



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 1 October 2008 (03.10)
(OR. fr)**

13097/08

FIN 329

"I/A" ITEM NOTE

from : General Secretariat of the Council
to : Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

No. Cion prop.: 13043/08 FIN 325 - COM(2008) 556 final
13045/08 FIN 326 - COM(2008) 557 final

Subject: - Preliminary draft amending budget No. 7 to the general budget for 2008 -
Statement of expenditure by Section - Section III - Commission
- Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on the
mobilisation of the EU Solidarity Fund

I. INTRODUCTION

On 16 September 2008, the Commission forwarded to the Council preliminary draft amending budget (PDAB) No. 7/2008 to the general budget for 2008, relating to the mobilisation of the EU Solidarity Fund for an amount of EUR 12 780 000 in commitment and payment appropriations for France following hurricane "Dean" which affected Martinique and Guadeloupe in August 2007.

Mobilising these funds does not affect the budget as the required p/a are being redeployed by a transfer from budget heading 13 04 02 ("Cohesion funds") to heading 13 06 01 ("EU Solidarity Fund - Member States"). The availability of appropriations under heading 13 04 02 is explained by the fact that intermediate payments in 2008 will be lower than the original estimates, which provided for a higher number of major projects being submitted and approved before the end of the financial year.

II. OUTCOME OF THE BUDGET COMMITTEE'S PROCEEDINGS

The Budget Committee examined the proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on the mobilisation of the EU Solidarity Fund and the proposal for PDAB No. 7/2008 at its meeting on 18 September 2008 and was able to accept both Commission proposals.

At the simplified triilogue provided for in Point 26 of the Interinstitutional Agreement of 17 May 2006, an agreement was reached on the mobilisation of the Fund and on the amount proposed by the Commission.

III. CONCLUSION

The Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to advise the Council to:

- adopt the Decision on the mobilisation of the EU Solidarity Fund for France, as set out in 13045/08;
 - establish draft amending budget No. 7 to the general budget for 2008 on the basis of Commission PDAB No. 7/2008;
 - instruct the Presidency to prepare the budgetary documents to be sent to the European Parliament.
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