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EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 25.3.2011
COM(2011) 155 final

Proposal for a

DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

on the mobilisation of the EU Solidarity Fund

(presented by the Commission)

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The Interinstitutional Agreement of 17 May 2006¹ allows for the mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund, within an annual ceiling of EUR 1 billion, over and above the relevant headings of the financial framework. The conditions of eligibility to the Fund are detailed in Council Regulation (EC) No 2012/2002².

On the basis of application for assistance from the Fund by Slovenia, Croatia and the Czech Republic relating to the flooding disasters of September 2010, total estimates of the damage caused are as follows:

<i>(EUR)</i>					
Beneficiary State	<i>Direct damage</i>	<i>Threshold</i>	<i>Amount based on 2,5 %</i>	<i>Amount based on 6 %</i>	Total amount of aid proposed
Slovenia – September flooding 2010 "major disaster"	251 300 861	217 669 000	5 441 725	2 017 912	7 459 637
Croatia – September flooding 2010 "neighbouring country criterion"	47 002 839	275 804 000	1 175 071	-	1 175 071
The Czech Republic – August flooding 2010	436 477 560	824 029 000	10 911 939	-	10 911 939
Total					19 546 647

In the light of the examination of the applications³, and considering the maximum possible grant from the Fund as well as the scope for reallocating appropriations under the heading requiring additional expenditure, the Commission proposes to mobilise the European Union Solidarity Fund for a total amount of EUR 18 371 576 and EUR 1 175 071, to be allocated under heading 3b and 4 of the financial framework respectively.

By presenting this proposal to deploy the Fund, the Commission initiates the simplified trilogue procedure, as required by Point 26 of the Inter-institutional Agreement of 17 May 2006, in view of securing the agreement of the two arms of the Budgetary Authority on the need to use the Fund and the amount required. The Commission invites each arm of the budgetary authority to inform the other arm and the Commission on its intentions.

In case of disagreement by either of the two arms of the Budgetary Authority, a formal trilogue meeting will be convened.

The Commission will present a draft amending budget (DAB) in order to enter in the 2011 budget specific commitment and payment appropriations, as requested in Point 26 of the Interinstitutional Agreement of 17 May 2006.

¹ OJ C 139, 14.06.2006, p. 1

² OJ L 311, 14.11.2002, p. 3

³ Communication to the Commission SEC(2011) 218 and SEC(2011) 373 on applications to mobilise the European Union Solidarity Fund presented by Slovenia, Croatia and the Czech Republic respectively.

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DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

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THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Interinstitutional Agreement of 17 May 2006 between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on budgetary discipline and sound financial management⁴, and in particular point 26 thereof,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 2012/2002 of 11 November 2002 establishing the European Union Solidarity Fund⁵,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,⁶

Whereas:

- (1) The European Union has created a European Union Solidarity Fund (the "Fund") to show solidarity with the population of regions struck by disasters.
- (2) The Interinstitutional Agreement of 17 May 2006 allows the mobilisation of the Fund within the annual ceiling of EUR 1 billion.
- (3) Regulation (EC) No 2012/2002 contains the provisions whereby the Fund may be mobilised.
- (4) Slovenia, Croatia and the Czech Republic submitted their application to mobilise the Fund, concerning disaster caused by heavy flooding.

HAVE ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

For the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2011, the European Union Solidarity Fund shall be mobilised to provide the sum of EUR 19 546 647 in commitment and payment appropriations.

⁴ OJ C 139, 14.06.2006, p. 1.

⁵ OJ L 311, 14.11.2002, p. 3.

⁶ OJ C [...], [...], p. [...]

Article 2

This Decision shall be published in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

Done at Brussels,

For the European Parliament
The President

For the Council
The President