

Amending Budget No 4/2020

Mobilisation of the EU Solidarity Fund (Portugal, Spain, Italy and Austria)

Draft Amending Budget No 4/2020 (DAB 4/2020) accompanies the proposed decision to mobilise the EU Solidarity Fund for an amount of €279 million to provide assistance to Portugal, Spain, Italy and Austria following natural disasters that took place in these Member States in the course of 2019. It proposes to enter the necessary appropriations in the 2020 budget, both in commitments and payments, after deducting the advances already paid out (€6.5 million). The European Parliament is expected to vote on the proposal to mobilise the Solidarity Fund and the Council position on DAB 4/2020 during its June plenary session.

Background

The [European Union Solidarity Fund](#) (EUSF) aims to enable the EU to provide financial assistance in order to show solidarity with the population of regions struck by major natural disasters. Its annual budget is €500 million (2011 prices), and funding is granted upon application by an EU Member State or candidate country. It may be used to finance measures including restoring infrastructure to working order, providing temporary accommodation or cleaning up disaster areas. Following extreme weather events in 2019 in Portugal, Spain, Italy and Austria, these Member States submitted applications to mobilise the EUSF, which meet the conditions for receiving financial contribution. Following the coronavirus pandemic, the [scope](#) of this fund was also enlarged to cover major public health emergencies, but the present mobilisation is not concerned by that change.

European Commission proposal

On 30 April 2020, the Commission adopted a [proposal for a decision](#) of the European Parliament and the Council to mobilise the EUSF within the framework of the general budget of the EU for 2020 to assist Portugal, Spain, Italy and Austria. The proposed decision provides for the mobilisation of the EUSF for a total amount of €279 million, split among the four Member States as follows: €8.2 million to Portugal, €56.7 million to Spain, €211.7 million to Italy and €2.3 million to Austria. To enter the necessary appropriations in the 2020 budget, in terms of both commitments and payments, on the same day, the Commission presented [DAB 4/2020](#) to the Parliament and Council. The amount of €6.5 million, already disbursed as a 10 % advance on the anticipated financial contribution from the Fund to Portugal and Spain, was deducted from the total proposed amount to be entered in the budget. Thus, DAB 4/2020 aims at increasing 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', by a total of €272.5 million.

European Parliament position

On 27 May 2020, Parliament's Committee on Budgets (BUDG) adopted its report on the [Commission's proposal](#) for the Fund's mobilisation in this case, and recommended approval of the [Council position](#) on DAB 4/2020 (adopted on 25 May 2020). The rapporteur for the former, José Manuel Fernandes (EPP, Portugal) noted the decision was a sign of solidarity with EU regions hit by natural disasters and recommended the rapid delivery of the funds, since the events occurred back in 2019. Parliament is expected to vote on the proposal and endorse Council's position on DAB 4/2020 during the June plenary session.

Budgetary procedure: [2020/2069\(BUD\)](#) and [2020/2068\(BUD\)](#); Committee responsible: BUDG; Rapporteurs: Monika Hohlmeier (EPP, Germany) and José Manuel Fernandes (EPP, Portugal).

EPRS | European Parliamentary Research Service

Author: Velina Lilyanova, Members' Research Service
PE 651.950 – June 2020

This document is prepared for, and addressed to, the Members and staff of the European Parliament as background material to assist them in their parliamentary work. The content of the document is the sole responsibility of its author(s) and any opinions expressed herein should not be taken to represent an official position of the Parliament. Reproduction and translation for non-commercial purposes are authorised, provided the source is acknowledged and the European Parliament is given prior notice and sent a copy. © European Union, 2020.

ep@ep.europa.eu (contact) <http://www.eprs.ep.parl.union.eu> (intranet) <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank> (internet) <http://epthinktank.eu> (blog)

