The European Union Solidarity Fund (EUSF) was created after the severe floods in Central Europe in the summer of 2002. Since then, it intervened following 84 disasters covering a range of different catastrophic events including floods, forest fires, earthquakes, storms and drought. 24 different European countries have been supported so far with a total amount of over €5.2 billion.

The Commission proposes to mobilise €8.1 million to assist Austria following the disaster caused by storms and floods in the southern Alpine regions in October 2018.

Austria has previously received EUSF funding on 4 occasions.

Total aid granted
€170.7 million

Examples of previous assistance to Austria:

- 08/2002: Floods, €134 million
- 11/2012: Floods, €240,000
- 08/2005: Floods, €14.8 million
- 05/2013: Floods, €21.7 million

During the spring of 2013, Austria was hit by severe floods which affected seven of the nine Austrian Länder and led to major damage to private property and infrastructure.

The EUSF aid was used for:

- Reconstruction operations
- Rehabilitation of flood protection structures
- Protection of cultural heritage