

**Question for written answer P-003730/2011
to the Commission**
Rule 117
László Surján (PPE)

Subject: Mobilisation of payment appropriations for the EUSF

Under the current rules, the European Solidarity Fund can be mobilised up to one billion euros each year. In terms of payment appropriations, this usually involves either the redeployment of unspent financial resources or 'fresh money'.

In May-June 2010, several Member States were hit by major floods and the damage caused amounted to billions of euros. The countries concerned applied for help from the European Solidarity Fund. The mobilisation of the EUSF in this case took nearly a year, which cannot under any circumstances be regarded as rapid financial assistance. In addition, the European Commission's draft amending budget (No 1/2011), which proposed the mobilisation of 182 million euros from the Fund, only reached the budgetary authorities in January 2011 at the beginning of the financial year. This caused another technical financial problem, namely that the budgetary authorities could not finance this mobilisation either from the redeployment of unspent sources or from 'fresh money'.

Without pre-empting the European Commission's right to initiate, I would therefore like to ask what financial solution could be found to avoid similar delays in the future

Could it be a solution, as was the case with the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund in the 2011 Budget, to already enter payment appropriations on the budget line of the European Solidarity Fund in the Draft Budget for a given financial year?