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Answer given by Ms Ferreira
on behalf of the European Commission
(14.1.2020)

The EU Solidarity Fund can only be mobilised following an application from the Greek national authorities that must be submitted within 12 weeks of the occurrence of the disaster and include a solid assessment of the damage caused. To qualify as a major natural disaster total direct damage must exceed 0.6% of Greece's gross national income, i.e. currently EUR 1.086 billion. For a regional disaster, damage must exceed 1.5% of the regional gross domestic product. The Solidarity Fund may help cover the cost of public emergency and recovery operations. Private damage, including to businesses and in agriculture, is not eligible for compensation.

The Greek authorities are well familiar with the conditions and procedure for Solidarity Fund assistance. The Directorate-General Regional and Urban Policy stands ready to provide any further information and guidance that may be required.

In the 2014-2020 period, Greece is set to receive some EUR 1.3 billion for climate change adaptation and risk prevention measures (including anti-flood measures) under the European Structural and Investment Funds.

Furthermore, the Commission is ready to explore with the competent authorities the possibility to amend the relevant programmes relating to the areas affected by the recent floods, upon the request of the Greek authorities, to contribute to the restoration of the public infrastructures and the regeneration of the economic activity.