



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 27.03.2014
C(2014) 1956 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senato della Repubblica for its Opinion on the proposal amending Council Regulation (EC) No 2012/2002 establishing the European Union Solidarity Fund {COM(2013) 522 final}.

The question concerning the damage thresholds which should be applied for the mobilisation of the Fund was among the most important issues discussed with the European Parliament and the Council in the context of the legislative procedure. The provisional political agreement reached between the co-legislators maintains the Commission proposals. For so-called major disasters it is set at direct damage in excess of EUR 3 000 000 000 in 2011 prices or more than 0,6% of the country gross national income (GNI). For so-called regional disasters the threshold is damage in excess of 1,5% of the region's GDP at NUTS 2 level. However, the co-legislators have lowered the damage threshold to 1% of regional GDP for the outermost regions as referred to in Art. 349 TFEU. This political agreement still needs to be confirmed by the European Parliament and the Council during the finalisation of the legislative process.

Operations eligible for Solidarity Fund aid include the restoration to the working order of infrastructure and plant for the supply of drinking water.

The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the concerns raised by the Senato della Repubblica and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*

*Mr Pietro GRASSO
President of the Senato della Repubblica
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