

Amending Budget No 4 to the 2018 EU budget Mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund

The European Union Solidarity Fund (EUSF) supports EU Member States struck by natural disasters, through providing financial assistance to contribute to a rapid return to normal conditions. A budgetary proposal to mobilise the EUSF in order to help Bulgaria and Lithuania to deal with flooding, Greece with an earthquake on the island of Kos, and Poland with storms, is scheduled to be voted during the September plenary session. During the same session the European Parliament is also expected to vote on the Council position on Draft Amending Budget (DAB) 4/2018, which proposes to account for the mobilisation of €33 992 206 from the EUSF.

Background

In the course of 2017, Bulgaria, Greece, Lithuania and Poland were struck by natural disasters. South-eastern parts of Bulgaria suffered from intense rainfall and violent storms, with total direct damage estimated at €90.3 million. An earthquake with a magnitude of 6.6 on the Richter scale affected the Greek island of Kos, causing damage estimated at €101.4 million. Lithuania suffered continuous rainfall causing flooding, with total direct damage estimated at €407.4 million. Parts of Poland were hit by violent storms and heavy rainfall, which caused €491.2 million in damage.

On 31 May 2018, the European Commission adopted a [proposal](#) for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on the mobilisation of the EUSF. It proposed the following amounts in assistance to the Member States affected: €2 258 225 (Bulgaria), €2 535 796 (Greece), €16 918 941 (Lithuania) and €12 279 244 (Poland). No advances from the EUSF were paid to the four applying Member States.

On the same day the Commission proposed [Draft Amending Budget \(DAB\) No 4 for the year 2018](#) which accompanies the proposal to mobilise the EUSF. DAB 4/2018 enters the required amount of €33 992 206 into the 2018 EU budget. The Commission proposes to amend the 2018 budget and to increase budget line 13 06 01: 'Assistance to Member States in the event of a major natural disaster with serious repercussions on living conditions, the natural environment or the economy'.

European Parliament position

On 29 August 2018, the European Parliament's Committee on Budgets (BUDG) adopted its report on the mobilisation of the EUSF and its [report](#) on the Council position on DAB 4/2018.

Parliament recommends the adoption of DAB 4/2018. It endorses the Council's position on topping up the 2018 budget with €33 992 206 in both commitment and payment appropriations.

In its report on the mobilisation of the EUSF, Parliament supports the decision on mobilisation while expressing regret over the number of lives lost in natural disasters. It expresses support to Member States using European structural and investment funds for the reconstruction of the affected regions. Moreover, it calls on Member States to utilise the financial contribution from the EUSF in a transparent way, distributing it fairly throughout the affected regions. Parliament calls for further optimisation of the mobilisation procedure leading to a shorter application-to-payment time.

Budgetary procedure: Committee responsible: BUDG – mobilisation of the EUSF [2018/2078\(BUD\)](#); Rapporteur: Janusz Lewandowski (EPP, Poland); DAB 4/2018 [2018/2082\(BUD\)](#); Rapporteur: Siegfried Mureşan (EPP, Romania).

