

ORAL QUESTION WITH DEBATE O-0114/08
pursuant to Rule 108 of the Rules of Procedure
by Gerardo Galeote, on behalf of the Committee on Regional Development
to the Council

Subject: European Union Solidarity Fund: obstacles to its reform

The European Commission proposal COM(2005)0108 - 2005/0033 (COD) modifying Council Regulation (EC) No 2012/2002¹ 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.

Therefore, the Parliament supports the Commission's proposal for a revised European Solidarity Fund which simplifies the rules governing the mobilisation of the Fund; widens its scope, in order to cover other major threats such as acts of terrorism, threats to public health and industrial disasters; and simplifies advance payments and speed-up aid.

Could the Council explain to Parliament what are the causes of its 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?

What are the next steps foreseen by the Council?

Tabled: 04.11.2008
Forwarded: 05.11.2008
Deadline for reply: 26.11.2008

¹ OJ L 311, 14.11.2002, p. 3.