

Amending Budget No 9/2020

Mobilisation of the EU Solidarity Fund

Draft Amending Budget N°9/2020 (DAB 9/2020) accompanies the proposal to mobilise the European Union Solidarity Fund (EUSF) for a total of €823.5 million to provide assistance to Croatia and Poland in relation to natural disasters, and advance payments to seven Member States relating to a public health emergency. DAB 9/2020 proposes to enter in the 2020 general budget a total of €734.6 million in commitments and payments, after deducting the advance already paid to Croatia. The European Parliament is set to vote on the Council position on DAB 9/2020 and on the proposal to mobilise the EUSF during the November II plenary session.

Background

Created in 2002, the EUSF aims to enable the EU to react quickly, efficiently and flexibly to emergencies and show solidarity with citizens of regions affected by major natural disasters. Its scope was [broadened](#) in March 2020 to cover public health emergencies, as part of the Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative. In March and June 2020, Poland and Croatia requested assistance following natural disasters (floods in Podkarpackie Voivodeship, and an earthquake that affected the city of Zagreb and the counties of Zagreb and Krapina-Zagorje). In addition, as of June 2020, seven Member States (Croatia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Portugal and Spain) applied to receive advance payments from the Fund in response to the emergency caused by the coronavirus pandemic. While the EUSF has already been [mobilised in 2020](#), this is its first mobilisation in the context of a major public health emergency.

European Commission proposal

In October 2020, the Commission [proposed](#) the mobilisation of the EUSF to grant financial aid of a total of €823 548 633 relating to natural disasters that took place in Croatia and Poland in 2020 (€683 740 523 and €7 071 280, respectively), as well as for paying advances to seven Member States in response to the major public health emergency caused by the coronavirus pandemic (€132 736830). The latter amount is to be attributed as follows: €8 462 280 to Croatia; €15 499 409 to Germany; €4 535 700 to Greece; €26 587 069 to Hungary; €23 279 441 to Ireland; €37 528 511 to Portugal; and €16 844 420 to Spain.

At this point in 2020, the amount available under the EUSF is €871 530 231, enough to cover the proposed mobilisation of additional resources within the annual ceiling set out for the Fund. With the accompanying [proposal for DAB No 9/2020](#), the Commission proposes to enter the appropriations in the 2020 general budget, both in commitments and payments. 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' is to be increased with €734 596 756 (after deducting the advance of €88 951 877, already paid to Croatia).

European Parliament position

On 16 November 2020, Parliament's Committee on Budgets (BUDG) adopted its report on the proposal for a decision on mobilising the EUSF, and recommended approval of the Council position on DAB 9/2020. The committee welcomes the proposals as a sign of EU solidarity with its citizens and regions, and stresses the urgency of the need to release aid through the EUSF. Parliament is expected to vote on the proposal and endorse Council's position on DAB 9/2020 during the November II plenary session.

Budgetary procedure: [2020/0297\(BUD\)](#) and [2020/0299\(BUD\)](#); Committee responsible: BUDG; Rapporteurs: Monika Hohlmeier (EPP, Germany) and Olivier Chastel (Renew, Belgium).

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PE 659.354 – November 2020



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