

# Amending budget 6/2016: mobilisation of the EU Solidarity Fund for Germany

2016/2268(BUD) - 19/10/2016 - Commission draft budget

**PURPOSE:** to present Draft Amending Budget (DAB) No 6/2016 to mobilise the European Union Solidarity Fund to assist Germany hit by severe floods.

**CONTENT:** Draft Amending Budget (DAB) No 6 for the year 2016 covers the mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund (EUSF) for an amount of EUR 31 475 125 in commitment and payment appropriations. The mobilisation relates to floods in Germany.

**Germany:** late August 2016, the Commission received an application for EUSF financial assistance relating to natural disasters in Germany (floods in May/June 2016).

The Commission services have carried out a thorough examination of the application. The most important elements of the assessments are summarised below:

- the application from Germany was received on 19 August 2016, within the deadline of 12 weeks after the first damage was recorded on 28 May 2016. (4) Germany did not request the payment of an advance.
- the German authorities estimated the total direct damage caused by the disaster at EUR 1 259,005 million. This amount represents 38% of the “major disaster” threshold for mobilising the EUSF of EUR 3 312,242 million applicable to Germany in 2016 (i.e. EUR 3 billion in 2011 prices).

**Direct damage:** as total direct damage remains below the major disaster threshold for activating the Solidarity Fund the application was presented and examined on the basis of the criteria for “regional disasters” (a ‘regional disaster’ is defined as any natural disaster resulting in a region at NUTS level 2 of an eligible State in direct damage in excess of 1.5% of that region's GDP).

The German application relates to a single NUTS level 2 region, namely ‘Niederbayern (DE22)’. The reported direct damage of EUR 1 259,005 million represents 3.03% of the region's GDP (EUR 41 522 million based on 2014 data) and exceeds the 1.5% threshold of article 2(3) of the Regulation.

The application from Germany is therefore eligible for a contribution from the Solidarity Fund.

**Damaged caused by the disaster:** as regards the impact and consequences of the disaster, the Commission stated that an area of approximately 430 km<sup>2</sup> with about 5 000 homes, was flooded in the district of Rottal-Inn. At the time of application, over 2 000 people were still unable to return to their houses and had to seek provisional accommodation.

In total, more than 47 000 people in Lower Bavaria were affected and seven people lost their lives. The events caused significant damage to businesses and agriculture. In addition, heavy damage to the basic infrastructure was reported: traffic routes such as railway lines, local and national roads were rendered impassable, leading to serious traffic problems.

The cost of essential emergency operations has been estimated by the German authorities at EUR 94.196 million and has been broken down by type of operation. The largest share of the cost of emergency operations (over EUR 52.227 million) concerns recovery operations in the field of transport. The second largest share of cost concerns the cleaning-up measures amounting to EUR 21.083 million.

**Financing:** on the basis of the requests for intervention presented by Germany, the Commission proposes to mobilise the following aid amount:

- **Direct damage Germany:** EUR 1 259,055 million.
- **Aid proposed: EUR 31 475 125.**

Total: **EUR 31 475 125.**

This is the second proposal for a mobilisation decision of the European Union Solidarity Fund in 2016. The total amount of aid proposed above complies with the ceiling provisions of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) regulation of EUR 552 040 402 (i.e. EUR 500 million in 2011 prices).

In addition, in accordance with Article 10(1) of the Council Regulation on the multiannual financial framework, as the 2015 allocation of EUR 541 216 080 remained unspent, it is carried over for one year to 2016. Therefore, the total remaining amount for mobilisations of the EUSF at the beginning of 2016 was EUR 1 093 256 482. The remaining unspent amount is currently EUR 1 091 604 648, following the first 2016 mobilisation proposal (EUR 1 651 834, [earthquake in the Ionian Islands, Greece](#)).

In conclusion, the Commission proposes to **mobilise the European Union Solidarity Fund for the case of Germany** and to amend the budget 2016 by increasing budget article 13 06 01 'Assistance to Member States in the event of a major natural disaster with serious repercussions on living conditions, the natural environment or the economy' **by EUR 31 475 125 both in commitment and in payment appropriations.**

As the European Union Solidarity Fund is a special instrument as defined in the MFF regulation, the corresponding appropriations should be budgeted outside the corresponding MFF ceilings.