



Corina CREȚU
Member of the European Commission
B-1049 Brussels

Brussels, 25. 07. 2018
Ares(2018) 3955137

Mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund for the wildfires in Attiki of July 2018

Dear Minister,

Thank you very much for your letter regarding the situation created by the wildfires in Attiki that I received today. Let me reassure you of my great concern that this tragedy has created for your country.

I would like to underline once again the Commission's readiness to act as quickly as possible, using maximum flexibility of instruments and procedures, while respecting the requirements set by the Solidarity Fund Regulation. Should the conditions for the mobilisation of Solidarity Fund be met there is also the possibility to increase the EU co-financing rate of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) for disaster-related reconstruction works up to 95%.

My services in DG Regional and Urban Policy stand ready to cooperate with and support your authorities in preparing, in a first stage, preliminary application based on which an advance could be rapidly paid if the minimum requirements are met. This preliminary application should in particular include a first estimate of the direct damage caused by the fires and give an indication of the intended use of the advance payment. First contacts between our services have already been established in this respect.

In a second phase our services should cooperate in preparing the full application that will be needed in order to propose to the European Parliament and the Council the proper mobilisation of the Solidarity Fund. Should more fires break out in the meantime it would be possible to include them also or to update the application at a later stage, as was done in the case of Portugal last year.

In this full application I suggest to include not only the Attiki fires but all fires currently raging in Greece.

Mr Alexis CHARISTIS
Alternate Minister of Economy & Development
5-7 Nikis Street
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Lastly, my services are also ready to explore with the competent national and regional authorities the possibility to revise the programme(s) relating to the areas affected by the recent wildfires in order to accommodate the necessary actions for the restoration of the public infrastructures and SMEs, in line with the Structural Funds Regulations. We commit to assess such an application in the shortest possible deadlines.

With my very best wishes



Corina Crețu

Copies: Mr Alexis Tsipras – Prime Minister of Hellenic Republic
Mr George Katrougkalos – Alternate Foreign Minister for European Affairs
Mr Andreas Papastavrou – Ambassador Permanent Representative in Brussels
