






Procedure file

Basic information		
BUD - Budgetary procedure	2015/2151(BUD)	Procedure completed
Mobilisation of the EU Solidarity Fund: disasters in Bulgaria and Greece in 2015		
Subject 3.70.11 Natural disasters, Solidarity Fund 8.70.55 2015 budget		
Geographical area Greece Bulgaria		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	 Budgets	 NOVAKOV Andrey	03/09/2015
		Shadow rapporteur	
		 DENANOT Jean-Paul	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	 Regional Development	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	General Affairs	3407	14/09/2015
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Budget	GEORGIEVA Kristalina	

Key events			
23/07/2015	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2015)0370	Summary
07/09/2015	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
14/09/2015	Vote in committee		
14/09/2015	Draft budget approved by Council		
17/09/2015	Budgetary report tabled for plenary	A8-0253/2015	Summary
06/10/2015	Results of vote in Parliament		

06/10/2015	Decision by Parliament	T8-0330/2015	Summary
06/10/2015	End of procedure in Parliament		
20/10/2015	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2015/2151(BUD)
Procedure type	BUD - Budgetary procedure
Procedure subtype	Mobilisation of funds
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 159
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	BUDG/8/03982

Documentation gateway

Non-legislative basic document	COM(2015)0370	23/07/2015	EC	Summary
Committee draft report	PE565.142	27/08/2015	EP	
Budgetary report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A8-0253/2015	17/09/2015	EP	Summary
Budgetary text adopted by Parliament	T8-0330/2015	06/10/2015	EP	Summary

Final act

[Decision 2015/1872](#)
[OJ L 275 20.10.2015, p. 0030](#) Summary

Mobilisation of the EU Solidarity Fund: disasters in Bulgaria and Greece in 2015

PURPOSE: to mobilise the EU Solidarity Fund to assist Bulgaria and Greece hit by disasters in 2015.

CONTENT : [Council Regulation \(EU, Euratom\) N° 1311/2013](#) laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2014-2020 allows for the mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund, within an annual ceiling of EUR 500 million (2011 prices), over and above the relevant headings of the financial framework.

1) Bulgaria: at the end of January and during early February 2015 major parts of Bulgaria suffered from heavy rainfall, snow, floods and landslides which caused considerable damage to public infrastructure, businesses, private homes and assets, and harmed the agricultural sector. The Commission considered that the different disastrous events in Bulgaria have a common meteorological cause of natural origin and therefore fall within the field of application of the EUSF.

The Bulgarian authorities estimate the total direct damage caused by the disaster at EUR 243.305 million. This represents 0.622 % of Bulgarias GNI or 103.6 % of the major disaster threshold of EUR 234.871 million applicable to Bulgaria in 2015 for mobilising the EUSF. As the estimated total direct damage exceeds the threshold the disaster qualifies as a major natural disaster.

As regards the impact and consequences of the disaster, the severe winter conditions affected almost the whole territory of Bulgaria. It was reported that the South-East region was the hardest hit by the events. The cost of essential emergency operations eligible has been estimated by the Bulgarian authorities at EUR 239.225 million This amount represents over 98 % of the reported total damage.

2) Greece: from early February 2015, Greece was affected by wide-spread floodings in the broader area of the rivers Evros and Ardas in the East Macedonia and Thrace Region causing destruction of essential infrastructure, public buildings, private homes, businesses and in agriculture.

During the same period major parts of central and western Greece including the regions of Epirus, West Greece, Central Greece and Thessaly were affected by similar events causing even greater damage than in Eastern Macedonia.

Greece submitted two applications for a financial contribution from the Fund as 'regional disasters'. In all, five NUTS 2 regions were affected by the disaster: the East Macedonia and Thrace region (Evros flooding) as well as the Epirus, West Greece, Central Greece and Thessaly regions (for central and western Greece flooding).

The assessment by the Commission, however, revealed that the events in Greece and the major disaster in Bulgaria are related and have the same meteorological origins. The Commission therefore decided to treat the Greek cases as a single regional disaster as laid down in Article 2(3) of the Regulation.

The Greek authorities estimate the cumulated total direct damage caused by the flooding events at EUR 395.878 million. This amount represents 36 % of the major disaster threshold of EUR 1 091.315 million applicable to Greece in 2015 (i.e. 0.6 % of GNI based on 2013 data) and therefore does not qualify as a 'major disaster'. Total direct damage does, however, represent 4.78 % of the weighted average GDP of the five concerned NUTS 2 regions and thus exceeds by far the 1.5 % threshold for the weighted regional GDP laid down in the Regulation to qualify as a regional disaster.

The cost of essential emergency operations eligible has been estimated by the Greek authorities at EUR 308.445 million and has been broken down by type of operation. The largest share of the cost concerns the transport sector of over EUR 196 million. The second largest share of cost concerns the securing of preventive infrastructure amounting to EUR 83 million.

Financing: on the basis of applications from Bulgaria and Greece, the calculation of the aid from the Fund, based on the estimate of total direct damage caused, is as follows:

- Direct damage Bulgaria: EUR 243.305 million
- Direct damage Greece: EUR 395.878 million.
- Proposed aid: Bulgaria EUR 6 377 815; Greece: EUR 9 896 950

Total: EUR 16 274 765.

An amount of EUR 50 000 000 was mobilised at the time of the adoption of the Budget 2015 for the payment of advances and the corresponding commitment and payment appropriations were entered into the budget.

In the light of the examination of the applications and considering the maximum possible grant from the Fund, the Commission proposes to mobilise the Fund for these two cases by using EUR 16 274 765 from the EUR 50 000 000 specifically mobilised for advances on the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2015.

As an amount of EUR 1 627 477 was already paid for the 10 % advances (EUR 637 782 for

Bulgaria and EUR 989 695 for Greece), the remaining balance to be paid is EUR 14 647 288 (EUR 5 740 033 for Bulgaria and EUR 8 907 255 for Greece).

After the payment of the above-mentioned advances, the available balance for the payment of advances in the budget is EUR 48 372 523. After the payment of the remaining balance of EUR 14 647 288, an amount of EUR 33 725 235 remains available for further advances in 2015 in case of need. Based on the information currently available, this is considered to be sufficient in the event of new applications received during the remaining part of the year.

Mobilisation of the EU Solidarity Fund: disasters in Bulgaria and Greece in 2015

The Committee on Budgets adopted the report Andrey NOVAKOV (EPP, BG) on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund, in accordance with point 11 of the Interinstitutional Agreement of 2 December 2013 between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management (disasters in Bulgaria and Greece in 2015).

The proposed decision aims to mobilise the European Union Solidarity Fund to provide the sum of EUR 16 274 765 in commitment and payment appropriations to assist Bulgaria and Greece hit by disasters in 2015.

The full amount of this mobilisation shall be financed using the appropriations mobilised by Decision (EU) 2015/422 of the European Parliament and of the Council for the payment of advances in the Union budget for the financial year 2015, available on budget line 13 06 01.

The amount available on that budget line for advances shall be reduced accordingly.

Mobilisation of the EU Solidarity Fund: disasters in Bulgaria and Greece in 2015

The European Parliament adopted by 660 votes to 34 (without any abstentions) a resolution on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund, in accordance with point 11 of the Interinstitutional Agreement of 2 December 2013 between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management (disasters in Bulgaria and Greece in 2015).

The proposed decision, approved unamended, aims to mobilise the European Union Solidarity Fund to provide the sum of EUR 16 274 765 in commitment and payment appropriations to assist Bulgaria and Greece hit by disasters in 2015.

The full amount of this mobilisation shall be financed using the appropriations mobilised by Decision (EU) 2015/422 of the European Parliament and of the Council for the payment of advances in the Union budget for the financial year 2015, available on budget line 13 06 01. No additional appropriations are needed.

The amount available on that budget line for advances shall be reduced accordingly.

Mobilisation of the EU Solidarity Fund: disasters in Bulgaria and Greece in 2015

PURPOSE: to mobilise the Solidarity Fund to assist Bulgaria and Greece which were affected by disasters in 2015.

NON-LEGISLATIVE ACT: Decision (EU) 2015/1872 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the mobilisation of the EU Solidarity Fund.

CONTENT: [Council Regulation \(EU, Euratom\) N° 1311/2013](#) laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2014-2020 allows

for the mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund, within an annual ceiling of EUR 500 million (2011 prices), over and above the relevant headings of the financial framework.

The European Union Solidarity Fund aims to enable the Union to respond in a rapid, efficient and flexible manner to emergency situations and to show solidarity with the population of regions struck by disasters.

In response to applications for relief from the Fund made by Bulgaria and Greece (relating to severe winter conditions and flooding respectively) it has been decided to mobilise the Funds in order to grant a total financial contribution of EUR 16 274 765 in commitment and payment appropriations for the applications by Bulgaria and Greece.

The full amount of this mobilisation shall be financed using the appropriations mobilised by [Decision \(EU\) 2015/422 of the European Parliament and of the Council](#) for the payment of advances in the Union budget for the financial year 2015, available on budget line 13 06 01. The amount available on that budget line for advances shall be reduced accordingly. No additional appropriations are needed.