



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
**MINISTRY OF
ECONOMY & DEVELOPMENT**

ALTERNATE MINISTER OF ECONOMY & DEVELOPMENT

Athens, 25th July 2018

Ref. nr.: AN 2180

Subject: European Union Solidarity Fund mobilization for the Region of Attiki Wildfires July 2017.

Dear Commissioner,

I would like to express my appreciation for your initial concern with regard to yesterday's calamity that befell the Region of Attiki whereby more than 60 people lost their lives, hundreds were injured and thousands were left homeless due to major wildfires that broke out in two locations, in the western and eastern parts of the Region which were declared in a state of emergency.

The blazes, fuelled by gale-force winds exceeding 100 km/h, were impossible to contain by the combined efforts of the civil protection mechanism services and went on consuming forests, property, networks and lives along their path. As you are well aware, in order to anticipate the disaster, we requested the activation of the Union's Civil Protection Mechanism.

In the aftermath of the destruction and as damage assessments are already underway, we estimate the economic impact of the disaster to be of great significance, especially now that the country is recovering from a protracted economic crisis and the sustainability of its public finances is at a crucial point.

Mrs. Corina CREȚU
Commissioner in charge of Regional Policy
European Commission
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
1049 Brussels, Belgium



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I therefore ask you to consider all necessary actions in order to mobilise in a quick and effective way EU Solidarity Fund, including the possibility of an advance payment similar to the one allocated to Portugal in 2017 or taking measures that will speed up procedures for the full utilization of the programme.

I obviously remain at your disposal to discuss any further options for EU support to the victims and the affected communities of this tragic disaster.

ALTERNATE MINISTER

ALEXIS CHARITSIS

Copies:

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