Amending budget 9/2009: mobilisation of the EU Solidary Fund for Italy

2009/2087(BUD) - 28/08/2009 - Commission preliminary draft budget

PURPOSE: to present preliminary draft amending budget 9/2009 to mobilise the EU Solidarity Fund to assist Italy following an earthquake.

CONTENT: Preliminary Draft Amending Budget (PDAB) No 9 for the year 2009 covers the Mobilisation of the EU Solidarity Fund for an amount of **EUR 493 771 159** in commitment and payment appropriations relating to the effects of an earthquake in Italy.

In April 2009 a strong earthquake affected the Italian region of Abruzzo claiming the lives of 300 people and causing extremely significant damage. Within the 10 week deadline set by Article 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No 2012/2002, the Italian authorities applied for financial assistance from the EU Solidarity Fund relating to the earthquake. The Commission services carried out a thorough examination and accept the application submitted by Italy as a “major disaster”. It proposes therefore the mobilisation of the Solidarity Fund.

Financing: the total annual budget available for the Solidarity Fund is EUR 1 billion. In 2009, EUR 121.2 million has already been earmarked for earlier applications leaving EUR 878.8 million available.

As a consequence, the Commission is proposing to mobilise **EUR 493 771 159** from the Solidarity Fund.