



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 13.9.2007
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Proposal for a

DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

**on the mobilisation of the EU Solidarity Fund according to point 26 of the
Interinstitutional Agreement of 17 May 2006 between the European Parliament, the
Council and the Commission on budgetary discipline and sound financial management**

(presented by the Commission)

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

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

On the basis of applications for assistance from the Fund by Germany and France (La Réunion) which were affected by a major storm in January and a tropical cyclone in February 2007 respectively, total estimates of the damage caused are as follows:

| | (in EUR) | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| | Direct damage | Aid proposed |
| Germany, storm Kyrill | 4 687 300 000 | 166 905 985 |
| France/La Réunion, cyclone Gamède | 211 600 000 | 5 290 000 |
| Total | 4 898 900 000 | 172 195 985 |

In the light of the examination of these 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 172 195 985, to be allocated under heading 3b of the financial framework.

The Commission will present an amending budget (AB) in order to enter in the 2007 budget specific commitment and payment appropriations, broken down by beneficiary country, 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 on an application to mobilise the European Union Solidarity Fund introduced by Germany in the case of a major storm in January 2007 and Communication to the Commission on an application to mobilise the European Union Solidarity Fund introduced by France (La Réunion) in the case of a tropical cyclone in February 2007 setting out the analysis of the Commission of the requests.

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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) Germany and France submitted applications to mobilise the Fund, concerning two disasters caused by a major storm and a tropical cyclone respectively.

HAVE DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

For the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2007, the European Union Solidarity Fund shall be mobilised to provide the sum of EUR 172 195 985 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