

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

1979 - 1980

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10 December 1979

DOCUMENT 1-577/79

## Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Budgets

on the outcome of Council's deliberations on  
the amendments adopted by the European  
Parliament to Section I - Parliament - of  
the draft general budget of the European  
Communities for the financial year 1980

Rapporteur: Mr Robert JACKSON



On 6 September 1979, the Committee on Budgets appointed Mr Robert JACKSON rapporteur on Section I - Parliament - of the draft general budget of the European Communities for the financial year 1980.

The Committee on Budgets adopted the following report by 23 votes to 3 with 4 abstentions at its meeting of 4 December 1979.

Present: Mr Notenboom, acting Chairman; Mr Spinelli, second Vice-Chairman; Mr Rossi, third Vice-Chairman; Mr Robert Jackson, rapporteur; Mr Adonnino, Mr Aigner, Mr Ansquer, Mr Baillet Mr Balfe, Mr Barbi, Mr Bonde, Mr Colla, Mr D'Angelosante (deputizing for Mrs Boserup), Mr Dankert, Mr Flanagan, Mr Forth, Mrs Gaspard, Mr Gouthier, Mrs Gredal, Mr Hord, Mr Megahy (deputizing for Mr O'Leary), Mr Motchane, Mr Nord, Lord O'Hagan, Mr Orlandi, Mr Pfennig, Mr K. Schön, Mrs Scrivener, Mr Simonnet, Mr J. M. Taylor, and Mr Tuckman.

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The Committee on Budgets hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution together with explanatory statement

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

on the outcome of Council's deliberations on the amendments adopted by the European Parliament to Section I - Parliament of the draft general budget of the European Communities for the 1980 financial year

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the draft general budget Section I for 1980, (Doc. 1-378/79)
- having regard to the amendments to the draft adopted by it on 7 November 1979<sup>1</sup>
- having regard to Council's deliberations on 23 November 1979, (Doc. 1-563/79)
- noting the accompanying letter of the President of Council to the President of Parliament, (Doc. 1-563/79)
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Budgets (Doc. 1-577/79),

1. Notes that Council has not in any way modified Parliament's amendments to its own draft budget;
2. Notes that the terms of the gentleman's agreement between the two institutions concerning the approval of their respective budgets in the budgetary procedure remain valid;
3. Reaffirms its intention that the salaries of Members of Parliament should be paid on a common basis from the Community's general budget and not from national budgets; and confirms that this is a matter within the competence of the European Parliament;
4. Recalls, notwithstanding the Treaty and the subsequent right and obligation of the governments of the Member States to fix the site of the institutions, that Parliament is sovereign as regards the determination of its own working conditions and working places;
5. Will, in 1980, in the context of the discussions on the necessary transfer for rent, take the appropriate action as regards its working places in the interests both of efficiency and of saving the European taxpayers money;
6. Approves the necessary adaptations to its budget following on the decisions relating to independent Members, taken in the context of its review of its Rules of Procedure.

<sup>1</sup> O.J. C 302 3.12.79 p.13

B..

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. On 7 November 1979 the European Parliament adopted twelve amendments adapting its own establishment plan for 1980.

These amendments were considered to be the minimum necessary to permit it to cater for the increased activities resulting from its direct election by universal suffrage. Furthermore, they took account of the need to recruit a considerable number of temporary staff to prepare for the accession of Greece to the Community.

2. These amendments were forwarded to Council, which on 23 November 1979, took the decision not to modify any of the amendments.

Thus it respected the terms of the gentleman's agreement between the two institutions concerning the approval of their respective budgets in the budgetary procedure. This agreed extension of the validity of the agreement is an important positive result from this budgetary procedure, since it permits the Budgetary Authority to concentrate on important political matters, rather than on purely administrative ones.

3. It will be recalled that the Parliament had already indicated, in its resolution of 7 November, that it might be necessary to make a further adaptation to its establishment plan and to its budget, following on the decisions relating to independent members taken in the context of its review of its Rules of Procedure.<sup>1</sup> At the time of drafting this explanatory statement, the enlarged Bureau had yet to draw up the financial consequences of these decisions - at the appropriate moment, and in any case, before the December part-session, your rapporteur will bring forward the necessary proposals. This raising of new matters in the second reading is exceptional, and results from the new political situation arising, following direct elections, and should not in any way be taken as a precedent. Parliament had, in any case, notified Council that it might have to introduce this new factor at the second reading.

4. In the letter from the President of Council to the President of Parliament,<sup>2</sup> two amendments of Parliament are referred to:

<sup>1</sup> Nord Report, Doc.

<sup>2</sup> Doc.

(i) Amendment 340 which entered a token entry for the salaries of members of the institution;

(ii) Amendment 370 which reduced rents to 1979 levels and placed the forecast increments under the reserve Chapter of the budget. The purpose of this amendment was to provide an opportunity, during 1980, at the moment of the necessary budgetary transfer, for a full discussion on the working places of the institution.

5. Council expressed a certain disquiet as regards these two amendments without seeking to modify them.

It also drew attention to a letter from the President of Council to the President of Parliament, of 15 December 1978, which claimed that Member States were competent to decide members' salaries.

6. This statement does not conform with Parliament's own views, clearly expressed in the amendment, which pointed out in the Remarks that the salaries should be provided from the budget of the institution "rather than from the budgets of the Member States, in conformity with the practice for members of other Community institutions".

7. The existence, uncontested, of this line (with a dash against it) demonstrates that these salaries should be provided for, on a common basis, from the Community budget, and that this matter falls within the competence of the European Parliament.

8. As regards amendment 370, Parliament could not accept the view taken by Council that decisions governing the Parliament's working places should be taken by Member States, on the basis of a common agreement. Your rapporteur fully accepts that the Treaty gives to the Member States the right and the obligation to determine the seat of the institutions. However, as regards its Rules of Procedure and the working conditions, and consequently the working places of the European Parliament, Parliament itself is sovereign.

#### Conclusion

9. At its meeting of 28 November 1979 the Committee on Budgets instructed your rapporteur to draw up a brief report on these points to underline the fact that Parliament maintains its view that it has competence to provide for the salaries of members and for the working conditions and meeting places of the institution.

## SECTION I - PARLIAMENT

Budgetary Line	Heading	First Reading DA	Effect
STAFF	1 A5/4 - 5 C3/2 (secretariat of Quaestors)	330	To be taken from general reserve of 188 posts
	6 C3/2 permanent posts (to assist Vice-Presidents)	331	To be taken from general reserve of 188 posts
	123 temporary posts in secretariat of political groups - 61 frozen	332	Increase PA by 1,875,750 EUA
	1 A1 temp. ad personam - 1 A3 temp. - 1 B3 - 1 C1 (President's Private Office) 113 temp. posts in Secretariat Conversion of 7 posts	333	Increase PA by 2,888,600 EUA
	Addition of following permanent posts: 3 A3, 2 A5/4, 2 A7/6.	369	Of these 1 A3, 2 A5/4, 2 A7/6 to be taken from general reserve of 188 posts Increase PA by 50,500 EUA
<u>TITLE 1</u>			
Ch. 100	Members of the Institution	327	Increase PA by 10,825,000 EUA Decrease by 9,250,000 EUA appropriation against Article 1000: 'Reserve'
Item 1000	Basic salaries	340	Token entry



## SECTION I - PARLIAMENT

Budgetary Line	Heading	First Reading DA	Effect
<u>TITLE 2</u>			
Item 2100	Rent	370	Reduce PA by 5,841,200 EUA. Enter 5,841,200 EUA in Ch. 100
Title 2	Buildings, equipment and miscellaneous operating expenditure	329	Increase PA by 1,832,750 EUA
Item 2720	Expenditure on information, publicity and participation in public events	36	Increase PA by 300,000 EUA
Item 2991	Subsidies towards the cost of visits by 'opinion multipliers' from Member States (new heading)	37/rev.	Enter PA of 200,000 EUA
<u>TITLE 3</u>			
Item 3706	Other political activities	328	Increase PA by 788,600 EUA

