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REPLY by EC regarding
EURISOLIDARITY FUND

Brussels, 29. 07. 2015
Ares (2015) 3091258

Dear Honourable Member,

Thank you very much for your e-mail of 23 July 2015 regarding the current situation in Croatia's southern region.

The Commission is aware of the fires situation in Croatia as well as in other Member States and is monitoring it actively.

The European Civil Protection Mechanism is on standby to provide rapid assistance to fight the fires if and when the Croatian authorities requested the Commission to activate this instrument, which at this stage they have not done.

The EU Solidarity Fund is available to provide financial assistance for emergency and recovery operations in the aftermath of a disaster, including forest fires. It can however only be activated following a request of the competent national authorities if the direct damage exceeds the threshold of 0.6 % of Gross National Income (i.e. for Croatia currently damage exceeding €252 million) or in the event of a smaller, regional disasters if damage exceeds 1.5% or regional GDP. Applications have to be submitted within 12 weeks of the occurrence of the disaster. The Commission may not activate the Fund on its own initiative.

For further information, please contact Mrs Corina Crețu, Member of the Commission responsible for Regional Policy (e-mail: Corina.Cretu@ec.europa.eu).

Yours faithfully,

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