

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1980 - 1981

20 MAY 1980

DOCUMENT 1-175/80

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr DANKERT
on behalf of the Committee on Budgets

with request for an early vote

pursuant to Rule 47(5) of the Rules of Procedure
to wind up the debate on oral question

Doc. 1-146/80

on the need to adopt the budget rapidly after
the meeting of the European Council

The European Parliament,

- whereas the European Parliament established on 7 November 1979 its criteria for an acceptable Community budget for 1980,
 - whereas on 13 December 1979, the European Parliament rejected the 1980 draft budget presented by the Council,
 - whereas on 29 February 1980, the Commission presented a new preliminary draft budget,
 - whereas on 14 March 1980, the European Parliament called upon the Council to present a draft budget at the April 1980 part-session,
 - whereas the Council of Ministers has not responded at all to the proposal of the Commission or the request of Parliament acting as part of the budgetary authority,
 - whereas unnecessary technical and political confusion would arise if the continued 1980 budget procedure were to coincide with the 1981 budget procedure,
1. Considers it to be necessary for the Budgetary Authority to have completed the 1980 budgetary procedure before the summer recess;
 2. Notes with concern that according to the information contained in the Commission's request for supplementary provisional twelfths presented on 7 May 1980, the Community will not be able to meet some of its financial obligations after the middle of the year unless a new budget is adopted;
 3. Considers that the rejection of the 1980 draft budget was a political act aimed at achieving a better balance of Community expenditure and was not intended to lead to unnecessary disruption of the running of the Community's institutions or a failure by the Community to meet its financial obligations;
 4. Hopes that the Council will be able to decide, as it indicated, on the proposals for agriculture, and on the measures to resolve the problem of Britain's contribution to the Community budget by the end of May, thus enabling it to present a draft budget to Parliament during its June part-session;
 5. Considers that if Council should unfortunately prove unable to make agricultural policy decisions before 1 June, the draft budget should be based on the Commission's preliminary draft budget of 29 February, as rectified in the light of its current proposals for agriculture of 30 April, which formed the basis of the deliberations of Council in Luxembourg;

6. Recalls that in its resolution of 26 March 1980, concerning agricultural prices, Parliament called upon the Council to take into account
 - (a) the need to guarantee farmers a fair income
 - (b) the need to assess what savings can be achieved by the measures to bring markets back into equilibrium
 - (c) the need to contain the increase in expenditure within limits compatible with a sound balanced budget and complying with the criteria underlying the Commission proposals.'
7. Believes it necessary to provide assistance for the United Kingdom in order to facilitate its integration within the European Community; believes that this measure is necessary for a few years, and should be for an appropriate amount within the normal budgetary procedure;
8. Believes further that should no agreement be reached on the problem of Britain's contribution to the Community budget, the draft budget should be drawn up according to the conditions set out in paragraph 5 above;
9. Considers that failure by Council to act promptly would be a serious abrogation of responsibility and a major threat to the functioning and credibility of the Community;
10. Requests an immediate meeting with Council in the framework of the conciliation procedure;
11. Declares that Parliament will not be prepared, in any case, to renounce the full exercise of its budgetary rights over the 1980 budget, and that, should Council continue to refuse to draw up the draft budget, Parliament would consider the possibility of further political and legal action, in order to ensure that
 - the rights of the European Parliament as part of the budgetary authority are respected and defended;
 - the Commission could continue to meet its obligations under the Treaties and under Community regulations;
 - the Community could continue to function.

