Basic information

2016/2165(BUD) BUD - Budgetary procedure	Procedure completed
Mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund: earthquake in Greece in 2015 **Subject** 3.70.11 Natural disasters, Solidarity Fund 8.70.56 2016 budget **Geographical area** Greece	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
BUDG Budgets	KYRTSOS Georgios (PPE)	06/09/2016

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
REGI Regional Development	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
General Affairs	3484	2016-09-20

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Budget	GEORGIEVA Kristalina

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
13/07/2016	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2016)0462	Summary
12/09/2016	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
20/09/2016	Draft budget approved by Council		
28/09/2016	Vote in committee		
29/09/2016	Budgetary report tabled for plenary	A8-0270/2016	Summary

04/10/2016	Decision by Parliament	T8-0365/2016	Summary
04/10/2016	Results of vote in Parliament		
04/10/2016	End of procedure in Parliament		
20/10/2016	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2016/2165(BUD)
Procedure type	BUD - Budgetary procedure
Procedure subtype	Mobilisation of funds
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	BUDG/8/07645

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE589.207	09/09/2016	
Budgetary report tabled for plenary, 1st reading		A8-0270/2016	29/09/2016	Summary
Budgetary text adopted by Parliament		T8-0365/2016	04/10/2016	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2016)0462	13/07/2016	Summary

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Decision 2016/1856
OJ L 284 20.10.2016, p. 0021 Summary

Mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund: earthquake in Greece in 2015

2016/2165(BUD) - 29/09/2016 - Budgetary report tabled for plenary, 1st reading

The Committee on Budgets adopted the report by Georgios KYRTSOS (EPP, EL) on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on the mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund.

Members called on the Parliament to approve the decision annexed to the draft resolution.

The proposal seeks to mobilise the European Union Solidarity Fund to provide the amount of EUR 1 651 834 to Greece following an earthquake that affected the Ionian Islands in November 2015.

The amount of the mobilisation shall be financed from the appropriations mobilised for the payment of advances in the Union budget for the financial year 2016. The appropriations available for the payment of advances shall be reduced accordingly.

Mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund: earthquake in Greece in 2015

2016/2165(BUD) - 11/10/2016 - Final act

PURPOSE: to mobilise the European Union Solidarity Fund to provide assistance to Greece following the earthquake in 2015.

NON-LEGISLATIVE ACT: Decision (EU) 2016/1856 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund to provide assistance to Greece.

CONTENT: Council Regulation (EU, EURATOM) No 1311/2013 laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2014-2020, and in particular 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 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 natural disasters.

On the basis of a request from Greece to mobilise the Fund in February 2016 following an earthquake that affected the Ionian Islands in November 2015, it has been decided to mobilise the Funds with a view to providing an **overall financial contribution of EUR 1 651 834** for the Greek request.

The amount of the mobilisation shall be financed from the appropriations mobilised through Decision (EU) 2016/252 of the European Parliament and of the Council for the payment of advances in the Union budget for the financial year 2016. The appropriations available for the payment of advances shall be reduced accordingly.

ENTRY INTO FORCE: 20.10.2016. The Decision shall apply from 11.10.2016.

Mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund: earthquake in Greece in 2015

2016/2165(BUD) - 04/10/2016 - Budgetary text adopted by Parliament

The European Parliament adopted by 646 votes to 7, with 23 abstentions, a resolution on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on the mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund.

Parliament **approved, without amendment**, the decision annexed to this resolution.

The proposal seeks to mobilise the European Union Solidarity Fund to provide the amount of **EUR 1 651 834** to Greece following an earthquake that affected the Ionian Islands in November 2015.

The amount of the mobilisation shall be financed from the appropriations mobilised for the payment of advances in the Union budget for the financial year 2016. The appropriations available for the payment of advances shall be reduced accordingly.

Mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund: earthquake in Greece in 2015

2016/2165(BUD) - 13/07/2016 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE: to mobilise the European Union Solidarity Fund to provide assistance to Greece following the earthquake that affected the Ionian Islands in November 2015.

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 2014-20203, and in particular 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.

Greece: on 5 February 2016, the Commission received an application for the Fund for financial assistance relating to a disaster in Greece (earthquake affecting the Ionian Islands region, in particular the islands of Lefkada and Kefalonia) which had occurred on 17 November 2015.

The Commission has carried out a thorough examination of this application and the most important elements of the assessments are set out below:

- Greece submitted its application within the deadline of 12 weeks after the first damage was recorded on 17 November 2015 (Lefkada island). The application was submitted as 'regional disaster' under article 2(3) of the Regulation.

Following a query from the Commission updated information was presented on 9 March 2016. When submitting its application Greece requested the payment of an advance on the anticipated contributions from the Fund. Following a preliminary assessment of the applications, the Commission concluded that the conditions laid down in Article 4a of the Regulation were met.

On 9 March 2016, the Greek authorities presented an update of the application raising total **direct damage to EUR 66 073 345**. The updated damage amount represents 2.1% of the regional GDP of the concerned NUTS 2 region Ionia Islands (EUR 3 137 million) and thus exceeds the threshold of 1.5% of regional GDP laid down in the Regulation to qualify as a regional disaster.

- As regards the **impact and consequences of the disaster**, a series of catastrophic earthquakes reaching magnitude 6.1 on the Richter scale struck Lefkada on the morning of 17 November 2015. Damage was also recorded in the northern parts of Ithaki and Kefalonia. Several aftershocks followed the event. The earthquake damaged 120 housing units, of which 20 were considered unsuitable for living. Moreover, extensive damage to the provincial and municipal infrastructure networks, private and public buildings (including the local hospital) and other infrastructure (ports, biological networks) but also to cultural sites (mainly churches) was reported. Landslides buried and destructed some of the touristically most important beaches in the west of the island.

The cost of essential emergency operations eligible under Article 3(2) of the Regulation has been estimated by the Greek authorities at **EUR 52.374 million** and has been broken down by type of operation. The largest share of the cost concerns the transport sector of over **EUR 38 million**. The second largest share of cost concerns the protection of cultural heritage amounting to over EUR 7 million.

On the basis of the application from Greece, the calculation of the aid from the Fund, based on the estimate of total direct damage caused is as follows:

- **Direct aid to Greece: EUR 66.073 million.**
- **Proposed aid: Greece: EUR 1 651 834.**

Total: **EUR 1 651 834**.

An amount of EUR 50 000 000 was mobilised at the time of the adoption of the Budget 2016 for the payment of advances and the corresponding commitment and payment appropriations were entered into the budget.

In the light of the examination of this application and considering the maximum possible grant from the Fund, the Commission proposes to mobilise the Fund for EUR 1 651 834 from the EUR 50 000 000 specifically mobilised for advances on the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2016.

As an amount of EUR 164 798 was already paid for the 10 % advances in line with Article 4a(2) of the Regulation, the remaining balance to be paid is EUR 1 487 036.

After the payment of the above-mentioned advances, the available balance for the payment of advances in the budget is EUR 49 835 202.

In line with point 11 of the IIA which provides for the possibility to reallocate appropriations, the Commission is proposing to draw from such available balance the EUR 1 487 036 needed for Greece. After the payment of the remaining balance, an amount of EUR 48 348 166 remains available for further advances in 2016 in case of need.