

# Amending budget No 3/2019: Mobilisation of the EU Solidarity Fund (Romania, Italy and Austria)

The European Union Solidarity Fund (EUSF) provides EU Member States struck by natural disasters with financial assistance to contribute to a rapid return to normal conditions. A vote on a budgetary proposal to mobilise the EUSF in order to help Romania, Italy and Austria deal with damage caused by flooding and extreme weather events is scheduled for the September plenary session. The proposed amount to be allocated is €293 551 794.

## Background

From mid-June to early August 2018, repeated heavy rainfall and extensive flooding affected north-east Romania. The flooding caused major damage to infrastructure, households and farm crops. Romanian authorities initially estimated the total direct damage at €196.8 million and applied for a contribution from the EUSF on 7 September 2018. On 9 October 2018, Romania submitted a revised version of the application with total direct damage amounting to €327.7 million. Additional clarification was provided on 14 December in response to a Commission request.

In October and early November 2018, the majority of the Italian regions, from the Alps to Sicily, suffered repeated onslaughts of heavy rain and strong winds with resulting flooding and landslides. Italy applied for a contribution from the Solidarity Fund on 20 December 2018 and provided updated information with higher damage estimates for three of the regions affected on 27 March 2019. The Italian authorities estimated the total direct damage caused by the disaster at €6.6 billion (updated amount).

At the end of October 2018, the meteorological phenomena in Italy also affected Austrian Alpine and southern regions, in particular Carinthia and East Tirol. Austria applied for a contribution from the Solidarity Fund on 14 January 2019 and on 20 February provided updated information with slightly higher damage estimates for the regions concerned. The Austrian authorities estimated the total direct damage caused by the disaster at €326.2 million and presented its application under the 'neighbouring country provisions', whereby an eligible country affected by the same disaster may benefit from Solidarity Fund aid.

## European Commission proposal

On 22 May 2019, the Commission adopted a [proposal](#) for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on mobilisation of the EUSF for Romania, Italy and Austria. The Commission confirmed that three applications were eligible for a contribution from the EUSF and proposed to provide the following amounts: €8 192 300 to Romania, €277 204 595 to Italy and €8 154 899 to Austria. In parallel, the Commission proposed to amend the 2019 budget with an increase of €293 551 794 in both commitments and payments.

## European Parliament position

On 3 September 2019, the Parliament's Committee on Budgets (BUDG) adopted its reports on the [mobilisation](#) of the EUSF and on Draft [Amending Budget No 3](#) for the year 2019. The vote confirmed the decision and underlined the urgent need to release financial assistance to the regions affected by the natural disasters in the Union in 2018. The report also welcomed the Commission's [proposal of 7 March 2019 to amend the EU Civil Protection Mechanism](#) as a key tool in strengthening the EU's disaster-management capacity with an adequate financial envelope for the 2021-2027 financial period.

Budgetary procedure: Committee responsible: BUDG; mobilisation of the EUSF [2019/2023\(BUD\)](#); Rapporteur: Siegfried Mureşan (EPP, Romania); DAB No 3/2019 [2019/2024\(BUD\)](#); Rapporteur: John Howarth (SD, United Kingdom).

