Mobilisation of the EU Solidarity Fund: payment of advances in the general budget for 2020

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PURPOSE: to mobilise the EU Solidarity Fund to provide for the payment of advances in the general budget of the Union for 2020.

PROPOSED ACT: Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council.

CONTENT: Council Regulation (EU, EURATOM) No 1311/2013 laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2014-2020, and in particular the Article 10 thereof allows for the mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund, within an annual ceiling of EUR 500 million (2011 prices), over and above the relevant headings of the financial framework.

The conditions of eligibility to the Fund are detailed in the Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council, amending Council Regulation (EC) No 2012/2002, which foresees that an amount of up to a maximum of EUR 50 million in both commitment and payment appropriations shall be included in the budget for the payment of advances. The Commission shall include these amounts in the Draft Budget 2020.

To ensure the timely availability of sufficient budgetary resources in the general budget of the Union for 2020, the Commission proposes to mobilise the Fund for the amount of EUR 50 million in commitment and payment appropriations for the payment of advances.

In order to minimise the time taken to mobilise the Fund, this Decision shall apply from the beginning of the 2020 financial year.