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O P I N I O N

of the Committee on External Economic Relations

for the Committee on Budgets

on the proposal from the Commission to the Council for a decision on provision of financial assistance for Israel and the Palestinian population of the Occupied Territories (COM(91) 0125 final - C3-0199/91)

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*	= 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

O P I N I O N

of the Committee on External Economic Relations

Letter from the chairman of the committee to Mr von der VRING, chairman of the Committee on Budgets

Brussels, 31 May 1991

Subject: Proposal for a Council decision on provision of financial assistance for Israel and the Palestinian population of the Occupied Territories
(COM(91) 0125 final - C3-0199/91)

Dear Mr von der Vring,

At its meeting of 13 May 1991, the Committee on External Economic Relations considered the above Commission proposal.

In its discussion it noted that in the Commission's proposal Parliament is given no part in the procedure for adopting the general guidelines for implementing the aid for the Palestinian population in the Occupied Territories, which is a serious matter in view of the non-compulsory nature of the budgetary expenditure involved.

Furthermore, it drew attention to the importance of the Community character of this action, which should be unaffected by considerations of the Member States' foreign policies. Under the Commission proposals, particularly Article 5 of the proposal for a decision in document COM(91) 125 final, the general guidelines would be adopted in accordance with the type II committee procedure (variant b) set out in Decision 87/373/EEC, which leaves the final decision on the guidelines in the hands of the Council.

In this context, the Committee on External Economic Relations considers that the committee assisting the Commission in establishing the general guidelines should be a purely advisory committee (procedure I), which would strengthen the Community character of the action, respect Parliament's powers of scrutiny and preserve its role in determining the appropriations for aid for the population in the Occupied Territories.

Whilst recalling the conclusions of the Enlarged Bureau on the MUSSO report (PE 131.700/BUR), the Committee on External Economic Relations requests the Committee on Budgets to ensure that an amendment is incorporated into the Commission proposal guaranteeing that the interinstitutional equilibrium will be preserved, particularly as regards Parliament's powers and the budgetary implementing powers of the Commission.

If this matter can be satisfactorily resolved, the Committee on External Economic Relations will approve the proposal for a decision in question.

Yours sincerely,

(sgd) Willy DE CLERCQ

The following were present for the vote: de Clercq, chairman; Cano Pinto and Stavrou, vice-chairmen; Lenz (for Estgen), Magnani Noya, Miranda de Lage, Peijs, Porto, Sonneveld (for Gallenzi), Spencer, Titley and Tsimas.