

Mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund: assistance to Greece and France in relation to natural disasters and to Albania, Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czechia, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Spain in relation to a public health emergency

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PURPOSE: to mobilise the EU Solidarity Fund to provide assistance to Greece and France further to regional natural disasters that took place in these countries in the course of 2020, as well as to 20 Member States and accession countries in relation to a public health emergency.

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

CONTENT: the European Union Solidarity Fund aims to enable the Union to respond in a rapid, efficient and flexible manner to emergency situations in order to show solidarity with the population of regions struck by major or regional natural disasters or major public health emergency.

In accordance with the MFF Regulation, the maximum amount that can be mobilised by the EUSF from the 2021 allocation until 1 September 2021 is EUR 477 543 750. The amount of EUR 50 million has been already inscribed in the General Budget 2021 (in commitments and payments) for the payment of advances. In addition, an amount of EUR 47 981 598 of the 2020 allocation was not used until the end of that year and is carried over to 2021.

This mobilisation is accompanied by Draft Amending Budget [\(DAB\) No 2/2021](#).

Natural disasters in Greece and France

In 2020, Greece submitted applications to mobilise the Fund following:

- the floods in Sterea Ellada;
- damages caused by the cyclone Ianos that affected the Regions of Ionia Nisia, Sterea Ellada, Ditiki Ellada, Thessalia and Peloponnisos;
- the earthquake that affected the islands of Samos, Ikaria and Chios.

France submitted an application following the damages caused by Storm Alex in Provence-Alpes-Côtes d'Azur region.

Major public health emergencies

Also in 2020, Albania, Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czechia, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Portugal, Romania, Serbia and Spain submitted applications to mobilise the Fund in relation to the major public health emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020.

Conclusion

Given that the applications by those Member States meet the conditions for providing a financial contribution from the Fund, the Commission proposes to mobilise the Fund in order to provide a financial contribution to Greece and France in relation to the natural disasters and to Albania, Austria, Belgium, Czechia, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Spain in relation to the major public health emergency.

Financing

The maximum amount available under the EUSF at this point in 2021 is **EUR 525 525 348**, which is enough to cover the needs under this Mobilisation Decision as outlined above (EUR 484 199 841, of which EUR 86 744 920 related to the natural disasters in Greece and France and EUR 397 454 921 related to COVID-19 applications).

In order to minimise the time taken to mobilise the Fund, this Decision should apply from the date of its adoption.