

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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Press Release

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EMERGENCY AID

Emergency aid of 300,000 ECU (about £210,000) from the European Community to the victims and families of those most affected by the recent storms in South-East England will be distributed within the next few weeks, the European Commission announced in London today.

The emergency aid is intended to express a sense of solidarity and understanding on the part of other Europeans for those who have suffered. It is not meant to serve in any way as a substitute for normal compensation from insurance companies for personal accident or damage to property. Nor is it linked to UK Government assistance.

The bulk of the aid will be distributed directly to the recipients individually; a provision will also be made for the part that voluntary bodies are playing in the aftermath of the storm.

A separate amount of 200,000 ECU (about £140,000) will be made available on a shared basis between Wales, 118,000 ECU (about £82,500), and Northern Ireland, 82,000 ECU (about £57,500).

Amounts of 200,000 ECU (about £140,000) are also being made available in France, Spain and Portugal for the same reason.

Please note embargo!