Basic information

2020/2068(BUD) BUD - Budgetary procedure	Procedure completed
Mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund: assistance to Portugal, Spain, Italy and Austria See also 2020/2069(BUD) **Subject** 3.70.11 Natural disasters, Solidarity Fund 8.70.50 2020 budget **Geographical area** Austria Italy Portugal Spain	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
BUDG Budgets	FERNANDES José Manuel (EPP)	21/04/2020
	Shadow rapporteur DE CASTRO Paolo (S&D) KÖRNER Moritz (Renew) HAHN Henrike (Greens/EFA) LAPORTE Hélène (ID)	

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
REGI Regional Development	Chair on behalf of committee OMARJEE Younous (GUE/NGL)	04/05/2020

Council of the European Union

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
		COM(2020)0200	Summary

30/04/2020	Non-legislative basic document published		
13/05/2020	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
25/05/2020	Draft budget approved by Council		
28/05/2020	Vote in committee		
02/06/2020	Budgetary report tabled for plenary	A9-0105/2020	
17/06/2020	Decision by Parliament	T9-0142/2020	Summary
17/06/2020	Results of vote in Parliament		
18/06/2020	Results of vote in Parliament		
04/08/2020	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2020/2068(BUD)
Procedure type	BUD - Budgetary procedure
Procedure subtype	Mobilisation of funds
Amendments and repeals	See also 2020/2069(BUD)
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	BUDG/9/02887

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE650.658	06/05/2020	
Specific opinion	REGI	PE650.652	08/05/2020	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE652.300	13/05/2020	
Budgetary report tabled for plenary, 1st reading		A9-0105/2020	02/06/2020	
Budgetary text adopted by Parliament		T9-0142/2020	17/06/2020	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2020)0200	30/04/2020	Summary

National parliaments

Document type	Parliament /Chamber	Reference	Date	Summary

Contribution	PT_PARLIAMENT	COM(2020)0200	17/06/2020	

Additional information		
Source	**Document**	**Date**
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act
Decision 2020/1076 OJ L 253 04.08.2020, p. 0001

Mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund: assistance to Portugal, Spain, Italy and Austria

2020/2068(BUD) - 30/04/2020 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE: to mobilise the European Union Solidarity Fund to assist Portugal, Spain, Italy and Austria.

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

CONTENT: the proposed Decision covers the mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund (EUSF) for an amount of EUR 278 993 814 to provide assistance to Portugal, Spain, Italy and Austria further to disasters that took place in these countries during 2019.

The Fund enables 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), as laid down in Article 10 of Council Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1311/2013 laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2014-2020 (MFF regulation).

Portugal - Hurricane Lorenzo in the Azores in October 2019

On 8 November 2019, Portugal submitted an application to mobilise the Fund, following extreme weather events in the Azores. Hurricane Lorenzo passed through the Azores on 2 October 2019, causing severe damage to public and private infrastructures and impacted on the daily lives of people, businesses and institutions. The Portuguese authorities estimate the total direct damage caused by the disaster at EUR 328.5 million. The country estimated the cost of emergency and recovery operations at EUR 279.3 million. The overwhelming part of eligible costs (almost EUR 270 million) concerns costs for the restoration of transport infrastructure, in particular harbours.

Spain - Flooding in the regions of Valencia, Murcia, Castilla-La Mancha and Andalucia in September 2019

On 28 November 2019, Spain submitted an application to mobilise the Fund, following extreme rainfall resulting in flooding in the regions of Valencia, Murcia, Castilla-La Mancha and Andalusia. The extreme amount of rainfall exceeded the records of the past 140 years and led to severe flooding which cost the lives of 8 persons. Roads, railway and airport infrastructure was damaged and services had to be suspended. Erosion caused damage to the water networks, protective infrastructure and the environment. The Spanish authorities estimate the total direct damage caused by the disaster at EUR 2 269.7 million. They estimated the cost of emergency and recovery operations at EUR 650.6 million. The largest share of eligible costs (over EUR 385 million) concerns costs for cleaning up operations. The second largest share concerns the repair of infrastructure amounting to EUR 247 million.

Italy - Extreme weather events in the autumn of 2019

On 10 January 2020, Italy submitted an application to mobilise the Fund following extreme weather events in 17 regions in the autumn of 2019. A series of connected extreme weather events affected most of the Italian territory from north to south causing severe damage from flooding and landslides and culminating in the flooding of Venice. The Italian authorities estimate the total direct damage caused by the disaster at EUR 5 619.878 million (updated amount). Italy estimated the cost of emergency and recovery operations at over EUR 1 110.1 million. The largest share of eligible costs (over EUR 479 million) concerns expenditure for restoring preventive infrastructure and the protection of the cultural heritage. The second largest share concerns costs for the restauration of essential infrastructure (EUR 465 million).

Austria - Extreme weather events in November 2019

On 29 January 2020, Austria submitted application to mobilise the Fund following extreme weather events in November 2019. By far the largest damage was caused in the southernmost Austrian Land Carinthia and in the adjacent province of Eastern Tyrol, both Alpine areas bordering on Italy. Heavy rain and snowfall lead to flooding of numerous watercourses causing damage mostly to transport infrastructure and closure of roads. A number of bridges were severely damaged. The Austrian authorities estimate the total direct damage caused by the disaster at EUR 93.2 million. Austria estimated the cost of emergency and recovery operations at EUR 61.3 million. The largest share (over EUR 40 million) of eligible costs concerns costs for the recovery of damage to the transport network. Measures against soil erosion account for some EUR 13 million.

Conclusion

The Commission considers that the applications of Portugal, Spain, Italy and Austria fulfil the conditions for a financial contribution from the Fund as set out in Regulation (EC) No 2012/2002. It therefore proposes to mobilise the EUSF within the framework of the general budget of the Union for the 2020 financial year, in order to grant:

- the amount of EUR 8 212 697 to Portugal;
- the amount of EUR 56 743 358 to Spain;
- the amount of EUR 211 707 982 to Italy;
- the amount of EUR 2 329 777 to Austria.

This mobilisation is accompanied by Draft amending budget (DAB) No 4/2020, which proposes to enter the necessary appropriations in the general budget 2020, both in commitments and payments.

Mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund: assistance to Portugal, Spain, Italy and Austria

2020/2068(BUD) - 17/06/2020 - Budgetary text adopted by Parliament

The European Parliament adopted by 680 votes to 7, with 1 abstention, a resolution approving the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on the mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund to provide assistance to Portugal, Spain, Italy and Austria hit by natural disasters in 2019.

Parliament approved the proposal to mobilise the European Union Solidarity Fund from the 2020 budget as follows in commitment and payment appropriations:

- EUR 8 212 697 to Portugal;

- EUR 56 743 358 to Spain;

- EUR 211 707 982 to Italy;

- EUR 2 329 777 to Austria.

It welcomed this decision as a sign of the Union’s solidarity with the Union citizens and regions hit by natural disasters. It highlighted that, due to climate change, natural disasters are set to become more violent and more frequent. Parliament also called for a reform of the Fund in the forthcoming multiannual financial framework in order to take into account the future consequences of climate change, while stressing that the Fund is only a curative instrument and that climate change requires primarily a preventive policy in line with the Paris Agreement and the Green Deal.

Lastly, Parliament noted that there is an urgent need to release financial assistance through the European Union Solidarity Fund to the regions affected by natural disasters in the Union in 2019. Therefore, in order to minimise the time taken to mobilise the Fund, this Decision shall apply from the date of its adoption.