

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1980 - 1981

3 November 1980

DOCUMENT 1-542/80

Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Budgets

on Annex I (Economic and Social Committee) of
Section II - Council - of the draft general
budget of the European Communities for the
financial year 1981

Rapporteur: Mr V. ANSQUER

On 28 April 1980 the Committee on Budgets appointed Mr ANSQUER rapporteur on Annex I (Economic and Social Committee) of Section II - Council - of the draft general budget of the European Communities for the financial year 1981.

At its meeting of 29 October 1980 the Committee on Budgets adopted the following motion for a resolution by 19 votes to 4 with no abstentions.

The amendments adopted by the Committee on Budgets at the same meeting are annexed to this report.

Present: Mr Lange, chairman; Mr Spinelli, second vice-chairman; Mr Ansquer, rapporteur; Mr Adonnino, Mr Arndt, Mr Balfe, Mr Battersby (deputizing for Mr Newton Dunn), Mr Brok (deputizing for Mr Ryan), Mr Colla, Mr Doublet (deputizing for Mr Flanagan), Mr Forth, Mr Gouthier, Mrs Hoff, Mr Howell, Mr R. Jackson, Mr Jalton, Mr Lega, Mr Megahy (deputizing for Mr Motchane), Mr O'Leary, Mr Pfennig, Mrs Pruvot (deputizing for Mr Rossi), Mr Konrad Schön, Mr Seeler (deputizing for Mr Orlandi), Mrs Scrivener, Mr J.M. Taylor, Mr Tuckman, Mr von der Vring (deputizing for Mr Dankert).

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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 Annex I (Economic and Social Committee) of Section II - Council - of the draft general budget of the European Communities for the financial year 1981

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the draft general budget for the 1981 financial year and the explanatory memorandum (Doc. 1-465/80),
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Budgets (Doc. 1-542/80),
- (a) Whereas the Economic and Social Committee has provided full information to the budgetary authority in support of requests for extra staff and for post regradings,
- (b) Whereas the Council, in its explanatory memorandum (Volume 7 of the draft budget), has provided no detailed justification for its response to these requests,
1. Recognises the importance of better coordination between the Economic and Social Committee and the committees of Parliament in order to exploit more fully the work of the Committee;
 2. Stresses the need to provide the Committee with adequate staff for it to overcome the administrative problems consequent upon enlargement;
 3. Recalls previous Parliamentary initiatives to provide for a more balanced and equitable career development prospect for officials of the Committee by post regradings;
 4. Subject to certain amendments, approves Annex I (Economic and Social Committee) of Section II - Council - of the draft general budget of the European Communities for the financial year 1981.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENTIntroductory remarks.

1. The Economic and Social Committee performs a valuable role in providing expert opinions from the social partners on every major issue confronting the Community and on every economic proposal emanating from the Commission. Any student of Community affairs has been able to appreciate the quality of these opinions.

2. However, it has to be recognised that the general public and even some of the Community institutions have not fully appreciated the importance of this work. It seems to your rapporteur that improved liaison between the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee could be of mutual benefit. Contacts have taken place between the Presidents of the two institutions and the consequences of these contacts now need to be translated in terms of improved coordination between the Committee and specialised Parliamentary bodies. For example, it seems to your rapporteur entirely appropriate that the rapporteur of the Economic and Social Committee on a particular issue should be invited as an observer automatically when a Parliamentary committee is debating the subject. He could then inform the Parliamentary body of the views of the Committee and could contribute positively to the debate.

Your rapporteur considers that this would be one means of maximising the value of the work of the Committee.

Draft budget for 1981

3. The 1980 budget sets the expenditure of the Economic and Social Committee at 19.9 mEUA.

The Committee proposed its draft estimates for 1981 at 23.2 mEUA, being an increase of 16.09% on 1980.

The Council, in its draft, reduced this figure to 21.2 mEUA being an increase of 6.8%.

4. This retrenchment was mostly achieved by a standard abatement in Chapters 11 and 12 by 5% and 10% respectively, taking account of the rate of spend from previous years.

Your rapporteur approves this approach and does not intend introducing any overall increase in the draft budget of the Economic and Social Committee.

5. However, apart from the standard abatements mentioned above, certain reductions have been made to the Committee's budget without any explanation and contrary to the particular needs of the Committee.

For example, for Article 115 "Overtime" the Committee requested an appropriation of 45,000 EUA (expenditure in 1979 was 48,000 EUA and is expected to rise to 50,000 EUA in 1980). Council cut this appropriation to 35,000 EUA without explanation: furthermore, it denied the Committee the extra secretarial posts that it was requesting that might have permitted some small economies in overtime.

Your rapporteur is therefore tabling an amendment to increase overtime appropriations by 10,000 EUA. However, he suggests compensating this increase by an equal reduction in Article 120 "Recruitment".

The establishment plan of the Economic and Social Committee

6. The 1980 establishment plan of the Committee amounts to 334 posts (an increase of only 9 from the previous year).

In its estimates for 1981 the Committee proposed an increase of 29 posts over the previous year, thus taking the establishment plan to a total of 363. A further 33 posts were requested for new Greek officials.

7. Council, in its draft budget, has agreed to a total establishment plan of 367 posts, setting aside 27 for Greeks. Thus the increases in staff for officials of other than Greek nationality are limited to 6.

8. Your rapporteur accepts that it is desirable to limit as far as possible any increase in the Committee's establishment plan. However, certain consequences of enlargement need to be drawn. In discussions with the representatives of the Committee he has determined two priority areas where Parliamentary amendments are required:

- (i) The other language divisions. Here the Committee had originally proposed a strengthening of these divisions in order to cope with the need to translate from Greek to the other Community languages. It is unlikely that many texts in Greek will have to be translated immediately in 1981: nonetheless, some work can be expected reasonably quickly.

For these reasons your rapporteur suggests the creation of just three extra posts of translators (3 LA 6) to be allocated for this work to three of the six divisions. Translation could then be carried out on the relay system.

- (ii) Furthermore, your rapporteur proposes four additional secretarial posts (3 C 3/2, 1 C 5/4). The Committee had originally requested seven such posts - only three being granted. However, there has been a considerable increase in the volume of secretarial work over a number of years.

Your rapporteur proposes that an amendment be tabled to strengthen these services but that the Committee be asked to make a further effort to find the extra appropriations from within the existing levels within the draft budget.

Transformations of posts

9. It will be recalled that at the first reading of the 1980 budget Parliament agreed to a certain number of post conversions within the Committee to take account of the fact that promotion opportunities were considerably less within the Committee than in the other Community institutions. This was causing a relatively high percentage of qualified officials to seek employment elsewhere in the Community institutions.

10. This amendment, which was not accepted by Council, was retabled to the new draft budget in June of this year but was not adopted by Parliament in view of the special political circumstances governing the adoption of the 1980 budget. Council accepted only a very limited number of the transformations sought (four, out of a total of eighteen).

11. Your rapporteur, after contacting representatives of the Committee, believes that five transformations should be put forward - all five of which had been the object of Parliamentary amendment last year. These transformations are as follows: 1 LA 5 to LA 4, 1 A 7 to A 6, 1 B 2 to B 1, 2 C 5 to C 3.

It is worth recalling that the European Parliament, for example, does not recruit secretaries at the C 5 level whereas the Committee has a relatively high percentage of its secretaries blocked at the level of C 5.

Again your rapporteur proposes staying within the general level of appropriations approved in the draft budget for 1981 by means of compensating reductions.

Conclusion

12. The Committee on Budgets approves Annex I (Economic and Social Committee) of the draft general budget of the European Communities for the financial year 1981 subject to amendments designed to take full account of the consequences of enlargement on the Committee's establishment plan and the need to assure better career development for its officials.



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

30 OCTOBER 1980

Doc. 1-465/510



DRAFT
GENERAL BUDGET OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1981

DRAFT AMENDMENT No. 510

tabled by Mr ANSQUER, on behalf of the Committee on Budgets

SECTION II - COUNCIL

Annex I - Economic and Social Committee

Establishment plan - add the following new posts to the organigram:

3 LA 6
3 G 3
1 C 5

A - ExpenditureIncrease payment appropriations under Title I by 70,700 EUA

<u>Title I</u> - Initial amount	13,639,700 EUA
Increase	70,700 EUA

New total	13,710,400 EUA
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B - CompensationReduce appropriations under Chapter 27 by 70,700 EUAArticle 270 - Official Journal

Initial amount	393,000 EUA
Reduction	70,700 EUA

New total	322,300 EUA
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C - Revenue

Increase Chapter 40 by 4,600 EUA

Increase Chapter 41 by 3,200 EUA

	7,800 EUA
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COMMITMENTS

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Schedule

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REMARKS

Unchanged

Break-down

Item 1100 - Basic salaries	+ 47,400	EUA
Item 1101 - Family allowances	+ 4,000	EUA
Item 1102 - Expatriation allowance	+ 7,600	EUA
Item 1103 - Temporary fixed allowances	+ 1,000	EUA
Item 1130 - Sickness insurance	+ 1,400	EUA
Item 1131 - Accident insurance	+ 500	EUA
Item 1141 - Travel expenses on annual leave	+ 2,400	EUA
Item 1231 - Removal expenses	+ 2,400	EUA
Item 1241 - Temporary daily subsistence allowance	+ 4,000	EUA
	<u> </u>	
	+ 70,700	EUA

Justification

Enlargement will inevitably affect all the services of the Committee Secretariat, although it will be felt more in certain sectors such as the document translation service. The language divisions should therefore be strengthened.

If the creation of six new posts - i.e. one for each language division - is to be avoided in the immediate future working methods will have to be modified and adapted to a new formula whereby Greek texts for translation would be passed on through relay languages. This method would make it possible to limit the number of new posts in 1981 to three and the other three could be created in 1982.

The three secretaries' posts are intended for the translation divisions and in particular for the heads of section who have hitherto not had the services of a secretary. This deplorable situation has compelled heads of section to deal personally with work which is manifestly secretarial (selection of documentation, typing of notes and reports).

The clerical assistant post is for the document printing shop whose work will increase considerably in volume and whose staff should therefore be increased.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

30 OCTOBER 1980 ...

Doc. 1-465/511



DRAFT
GENERAL BUDGET OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1981

DRAFT AMENDMENT No. 511

tabled by

SECTION II - COUNCIL

Annex I - Economic and Social Committee

Establishment table - add the following five conversions to the list of posts:

1	A 7	into	A 6
1	LA 5	into	LA 4
1	B 2	into	B 1
2	C 5	into	C 3

A - ExpenditureIncrease payment appropriations under Chapter 11 by 14,200 EUA

Chapter 11 - Initial amount	12,982,000 EUA
Increase	14,200 EUA
	12,996,200 EUA

New total	12,996,200 EUA
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B - CompensationReduce appropriations under Chapter 12 by 14,200 EUAArticle 120 - Recruitment

Initial amount	150,000 EUA
Reduction	14,200 EUA
	135,800 EUA

New total	135,800 EUA
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C - Revenue

Increase revenue by 2,800 EUA

COMMITMENTS

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Schedule

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Break-down

Item 1100 - Basic salaries	+ 10,600	EUA
Item 1101 - Family allowances	+ 880	EUA
Item 1102 - Expatriation allowances	+ 1,580	EUA
Item 1130 - Sickness insurance	+ 330	EUA
Item 1131 - Accident insurance	+ 110	EUA
Item 119 - Provisional appropriation	+ 700	EUA

Justification

These five conversions are intended to cover both the upgrading of careers and promotions within certain career brackets.

The question of conversions of posts is particularly important for the Committee. These conversions should make it possible to pursue a staff policy in line with the letter and spirit of the staff regulations. In other words it is on the one hand indispensable that certain jobs should be upgraded to the level of the duties which some officials are obliged to carry out in fact as the result of constant evolution of both the volume of work and the responsibilities linked with their jobs.

On the other hand conversions should make it possible to provide promotion within a career bracket for certain officials who for many years have been at the first grade of their career bracket or even at the initial grade of a category (C 5 typists). This grading corresponds to the institution's recruitment policy which is to appoint recruits at the basic grade of a category. This policy although correct is also restrictive and must be reviewed once the staff in question have proved their worth. This measure is made all the more necessary by the fact that staff are tempted to leave the institution if promotion opportunities are not available. A comparative study (see establishment table) shows that the situation in the basic grades and particularly in the C category is less propitious in the Economic and Social Committee than in other institutions.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

30 OCTOBER 1980

Doc. 1-465/512



DRAFT
GENERAL BUDGET OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ... 1981

DRAFT AMENDMENT No. 512.

tabled by Mr ANSQUER, on behalf of the Committee on Budgets

SECTION II - COUNCIL

Annex I - Economic and Social Committee

Article 115 : Overtime

A - ExpenditureIncrease payment appropriations under Chapter 11 (Article 115) by 10,000 EUAB - CompensationReduce appropriations under Chapter 12 - Article 120 by 10,000 EUAArticle 120 - Recruitment

Initial amount	150,000 EUA
Reduction	<u>10,000</u> <u>EUA</u>
New total	140,000 <u>EUA</u>

C - Revenue

Unchanged

COMMITMENTS

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Schedule

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REMARKS

Unchanged

Justification

Taking account of all the factors which have to be taken into consideration for the calculation of appropriations for overtime - the volume and development of work, new posts, auxiliary agents - the Economic and Social Committee had initially asked for 45,000 EUA. This amount was all the more justified since the expenditure effected in 1979 was 48,662 EUA and in 1980 it will exceed 50,000 EUA.

There is therefore no justification whatsoever for reducing the Committee's request and the appropriations should be reinstated in the amount of 45,000 EUA.

