Basic information

2024/0212(BUD) BUD - Budgetary procedure	Procedure completed
Mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund: assistance to Italy, Slovenia, Austria, Greece and France relating to six natural disasters occurred in 2023 **Subject** 3.70.11 Natural disasters, Solidarity Fund 8.70.54 2024 budget **Geographical area** Austria France Greece Italy Slovenia	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
BUDG Budgets	AFTIAS Georgios (EPP)	28/08/2024
	Shadow rapporteur NEMEC Matjaž (S&D) RAZZA Ruggero (ECR) CHASTEL Olivier (Renew) ȘTEFĂNUȚĂ Nicolae (Greens/EFA) FARANTOURIS Nikolas (The Left)	

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	HAHN Johannes

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
27/08/2024	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2024)0325	Summary
16/09/2024	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
23/09/2024	Vote in committee		
26/09/2024	Budgetary report tabled for plenary	A10-0002/2024	
07/10/2024	Debate in Parliament		
08/10/2024	Decision by Parliament	T10-0015/2024	Summary
08/10/2024	Results of vote in Parliament		
09/10/2024	Draft budget approved by Council		
29/10/2024	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2024/0212(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/10/00854

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE763.077	29/08/2024	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE763.100	10/09/2024	
Budgetary report tabled for plenary, 1st reading		A10-0002/2024	26/09/2024	
Budgetary text adopted by Parliament		T10-0015/2024	08/10/2024	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2024)0325	27/08/2024	Summary

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

Final act
Decision 2024/2772 OJ OJ L 29.10.2024

Mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund: assistance to Italy, Slovenia, Austria, Greece and France relating to six natural disasters occurred in 2023

2024/0212(BUD) - 27/08/2024 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE: to mobilise the European Union Solidarity Fund to assist Italy, Slovenia, Austria, Greece and France relating to six natural disasters occurred in 2023.

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

BACKGROUND: the European Union Solidarity Fund, set up by Council Regulation (EC) No 2012/2002, 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.

Major disasters

- On24 July 2023, **Italy** submitted an application for a financial contribution from the EUSF to finance emergency and recovery operations following the floods in May 2023. The Italian authorities estimate the total direct damage caused by the disaster at EUR 8.5 billion. Italy estimated the cost of operations at EUR 681.8 million. The largest share of the cost of emergency operations concerns securing the preventive infrastructure and measures of protection of cultural heritage amounting to over EUR 293.7 million.

- On 20 October 2023, **Slovenia** submitted an application for a financial contribution from the EUSF to finance emergency and recovery operations following the floods in August 2023. The Slovenian authorities estimate the total direct damage caused by the disaster at close to EUR 10.0 billion. Slovenia estimated the cost of operations at EUR 6 786.0 million. The largest share of cost concerns the restoration of the working order of infrastructure and plants in the fields of water, wastewater, telecoms, transport, health, and education amounting to EUR 5 089.0 million.

- On 19 October 2023, **Austria** submitted an application for a financial contribution from the EUSF to finance emergency and recovery operations following the floods in August 2023. Austria estimates the total direct damage caused by the disaster at EUR 208 million. Austria estimated the cost of operations at EUR 76.5 million. The largest share of cost concerns the restoration of the working order of infrastructure and plants in the fields of energy, water, wastewater, and transport amounting to EUR 65.6 million.

- On 20 November 2023, **Greece** submitted an application for a financial contribution from the EUSF to finance emergency and recovery operations following the floods in September 2023. The Greek authorities estimate the total direct damage caused by the disaster at EUR 2.3 billion.

Greece estimated the cost of operations at EUR 1 941.0 million. The largest share of cost concerns the restoration of the working order of infrastructure and plants in the fields of energy, water, wastewater, telecoms, transport and education amounting to EUR 1 657.0 million.

Regional disasters

- On 19 January 2024, **Italy** submitted an application for a financial contribution from the EUSF to finance emergency and recovery operations following the floods in October and November 2023 in the Tuscany Region. The Italian authorities estimate the total direct damage caused by the disaster at EUR 2.7 billion. Italy estimated the cost of operations at EUR 175.6 million. The largest share of the cost of emergency operations concerns the restoration of the working order of infrastructure and plants in the fields of energy, water, wastewater, telecoms, transport, health, and education amounting to EUR 74.3 million.

- On 24 January 2024, **France** submitted an application for a financial contribution from the EUSF to finance emergency and recovery operations following the floods in November 2023. The French authorities estimate the total direct damage caused by the disaster at EUR 1.9 billion.

France estimated the cost of operations at EUR 160.2 million. The largest share of the cost of emergency operations concerns the restoration of the working order of infrastructure and plants in the fields of energy, water, wastewater, telecoms, transport, health, and education amounting to EUR 120.1 million.

The above-mentioned applications meet the conditions for providing a financial contribution from the Fund.

CONTENT: this proposed decision covers the mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund (EUSF) in accordance with Council Regulation (EC) No 2012/2002 for an amount of **EUR 1 028 541 689** to provide assistance to Italy, Slovenia, Austria, Greece and France in relation to the natural disasters (floods) that took place in these countries in 2023.

For the general budget of the Union, the European Union Solidarity Fund will be mobilised as follows in commitment and payment appropriations in relation to natural disasters:

- EUR 378 833 540 will be provided to Italy in relation to floods in the Emilia-Romagna Region in May 2023;

- EUR 428 405 059 will be provided to Slovenia in relation to the flood in August 2023;

- EUR 5 199 245 will be provided to Austria in relation to floods in August 2023;

- EUR 101 528 949 will be provided to Greece in relation to floods in September 2023;

- EUR 67 811 826 will be provided to Italy in relation to floods in the Tuscany Region in October and November 2023;

- EUR 46 763 069 will be provided to France in relation to floods in the former Nord-Pas-de-Calais Region in November 2023.

This mobilisation is accompanied by DEC No 08/2024 that proposes to transfer the amount of EUR 796 760 300 from the European Solidarity Reserve (hereinafter referred as ‘the ESR’) reserve line to the EUSF operational budget line, both in commitments and payments appropriations.

In addition to the transferred appropriations from the ESR reserve line, this mobilisation is financed through the use of an amount of EUR 37 073 004 in commitments and payment appropriations already inscribed in the EU general budget 2024 and EUR 194 708 385 from appropriations of the EU general budget 2023, already paid as advances.

Mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund: assistance to Italy, Slovenia, Austria, Greece and France relating to six natural disasters occurred in 2023

2024/0212(BUD) - 08/10/2024 - Budgetary text adopted by Parliament

The European Parliament adopted by 632 votes to 7, with 3 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 Italy, Slovenia, Austria, Greece and France relating to six natural disasters occurred in 2023.

Parliament approved the decision to mobilise the following amounts in commitment and payment appropriations for the European Union Solidarity Fund in connection with natural disasters under the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2024:

The European Union Solidarity Fund will be mobilised as follows in commitment and payment appropriations in relation to natural disasters:

- **EUR 378 833 540** will be provided to Italy in relation to floods in the Emilia-Romagna Region in May 2023;

- **EUR 428 405 059** will be provided to Slovenia in relation to floods in August 2023;

- **EUR 5 199 245** will be provided to Austria in relation to floods in August 2023;

- **EUR 101 528 949** will be provided to Greece in relation to floods in September 2023;

- **EUR 67 811 826** will be provided to Italy in relation to floods in the Tuscany Region in October and November 2023;

- **EUR 46 763 069** will be provided to France in relation to floods in the former Nord-Pas-de-Calais Region in November 2023.

Parliament welcomed the decision as a tangible and visible form of the Union’s solidarity with its citizens and the regions in the affected areas in Italy, Slovenia, Austria, Greece and France. It reiterated the importance of **communicating to the public** the tangible benefits brought about by the European Union Solidarity Fund (EUSF), also to further increase citizens’ awareness of Union tools and programmes.

Highlighting the increasing number of severe and destructive natural disasters in Europe, Parliament considered that the budget of the EUSF or its equivalent should be expanded in view of the upcoming Commission proposal on the new Multiannual Financial Framework and subsequent inter-institutional negotiations.

The Commission is urged to increase the budget of the European Solidarity Reserve and to make sure that the overall amount of funding and the allocation modalities ensure the optimal effectiveness of the EUSF.

In particular, islands and coastal regions should receive adequate funding within the framework of the EUSF to address their specific vulnerabilities.

Parliament stressed that the EUSF is only a curative instrument and that the Union should also continue to **address climate change adaptation and mitigation** by supporting European and national policies to prevent natural disasters. Member States and the Commission are called on to deliver their contribution to achieve the objectives agreed at the Paris Climate Summit.

The resolution insisted on the need to:

- create **effective synergies** with other Union policies and programmes and for Member States to make best use of funding opportunities in particular, of the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund +, the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the Rural development programmes;

- put in place **preventive measures**, not only to mitigate future damage but also to prevent the exacerbation of risk conditions following catastrophic events, such as wildfires, landslides or the drying up of lakes and rivers.

Assistance provided under the EUSF should not be to the detriment of European funding received by Member States under other Union programmes or policies.

Recalling the importance of **rapid and solid damage assessment**, Parliament called for increased operational efforts to be made in order to reduce the average time for the release of advanced payments, while ensuring the Union budget is protected. It called on the Commission to further streamline the procedure and shorten the time required for the processing of the applications for the mobilisation of the EUSF, to accelerate response times and ensure that funds reach the affected regions.