

Procedure file

Basic information		
ACI - Interinstitutional agreement procedure	2003/0206(ACI)	Procedure completed
European Union Solidarity Fund: mobilisation for the fire related disaster in Portugal, budget 2003		
Subject 3.70.11 Natural disasters, Solidarity Fund 8.70.01 Financing of the budget, own resources 8.70.60 Previous annual budgets		
Geographical area Portugal		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	BUDG Budgets		01/09/2003
		PSE COLOM I NAVAL Joan	
	Former committee responsible		
Council of the European Union	BUDG Budgets		01/09/2003
		PSE COLOM I NAVAL Joan	
	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Economic and Financial Affairs ECOFIN	2530	07/10/2003
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Budget		

Key events			
27/08/2003	Legislative proposal published	COM(2003)0529	Summary
04/09/2003	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
30/09/2003	Vote in committee		Summary
30/09/2003	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0315/2003	
07/10/2003	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
09/10/2003	Decision by Parliament	T5-0423/2003	
09/10/2003	End of procedure in Parliament		
08/11/2003	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2003/0206(ACI)
Procedure type	ACI - Interinstitutional agreement procedure
Procedure subtype	Mobilisation of funds
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	BUDG/5/19825; BUDG/5/20042

Documentation gateway					
Legislative proposal		COM(2003)0529	27/08/2003	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0315/2003	30/09/2003	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0423/2003	09/10/2003	EP	

Final act	
Decision 2003/786 OJ L 290 08.11.2003, p. 0041-0041	Summary

European Union Solidarity Fund: mobilisation for the fire related disaster in Portugal, budget 2003

PURPOSE : to mobilise the European Union Solidarity Fund, in order to assist Portugal in the wake of the fires in 2003. **CONTENT** : the Commission proposes the sum of EUR 31.655 million for fire-related emergency measures in Portugal, in response to Portugal's application for aid. This money will be used for reimbursing the cost of emergency measures such as rescue services, providing for temporary accommodation, energy and water and repairing basic infrastructure. The damages were caused by a large number of fires which started on 20 July and which have claimed 18 lives to date. It is estimated that 270,000 hectares of forest and 25,000 hectares of agricultural land have been destroyed. The disaster is reported to have caused the loss of goods, jobs and employment for about 45,000 persons. This is the first "major disaster" requiring intervention by the Solidarity Fund this year. Payment from the fund will flow immediately after the approval by the Council and the European Parliament expected before mid-October and following the signature of the Portuguese Government and the European Commission. To enable a quick decision by Council and Parliament, the Commission has also adopted the corresponding proposal to mobilise the Solidarity Fund and a Provisional Draft Amending Budget (see BUD/2003/2144). The latter request does not cover payment appropriations, as the sum necessary can be found by redeployment within the sums already budgeted. The EUSF is not designed to pay for the whole of the damages but only for costs related to emergency measures. **CALCULATION METHOD**: The total damage caused by the fires is estimated at about EUR 1 billion. The amount of direct damage reaches EUR 946.5 million (0,864% of the Portuguese GNI) and the amount of EUSF eligible emergency measures is EUR 79.6 million. The proposed EUSF contribution amounts to 40% of the eligible emergency measures. Its calculation method is as follows: 2.5% of the direct damages up to 0.6% of the GNI (i.e. EUR 17.953 million) and 6% of the damages above this level (i.e. EUR 13.702 million).?

European Union Solidarity Fund: mobilisation for the fire related disaster in Portugal, budget 2003

The committee adopted the report by Joan COLOM i NAVAL (PES, E) approving the proposals to mobilise the EU Solidarity Fund to help cover the cost of damage caused by the sinking of the 'Prestige' oil tanker off the coast of Spain, an earthquake and the eruption of Mount Etna in Italy and forest fires in Portugal. The report called on the Commission to present "a concise quantitative and qualitative assessment of the initial instances of Fund intervention, and particularly the implementation criteria", so that Parliament could evaluate the Fund's operation. It noted that the damage caused by the natural disasters could have been wholly or partly prevented and "should give incentives for the development and implementation of prevention policies and adequate legislation on conservation and appropriate land use". As regards the proposal on the disasters in Spain and Italy, MEPs wanted the Commission to explain the long presentation deadlines for certain requests for assistance and asked whether these were due to excessively complex provisions in the Fund's regulations or to poor coordination between national and Community administrations. As regards the proposal concerning the fires in Portugal, the Commission was asked to report on the use of existing Community subsidies for the protection of the Community's woodlands, while the Council was asked to agree to the European Parliament's demands concerning the Forest-Focus programme currently going through the conciliation process.?

European Union Solidarity Fund: mobilisation for the fire related disaster in Portugal, budget 2003

PURPOSE : to mobilise the European Union Solidarity Fund, in order to assist Portugal in the wake of the fires in 2003. **LEGISLATIVE ACT** : Decision 2003/786/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the mobilisation of the EU Solidarity Fund in accordance with point 3 of the Interinstitutional Agreement of 7 November 2002 between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on the financing of the European Union Solidarity Fund, supplementing the Interinstitutional Agreement of 6 May 1999 on budgetary discipline and improvement

of the budgetary procedure (fires in Portugal). CONTENT : the European Union has created a European Union Solidarity Fund to show solidarity with the population of regions struck by disasters. Portugal submitted an application to mobilise the Fund on 13 August 2003, concerning a fire-related disaster. The Interinstitutional Agreement of 7 November 2002 allows the mobilisation of the Fund within the annual ceiling of EUR 1 billion. The fire-related disaster in Portugal meets the conditions for mobilising the Fund. This Decision stipulates that for the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2003, the European Union Solidarity Fund shall be mobilised to provide the sum of EUR 48,539 million in commitment appropriations. ENTRY INTO FORCE : 9 October 2003.?