Union Solidarity Fund: mobilisation for Hungary and Greece following the floods in March and April 2006

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PURPOSE: to mobilise the European Union Solidarity Fund in view of applications from Hungary and Greece for assistance.

CONTENT: the Interinstitutional Agreement of 17 May 2006 allows for the mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund through a flexibility mechanism, within the annual ceiling of EUR 1 billion, over and above the relevant headings of the financial perspective. The conditions of eligibility to the Fund are detailed in Council Regulation (EC) No 2012/2002 (see CNS/2002/0228). On the basis of applications for assistance from the Fund by Hungary and Greece which were affected by severe floods in March and April 2006, estimates of the damage caused amount to **EUR891 357 883.** The total aid proposed is EUR 24 370 114, broken down as follows:

- Hungary: EUR 15 063 587;
- Greece: EUR 9 306 527.

In the light of the examination of the applications from Hungary and Greece, and considering the maximum possible grant from the Fund as well as the scope for reallocating appropriations under the heading requiring additional expenditure, the Commission proposes to mobilise the European Union Solidarity Fund for a total amount of **EUR 24 370 114**, to be allocated under heading 1a of the financial perspective.

The Commission will present an amending budget (AB) in order to enter in the 2007 budget specific commitment and payment appropriations, broken down by beneficiary country, as requested in Point 26 of the Interinstitutional Agreement of 17 May 2006 (BUD/2007/2069).