

ORAL QUESTION WITH DEBATE O-0092/08  
pursuant to Rule 108 of the Rules of Procedure  
by Gerardo Galeote, on behalf of the Committee on Regional Development  
to the Commission

Subject: European Union Solidarity Fund: obstacles for its reform

The European Commission proposal COM(2005)0108 – 2005/0033 (COD) modifying Council Regulation (EC) No 2012/2002<sup>1</sup> on the European Union Solidarity Fund has been kept on hold by the Council for more than two years since the European Parliament gave it its first reading. The European Parliament considers it to be of paramount importance to have a Solidarity Fund Regulation which meets the challenges and allows the Union to deliver prompt and effective assistance when Member States suffer a disaster.

Could the European Commission explain to Parliament what are the causes of Council's inability to reach a Common Position?

Which Member States are in favour of Parliament's and the European Commission's approach and which are reluctant to agree to the reform of the Solidarity Fund and on what grounds?

Does the European Commission foresee any action or political initiative in the future which will successfully unblock the situation?

Michel Barnier's report 'For a European civil protection force: Europe Aid' was published back in 2006 and received the full support of Parliament in so far as it proposed the creation of a European civil protection force. This proposal is intimately related to the revision of the Solidarity Fund but as yet we have seen no follow-up.

Does the European Commission envisage any legislative initiative in this field?

Tabled: 18.09.2008  
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Deadline for reply: 29.09.2008

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 311, 14.11.2002, p. 3.