Amending budget 7/2009: mobilisation of the EU Solidary Fund for France

2009/2046(BUD) - 22/06/2009 - Commission preliminary draft budget

PURPOSE: to present the Preliminary Draft Amending Budget (PDAB) No 7 to the 2009 budget to financially assist France following a major storm (Klaus) in January 2009 which caused severe damage.

CONTENT: PDAB 7/2009 covers the mobilisation of the EU Solidarity Fund for an amount of **EUR 109 377 165** in commitment and payment appropriations relating to the effects of a storm affecting south-west France.

Overview: in January 2009 a major storm ("Klaus") hit France causing severe damage. Within the 10 week deadline set by Article 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No 2012/2002, the French authorities applied for financial assistance from the EU Solidarity Fund relating to the storm.

The Commission services carried out a thorough examination of the application and proposed that the application made by France relating to the storm in January 2009 be accepted as a “major disaster” and that the Solidarity Fund should be used.

Financing: the total annual budget available for the Solidarity Fund is EUR 1 billion. In 2009, EUR 11.8 million have already been earmarked for an earlier application leaving EUR 988.2 million available.

Consequently, the Commission proposes to mobilise the EU Solidarity Fund for amount of **EUR 109 377 165**.