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## TEXTS ADOPTED

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### **P10\_TA(2024)0015**

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

**European Parliament resolution of 8 October 2024 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 (COM(2024)0325 - C10-0088/2024 - 2024/0212(BUD))**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the Commission proposal to the European Parliament and the Council (COM(2024)0325 - C10-0088/2024),
- having regard to Article 107(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
- having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 2012/2002 of 11 November 2002 establishing the European Union Solidarity Fund<sup>1</sup>,
- having regard to Council Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2020/2093 of 17 December 2020 laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2021 to 2027<sup>2</sup>, and in particular Article 9 thereof,
- having regard to the Interinstitutional Agreement of 16 December 2020 between the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management, as well as on new own resources, including a roadmap towards the introduction of new own resources<sup>3</sup>, and in particular

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 311, 14.11.2002, p. 3, ELI:  
<http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2002/2012/oj>.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 433 I, 22.12.2020, p. 11, ELI:  
<http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2020/2093/oj>.

<sup>3</sup> OJ L 433 I, 22.12.2020, p. 28, ELI:  
[http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree\\_interinstit/2020/1222/oj](http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_interinstit/2020/1222/oj).

point 10 thereof,

- having regard to Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 on the European Regional Development Fund and on the Cohesion Fund<sup>1</sup>,
  - having regard to its resolution of 27 February 2024 on the draft Council regulation amending Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2020/2093 laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2021 to 2027<sup>2</sup>,
  - having regard to its resolution of 20 October 2021 on the effectiveness of Member States' use of EU Solidarity Fund money in cases of natural disasters<sup>3</sup>,
  - having regard to its resolution of 18 May 2021 on the review of the European Union Solidarity Fund<sup>4</sup>,
  - having regard to the EEA Report No 1/2024 - European Climate Risk Assessment (EUCRA),
  - having regard to the report of the Committee on Budgets (A10-0002/2024),
- A. whereas between 1 and 17 May 2023, the Emilia-Romagna region of Italy experienced extremely intense rainfall which led to flooding resulting in total direct damages estimated by the Italian authorities at EUR 8,5 billion;
- B. whereas between 3 and 6 August 2023, Slovenia was impacted by heavy rainfall which led to floods across the country and was its worst natural disaster to date, resulting in total direct damages of EUR 7,3 billion according to the Commission;
- C. whereas between 3 and 6 August 2023, Austria was impacted by heavy rainfall which led to floods in southern Austrian regions resulting in total direct damages estimated by the Austrian authorities at EUR 208 million;
- D. whereas between 4 and 11 September 2023, Greece was impacted by the Mediterranean storm "Daniel" which caused heavy rainfall and led to floods in multiple locations in central Greece, particularly in the Thessaly region, resulting in total direct damages estimated by the Greek authorities at EUR 2,3 billion;

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 60, ELI:  
<http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/1058/oj>.

<sup>2</sup> Texts adopted, P9\_TA(2024)0082.

<sup>3</sup> OJ C 184, 5.5.2022, p. 82.

<sup>4</sup> OJ C 15, 12.1.2022, p. 2.

- E. whereas between 25 October and 10 November 2023, the Tuscany region of Italy experienced intense rainfall which led to flash floods resulting in total direct damages estimated by the Italian authorities at EUR 2,7 billion;
  - F. whereas between 2 and 9 November 2023, the former Nord-Pas-de-Calais region of the Hauts-de-France region of France was impacted by heavy rainfall which caused floods resulting in total direct damages estimated by the French authorities at EUR 1,9 billion;
1. Expresses its deepest solidarity with all the victims, their families and all the individuals affected by the destructive floods in Italy, Slovenia, Austria, Greece and France as well as with the national, regional and local authorities involved in the relief efforts;
  2. Welcomes 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;
  3. Reiterates 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;
  4. Highlights the increasing number of severe and destructive natural disasters in Europe and calls on Member States and the Commission to invest in climate mitigation and adaptation measures to avoid human and economic losses; considers 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; urges the Commission 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;
  5. Stresses that, due to climate change, islands and coastal regions are particularly vulnerable to natural calamities; acknowledges that phenomena such as earthquakes, floods, volcanic eruptions, and droughts - which also affect lakes and rivers - represent an increasing threat to many European regions, particularly those in the Mediterranean; questions whether the EUSF is adequately aligned with the emergency needs related to climate adaptation in these particularly fragile territories; therefore, believes that islands and coastal regions should receive adequate funding within the framework of the EUSF to address their specific vulnerabilities;
  6. Stresses 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; underlines that the EEA Report No 1/2024 'European Climate Risk Assessment' warned that the bloc is

unprepared for the effects of climate change and stresses the need for action to avoid that the climate risks identified reach critical levels; calls on the Member States and the Commission to deliver their contribution to achieve the objectives agreed at the Paris Climate Summit; recalls the need for effective synergies with other Union policies and programmes and underlines that Member States should 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; stresses also the need for 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; underlines the importance of adequate flexibility between the different programmes; underscores that assistance provided under the EUSF should not be to the detriment of Union funding received by Member States under other Union programmes or policies; recalls that Member States can grant state aid, in accordance with applicable Union rules, notably for agricultural businesses that have suffered damages due to natural disasters;

7. Recalls the importance of rapid and solid damage assessment that takes due account of the economic repercussions and calls 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; calls 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 promptly as natural disasters inflict significant damage that disrupts daily life and local economies; stresses the need for reasonable flexibility when recipient countries face justifiable delays and challenges in applying for and utilizing allocated funding; calls on Member States to take into consideration that vulnerable populations are particularly affected by natural disasters due to socio-economic factors further hampering their ability to recover;
8. Stresses the urgent need to release immediate financial assistance through the EUSF to ensure that support can reach the affected regions in a timely manner;
9. Approves the decision annexed to this resolution;
10. Instructs its President to sign the decision with the President of the Council and arrange for its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*;
11. Instructs its President to forward this resolution, including its annex, to the Council and the Commission.



## **ANNEX**

### **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**

*(The text of this annex is not reproduced here since it corresponds to the  
final act, Decision (EU) 2024/2772.)*