Basic information

2017/2101(BUD) BUD - Budgetary procedure	Procedure completed
Mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund: earthquakes in Italy in 2016 and 2017 See also 2017/2109(BUD) **Subject** 3.70.11 Natural disasters, Solidarity Fund 8.70.57 2017 budget **Geographical area** Italy	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
BUDG Budgets	LA VIA Giovanni (PPE)	29/06/2017
	Shadow rapporteur DENANOT Jean-Paul (S&D) KÖLMEL Bernd (ECR) JÄÄTTEENMÄKI Anneli (ALDE) VANA Monika (Verts/ALE) VALLI Marco (EFDD)	

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

Council of the European Union

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Budget	OETTINGER Günther

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
26/06/2017	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2017)0540	Summary
06/07/2017	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
30/08/2017	Vote in committee		
05/09/2017	Budgetary report tabled for plenary	A8-0280/2017	Summary
13/09/2017	Decision by Parliament	T8-0335/2017	Summary
13/09/2017	Results of vote in Parliament		
13/09/2017	Draft budget approved by Council		
23/09/2017	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2017/2101(BUD)
Procedure type	BUD - Budgetary procedure
Procedure subtype	Mobilisation of funds
Amendments and repeals	See also 2017/2109(BUD)
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	BUDG/8/10302

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE607.953	04/07/2017	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE608.150	14/07/2017	
Budgetary report tabled for plenary, 1st reading		A8-0280/2017	05/09/2017	Summary
Budgetary text adopted by Parliament		T8-0335/2017	13/09/2017	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2017)0540	26/06/2017	Summary

Additional information

Source	Document	Date

European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act	
Decision 2017/1599 OJ L 245 23.09.2017, p. 0003	Summary

Mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund: earthquakes in Italy in 2016 and 2017

2017/2101(BUD) - 05/09/2017 - Budgetary report tabled for plenary, 1st reading

The Committee on Budgets adopted the report by Giovanni LA VIA (EPP, IT) on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on the mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund to assist Italy.

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

The proposal aims to mobilise **EUR 1 196 797 579 in commitment and payment appropriations to assist Italy** under the European Union Solidarity Fund within the framework of the general budget of the Union established for the financial year 2017, following an earthquake that struck the regions of Abruzzo, Lazio, Marche and Umbria on 24 August 2016 and the subsequent earthquakes that hit the affected areas.

The proposed mobilisation - the highest single mobilisation of the EUSF ever - **requires an amendment to the 2017 budget** and a draft amending budget (N°4/2017), aiming at 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 1 166 797 579** both in commitment and in payment appropriations.

Mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund: earthquakes in Italy in 2016 and 2017

2017/2101(BUD) - 26/06/2017 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE: to mobilise the Solidarity Fund to assist Italy, following a series of earthquakes that hit the country in 2016 and 2017.

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 2014-20204 (MFF regulation), and in particular Article 10 thereof allows for the mobilisation of the EUSF, within an annual ceiling of EUR 500 million (2011 prices).

This decision covers the mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund (EUSF) for an amount of **EUR 1 196 797 579** to provide assistance to Italy further to a series of earthquakes that took place between August 2016 and January 2017 in the regions of **Abruzzo, Lazio, Marche and Umbria**.

This mobilisation is accompanied by Draft Amending Budget (DAB) No 4/2017 that proposes to enter the necessary appropriations in the general budget 2017, both in commitments and payments, after having deducted the advance already paid in 2016 (**EUR 30 million**).

The Commission's services carried out a thorough review of a series of applications relating to the earthquakes: a first application was received on 16 November 2016, followed by a final one on 15 February 2017 which included damages occurred between the 24 August 2016 and 18 January 2017.

Direct damage: the Italian authorities estimated the total amount of direct damage caused by the disaster at **EUR 21.9 billion**. This amount corresponds to 1.36 % of Italy's GNI and exceeds the EUSF threshold for a major disaster applicable to Italy in 2016. As the estimated total direct damage exceeds the 'major disaster' threshold, the disaster qualifies as a "major natural disaster".

Damage caused by the disaster: as regards the **impact and consequences of the disaster**, the earthquake of 24 August 2016 caused **299 casualties** and 390 people were hospitalised. The earthquakes in October did not lead to casualties. The events in January caused **34 further casualties**.

Thousands of people needed to be evacuated, including patients from the hospitals in the Umbria region. The area already severely affected by the events of August and October, was hit by further seismic events on 18 January 2017 and heavy snowfall led to the isolation of numerous villages in the Abruzzo region and caused significant harm to the living conditions of the affected population.

The area affected by the earthquake of 24 August 2016 is mainly characterised by **agricultural and tourism businesses**.

The damage to businesses in Marche and Umbria is quite significant. Furthermore, the seismic events have had very **negative repercussions on the tourism sector** that was thriving in the whole area. For instance, the Amatrice town centre was destroyed after the shocks of 24 August. The earthquake of 30 October destroyed the 14th-century-Basilica of St. Benedict in Norcia.

The Italian authorities estimated the cost of emergency and recovery operations eligible under the EUSF Regulation to be EUR 2 149 363 344. Most of the estimated costs relate to the restoration of **infrastructure**, especially roads, followed by emergency services and temporary accommodation.

Financing: on the basis of the application from Italy, the calculation of the aid from the EUSF, based on the estimate of the total direct damage caused, is calculated as follows:

- **Direct damage Italy**: EUR 21.879 billion.
- **Proposed assistance**: EUR 1 196 797 579.

Total: **EUR 1 196 797 579**.

The total amount available for the mobilisation of the EUSF at the beginning of 2017 was EUR 1 115 121 612, being the sum of the 2017 allocation of EUR 563 081 210 (i.e. EUR 500 million in 2011 prices), plus the entire 2016 allocation of EUR 552 040 402 (i.e. EUR 500 million in 2011 prices) that remained unspent and was carried over to the following year.

The amount that may be mobilised at this stage of the year 2017 is EUR 902 826 499. This corresponds to the total amount available for the mobilisation of the EUSF at the beginning of 2017 (EUR 1 115 121 612), minus the previous mobilisation (EUR 71 524 810), minus the retained amount of EUR 140 770 303 in order to respect the obligation of keeping aside 25% of the 2017 annual allocation until 1 October 2017.

This amount is not sufficient to cover the full mobilisation of the EUSF for Italy. However, the Commission proposes to cover the difference of EUR 293 971 080 from the annual amount available in 2018.

Mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund: earthquakes in Italy in 2016 and 2017

2017/2101(BUD) - 13/09/2017 - Budgetary text adopted by Parliament

The European Parliament adopted by 658 votes to 6, with 26 abstentions, a resolution on the mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund to provide assistance to Italy.

Parliament approved the proposal for a decision annexed to the resolution.

Under the Decision, **EUR 1 196 797 579 in commitment and payment appropriations shall be mobilised to assist Italy** under the European Union Solidarity Fund within the framework of the general budget of the Union established for the financial year 2017, following an earthquake that struck the regions of Abruzzo, Lazio, Marche and Umbria on 24 August 2016 and the subsequent earthquakes that hit the affected areas.

Mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund: earthquakes in Italy in 2016 and 2017

2017/2101(BUD) - 13/09/2017 - Final act

PURPOSE: to mobilise the Solidarity Fund to assist Italy, following a series of earthquakes that hit the country in 2016 and 2017.

NON-LEGISLATIVE ACT: Decision (EU) 2017/1599 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund to provide assistance to Italy.

CONTENT: with the present decision, the European Parliament and the Council decided to mobilise **EUR 1 196 797 579** in commitment and payment appropriations for Italy under the 2017 budget under the EU Solidarity Fund.

The amount is granted in response to Italy's application submitted on 16 November 2016 **following an earthquake that affected the regions of Abruzzo, Lazio, Marche and Umbria** on 24 August 2016. Additional earthquakes struck the previously hit areas and significantly increased the level of previously reported damage.

Italy then submitted its final application on 15 February 2017 with revised estimates including all damage caused between 24 August 2016 and 18 January 2017.

Since the amount that may be mobilised for 2017 is not sufficient to cover the full contribution, **the difference should exceptionally be financed through the annual amount available for 2018** as provided for in Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1311/2013 laying down the legal framework applicable to the multiannual financial framework (MFF) 2014-2020.

As a reminder, 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.

The Fund is not to exceed a maximum annual amount of EUR 500 million (2011 prices). The entire 2016 allocation remained unspent, was carried over to the following year, and was partially used in April 2017. The 2017 allocation was not yet drawn on.

ENTRY INTO FORCE: 23.9.2017. In order to minimise the time taken to mobilise the Fund, this Decision should apply from the date of its adoption (13.9.2017).