



European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

SESSION DOCUMENTS

English Edition

10 December 1990

A3-0361/90

R E P O R T

of the Committee on Budgets

on the draft general budget of the European Communities
for the financial year 1991

Section III - Commission

as amended by the Council
(C3-0371/90)

Rapporteur: Mr Alain LAMASSOURE

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A Series Reports - B Series: Motions for Resolutions, Oral Questions - C Series Documents received from other Institutions (e.g. Consultations)

* = Consultation procedure requiring a single reading

**II = Cooperation procedure (second reading) which requires the votes of a majority of the current Members of Parliament for rejection or amendment

**I = Cooperation procedure (first reading)

*** = Parliamentary assent which requires the votes of a majority of the current Members of Parliament

On 15 and 19 November 1990 the Council took decisions on the draft general budget of the European Communities for the financial year 1991, Section III - Commission, as amended and modified by the European Parliament at first reading on 25 October 1990.

At its meetings of 26/27 November, 3/4 December and 10 December 1990 the Committee on Budgets considered and amended the modified draft budget. At the last meeting it considered the motion for a resolution and adopted it unanimously.

The following were present: von der Vring, chairman; Lamassoure, first vice-chairman and rapporteur; Cornelissen, second vice-chairman; Welsh, third vice-chairman; Adam (for Desama), Arias Cañete, Elles, Goedmakers, Kellett-Bowman, Langes, Lo Giudice, Napoletano (for Colajanni), Pasty, Samland, Tomlinson, Wynn and Zavvos.

The explanatory statement will be presented orally by the rapporteur.

The report was tabled on 10 December 1990.

The deadline for tabling amendments is 5 p.m. Tuesday, 11 December 1990.

The Committee on Budgets hereby submits to the vote of the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution:

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

on the draft general budget of the European Communities
for the financial year 1991, Section III - Commission
as amended by the Council

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the preliminary draft budget for the financial year 1991 (COM(90) 0121),
 - having regard to the draft budget drawn up by the Council on 27 July 1990 (C3-0260/90),
 - having regard to the amending letter drawn up by the Council on 10 December 1990 (C3-0418/90),
 - having regard to the decisions taken at first reading on 25 October 1990 on the draft budget,
 - having regard to the deliberations of the Council on the draft general budget of the European Communities for the financial year 1991 as amended and modified (C3-0371/90),
 - † having regard to the report of the Committee on Budgets (A3-0361/90),
1. Welcomes the fact that an agreement has been reached between the Commission, the Council and Parliament on revision of the financial perspective, as Parliament requested in its resolution of 5 April 1990, and particularly to finance the Community's enlargement;
 2. Points out that the 1991 budget amounts to more than 58.5 billion ECU in commitment appropriations and 55.5 billion ECU in payment appropriations and thus represents 1.12% of the Community's GNP, which constitutes the largest increase (more than 18% on the 1990 budget) since the beginning of the Community;
 3. Would emphasize that this spectacular increase is largely the result of the exceptional events in 1990 and of the Community's role in them, as also of the extension of the internal market to include the new German Länder, but it is also due to an alarming upsurge in EAGGF Guarantee expenditure;
 4. Considers that the vote on the 1991 budget formally marks the entry of the five new German Länder into the Community which now contains 340 m inhabitants; welcomes in particular the fact that this enlargement is taking place in full respect of two conditions:
 - that the nationals of these new Länder can benefit from all Community policies from the moment of entry,

- and that the Community's territorial enlargement should not take place at the expense of appropriations entered in respect of existing policies;

As regards agriculture

5. Is concerned at the decline of the agricultural markets and at uncertain monetary trends, linked in particular to a fall in the dollar, which is likely once again to make it difficult to control agricultural spending, and considers that unless urgent measures are taken for certain sectors the appropriations entered in Part B1 of the budget in particular could prove insufficient;
6. Asks the Commission to operate the early warning system as the basis on which it shall use the management measures at its disposal in accordance with the requirements of paragraph 8 of the decision on budgetary discipline of February 1988;

On the structural funds

7. Points out that in 1991 the structural funds have attained 25% of the Community's budget and that the budget will benefit from greater transparency as regards implementation of the funds;
8. Expects the new nomenclature adopted for the structural funds to make it possible, amongst other things, to single out to a greater extent the items for which difficulties of implementation are most marked and thus to facilitate the quest for improvements;
9. Accepts, by way of exception, in view of the needs of the new German Länder, and of the inherent delays, that the appropriations intended for these new Community regions should provisionally be combined in a specific heading, provided that this does not in any way constitute a precedent;

On research policy

10. Points out that Community spending on research and development is vital to improve the Community's competitiveness and is an essential element of economic and social cohesion;
11. Reaffirms that compliance with the financial perspective's ceiling is the sole legal constraint which the budgetary authority must respect for various categories;
12. Believes that the 'amounts considered necessary' in the legislative decisions for each specific programme remain indicative and that it is up to the budgetary authority to fix each year, in the budget, amounts reflecting actual needs which may prove different from the original figures, and insists that the Commission implement the amounts laid down in the budget;
13. Calls on the Commission, in future, to inform Parliament, as an arm of the budgetary authority, of any statement it makes to the Council during the consideration of Council decisions or regulations which has a bearing on Parliament's powers;

14. Considers that because of the delay in adopting the specific research measures under the third outline programme and of the need to ensure a continued and balanced approach by the Community, a reduction of the overhang by 600 m ECU is necessary and justified;
15. Reaffirms Parliament's strategic objective, namely that spending on research and development should amount to at least 6% of the general budget;

On the environment

16. Points out that appropriations for the environment have shown an increase of 90% on the previous financial year and that with the creation of the financial instrument for the environment (LIFE) the Commission will thus have an operational fund necessary to implement a real European environmental policy;
17. Deplores the fact that the Community's financial situation has not permitted funding that will do justice to this instrument's legitimate ambitions but considers it most important that the Council has, in connection with revision of the financial perspective, recognized the need for this initiative;
18. Reminds the Commission of the consequences which would stem from a failure to submit urgently an acceptable legal basis for the LIFE programme;

On the peripheral regions

19. Voices its determination to devote part of the appropriations for 1991 to specific measures in a programme on behalf of the peripheral regions and destabilized activities in the Community (PERIFRA);
20. Considers that the PERIFRA 91 programme should concentrate its action on the consequences of the events of 1990: the opening up of relations with Eastern Europe, new international equilibria in the world with the dismantling of military bases, the fresh concessions to the countries which receive aid under the Phare programme and the energy crisis;
21. Invites the Commission to put forward measures which can be financed under PERIFRA 91;

On the Gulf crisis

22. Considers that aid entered in the 1991 budget for the countries most affected by the Gulf crisis constitutes a first gesture by the Community but points out that other countries are receiving the full force of the consequences of the Gulf crisis and calls for proposals to be put forward by the Commission as soon as possible to alleviate them, in accordance with the statement by the Presidents of the Council and Parliament at the conciliation meeting of 4 December 1990, whilst hoping that further developments in this crisis will enable aid to be confined to as short a period as possible;

On other policies

23. Points out that in the priority sectors the most significant increases on the 1990 financial year have affected social policy (+ 20%), transport (+ 87%), culture and youth training (+ 37%);
24. Reaffirms the importance attached to cooperation and development policy for which appropriations in 1991 will increase by 27% on 1990;
25. Points out that other third countries require exceptional aid measures and calls on the Commission to put forward appropriate proposals, it being understood that the funding of such aid must on no account undermine the implementation of the Community's internal and external policies;

On administrative expenditure

26. Recognizes that the new tasks conferred upon the Commission will require the appropriate human resources;
27. Takes note also of the observations of the Court of Auditors on personnel management at the Commission and considers that in-depth measures will need to be taken for more effective management of resources that is better adapted to the policy objectives and priorities conferred upon the Commission;
28. Decides to create 270 new posts, to include posts for a new personnel audit structure as requested by the Court of Auditors, but decides to enter some of the appropriations in Chapter A100;
29. Notes that the 1991 budget as adopted by Parliament complies with the treaties, the Interinstitutional Agreement and the financial perspective's ceiling;

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30. Instructs its President, therefore, to declare the budget adopted and to forward it with this resolution to the Council and Commission, pursuant to Article 203 of the Treaty.

