Basic information

2021/0359(BUD) BUD - Budgetary procedure	Procedure completed
Mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund: assistance to Croatia **Subject** 3.70.11 Natural disasters, Solidarity Fund 8.70.51 2021 budget **Geographical area** Croatia	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
BUDG Budgets	RESSLER Karlo (EPP)	27/10/2021
	Shadow rapporteur GARDIAZABAL RUBIAL Eider (S&D) ȘTEFĂNUȚĂ Nicolae (Renew) HAHN Henrike (Greens/EFA) RZOŃCA Bogdan (ECR) LAPORTE Hélène (ID) PAPADIMOULIS Dimitrios (The Left)	

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
REGI Regional Development	Chair on behalf of committee OMARJEE Younous (The Left)	15/11/2021

Council of the European Union

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Budget	HAHN Johannes

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
29/10/2021	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2021)0963	Summary
10/11/2021	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
09/12/2021	Vote in committee		
10/12/2021	Budgetary report tabled for plenary	A9-0343/2021	
14/12/2021	Decision by Parliament	T9-0490/2021	Summary
15/12/2021	Draft budget approved by Council		
14/01/2022	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2021/0359(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/9/07524

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE699.286	07/11/2021	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE700.401	15/11/2021	
Specific opinion	REGI	PE702.952	26/11/2021	
Budgetary report tabled for plenary, 1st reading		A9-0343/2021	10/12/2021	
Budgetary text adopted by Parliament		T9-0490/2021	14/12/2021	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2021)0963	29/10/2021	Summary

Additional information

Source	Document	Date

European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Decision 2022/0049
OJ L 009 14.01.2022, p. 0037

Mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund: assistance to Croatia

2021/0359(BUD) - 29/10/2021 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE: to mobilise the European Union Solidarity Fund (EUSF) to assist Croatia in relation to the series of earthquakes starting from 28 December 2020.

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

CONTENT: this proposal for a Decision concerns the mobilisation of the EUSF for an amount of EUR 319 192 359 to provide assistance to Croatia following the series of earthquakes that occurred between 28 December 2020 and 21 February 2021.

The EUSF 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.

Council Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 2020/2093 laying down the multiannual financial framework (MFF) for the years 2021 to 2027 allows for the mobilisation of the EUSF in the context of the Solidarity and Emergency Aid Reserve. In accordance with the MFF regulation, the overall annual ceiling of the Solidarity and Emergency Aid Reserve is EUR 1 200 000 000 in 2018 prices (EUR 1 273 450 000 in current prices).

Following the decision to mobilise in 2021, the EUSF has already been mobilised for a total amount of EUR 484 199 841 to assist Greece and France in relation to natural disasters, as well as 20 Member States and acceding countries in relation to a public health emergency.

Therefore, the maximum amount available under the EUSF at this stage is EUR 359 968 632.

Croatia - earthquakes that started on 28 December 2020

On 18 March 2021, Croatia submitted an application for assistance from the Fund following a series of earthquakes that began on 28 December 2020.

On 29 December 2020, an earthquake with a magnitude of 6.2 ML shook a wider area around Petrinja, causing casualties and significant damage. On 30 December 2020, several strong aftershocks, ranging from 2.7 ML to 5.2 ML, were recorded.

The Croatian authorities estimate the **total amount of direct damage at EUR 5 508 740 811**. This amount represents 10.21% of Croatia's Gross National Income (GNI) and exceeds the EUSF threshold for a so-called ‘major disaster’, which is EUR 323 774 million (0.6% of Croatia's GNI in 2021).

It is estimated that 1.55 million people (more than one-third of the total population of Croatia) were most severely affected by the series of earthquakes in December 2020 and the aftershocks. Croatia estimated the cost of emergency and rehabilitation actions eligible under the EUSF Regulation at EUR 1.66 billion. The largest share concerns the costs of temporary accommodation, immediate restoration of affected natural zones and cleaning up of disaster stricken areas.

The independent assessment carried out by the Commission services confirmed the extent of the affected area and the total number of exposed population as declared in the application. On 23 June 2021, the Commission adopted an implementing decision granting an advance from the EUSF amounting to EUR 41 325 507 and subsequently paid it to Croatia.

Budgetary proposal

The Commission considers that the application from Croatia fulfils the conditions for a financial contribution from the Fund.

Within the general budget of the Union for the financial year 2021, the Commission proposes to mobilise **EUR 319 192 359** in commitment and payment appropriations from the European Union Solidarity Fund for Croatia, including an advance payment of **EUR 41 325 507**.

This mobilisation is accompanied by transfer DEC No 28/2021 which proposes to transfer the amount of EUR 277 866 852 from the Solidarity and Emergency Aid reserve line to the EUSF operational budget line, both in commitments and payments. These appropriations will be used for the payment of the remaining amount to Croatia, after deducting the already paid advance.

Mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund: assistance to Croatia

2021/0359(BUD) - 14/12/2021 - Budgetary text adopted by Parliament

The European Parliament adopted by 689 votes to 6, with 2 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 to provide assistance to Croatia in relation to the series of earthquakes which started on 28 December 2020.

Parliament approved the decision annexed to the resolution to mobilise an amount of **EUR 319 192 359** in commitment and payment appropriations for Croatia under the European Union Solidarity Fund, as part of the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2021. This amount includes the payment of EUR 41 325 507 as an advance.

The European Union Solidarity Fund aims to enable the Union to respond rapidly, efficiently and flexibly to emergency situations to express its solidarity with the population of regions affected by major natural or regional disasters or a major public health emergency.

In its resolution, Parliament stressed the urgent need to release financial assistance from the European Union Solidarity Fund to ensure that support can reach the affected regions in good time. It regretted the considerable time taken from Croatia's application for financial assistance, on 18 March 2021 to the Commission proposal for mobilisation at the end of October 2021. It underlined, again, the **importance of rapid mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund in the future** to provide relief to people and regions in need.

Recalling that the Solidarity Fund has bene under considerable strain in the first year of the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), Parliament expressed its concern about the dwindling resources available under the Fund for the period 2021-2027. Stressing that the overall amount of funding and the overall funding amount and allocation arrangements for the Solidarity and Emergency Aid Reserve (SEAR) do not ensure optimal effectiveness of the EUSF, Members called for a **revision of the SEAR** at the next review of the MFF 2021-2027.