Point 10 of the Interinstitutional Agreement of 16 December 2020 between the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission on budgetary discipline, on cooperation on budgetary matters and on sound financial management, as well as on new own resources, including a roadmap towards the introduction of new own resources (IIA), lays down the modalities for the mobilisation of the EUSF in the context of the SEAR.

In accordance with Article 9(2) of the amended MFF Regulation, the European Solidarity Reserve shall not exceed a maximum annual amount of EUR 1 016 million in 2018 prices, equivalent to EUR 1 190 4 million in 2026 prices and shall be used to provide assistance in respond to emergency situations covered by the European Union Solidarity Fund (EUSF). In addition, any portion of the annual amount not used in a given year n may be used up to year $n+1$. The amount of EUR 449 506 has been carried over from the financial year 2025 to 2026, which brings the total to EUR 1 190.8 million in 2026 (including EUR 50 million for advances).

Out of this total, EUR 215.1 million has already been used, following the mobilisation via DEC8/2026. The current transfer proposal of EUR 385.6 million in commitment and payment appropriations is necessary to support four applicant Member States – Malta, Italy, Portugal, and Spain, following the storms that occurred in January and February 2026.

After processing the aforementioned transfer proposal, a balance of approximately EUR 540.1 million will be left on the budget line.

Increase

a) Heading

16 02 01 01 Assistance to Member States in relation to events eligible under the European Union Solidarity Fund (EUSF)

b) Figures at 03/09/2026

	Commitments	Payments
1 Appropriations in budget (Initial Budget + AB)	50 000 000,00	50 000 000,00
2 Appropriations in budget (carried over from previous years)	20 854 849,00	20 854 849,00
3 Transfers	215 141 182,00	215 141 182,00
4 Total appropriations for the year (1+2+3)	285 996 031,00	285 996 031,00
5 Appropriations already used	133 703 522,00	133 703 522,00
6 Appropriations available (4-5)	152 292 509,00	152 292 509,00
7 Increase proposed	385 582 412,00	385 582 412,00
8 Total appropriations up to year end (6+7)	537 874 921,00	537 874 921,00
9 Increase as percentage of appropriations in budget $[7/(1+2)]$	544%	544%
10 Increase, as a percentage of the final appropriations for the year, in the sum of transfers referred to in Article 30(1)(b) of the Financial Regulation	n/a	n/a

c) Receipts arising from recovery (carried over from previous year)

	Commitments	Payments
1 Appropriations available at start of the year	0,00	0,00
2 Appropriations available on 03/09/2026	0,00	0,00
3 Implementation rate $[(1-2)/1]$	-	-

d) Detailed grounds for the Increase

In accordance with Article 4a (4) of the EUSF Regulation, EUR 50 million has been inscribed in the General Budget 2026 (in commitments and payments) for the payment of possible advances on budget line 16 02 01 01, together with an amount of EUR 20.9 million, carried over from the financial year 2025.

Following the storms that took place in Malta, Italy, Portugal and Spain at the beginning of 2026, the four Member States submitted applications for financial assistance from the EUSF. In January 2026, Storm Harry caused flooding in Malta and several regions of Italy, while in January and February 2026, a succession of storms caused severe flooding in Portugal and Spain.

A transfer of EUR 385.6 million in commitment and payment appropriations from the European Solidarity Reserve to the EUSF operational budget line is therefore requested in order to grant assistance to the countries concerned. This request excludes the advances of EUR 103.6 million paid in August 2026 to Malta, Portugal and Spain following the mobilisation via DEC 8/2026. Since the beginning of 2026, the Commission has paid four advances of EUR 133.7 million in total, to Spain for the 2025 wildfires, to Malta for Storm Harry in January 2026, and to Portugal and Spain for the storms of January and February 2026.

After processing the aforementioned transfer proposal, a balance of approximately EUR 40.7 million will be left on the budget line to cover potential new applications for advances during 2026.

ANNEX

COMMISSION TRANSFER PROPOSALS RELATED TO THE EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY RESERVE IN 2026

The table below shows the transfer proposals transmitted to the Budgetary Authority to date during 2026, which relate to the European Solidarity Reserve (ESR), and the remaining amount under the ESR following the approval of these proposals, including any carried over appropriations.

Content	TOTAL	European Solidarity Reserve	European Solidarity Fund operational line 16 02 01 01	European Solidarity Fund operational line 16 02 01 01
(1) General Budget 2026 - Initial appropriations	1.211.710.286	1.140.855.437	70.854.849	
(2) Out of which, voted budget 2026, main allocation	842.804.448	842.804.448		
(3) Out of which, voted budget 2026 - EUSF advances (Article 4a EUSF Regulation)	50.000.000		50.000.000	
(4) Out of which, carried over appropriations	21.304.355	449.506	20.854.849	
(5) Out of which, end of year cushion (until 30/09)	297.601.483	297.601.483		
(6) Advance payments	-133.703.522	-103.496.605	-30.206.917	
(7) Out of which, DEC 08/2026 transfer proposal		-103.496.605	103.496.605	
(8) Out of which, payment of advances to Spain	-67.401.556		-67.401.556	
(9) Out of which, payment of advances to Portugal	-65.370.952		-65.370.952	
(10) Out of which, payment of advances to Malta	-931.014		-931.014	
(11) Mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund to provide assistance to Romania, Cyprus and Spain relating to floods and wildfires occurred in 2025. COM(2026) 1002	-111.644.577	-111.644.577		
(12) DEC accompanying Mobilisation COM(2026) 1002 - DEC 08/2026		-111.644.577	111.644.577	
(12.1) Payment to Romania, Cyprus and Spain	-111.644.577		-111.644.577	
(13) Mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund to provide assistance to Spain, Italy, Malta and Portugal relating to storms that occurred in 2026. COM(2026) 7001	-385.582.412	-385.582.412		
(14) DEC accompanying Mobilisation COM(2026) 7001 - DEC 16/2026		-385.582.412	385.582.412	
(14.1) Payment to Spain, Italy, Malta and Portugal			-385.582.412	
Remainder (1) + (6) + (11) + (13)	580.779.775	540.131.843	40.647.932	