

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION  
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

P R E S S   R E L E A S E

10018/93 (Presse 186)

1702nd Council meeting

- BUDGET -

Brussels, 15 November 1993

President: Mr Herman VAN ROMPUY

Minister for the Budget  
of the Kingdom of Belgium

The Governments of the Member States and the Commission of the European Communities were represented as follows:

Belgium:

Mr Herman VAN ROMPUY Minister for the Budget

Denmark:

Mr Jørgen ØSTRØM MØLLER State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mr Gert HALLER State Secretary to the Federal Minister for Finance

Greece:

Mr Alexandros PAPADOPoulos State Secretary for Finance

Spain:

Mr Enrique Jesús MARTINEZ ROBLES State Secretary for Finance

France:

Mr Nicolas SARKOZY Minister for the Budget

Ireland:

Mrs Eithne FITZGERALD Minister of State for Finance

Italy:

Mr Rocco Antonio CANGELOSI Deputy Permanent Representative

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean-Claude JUNCKER Minister for the Budget

Netherlands:

Mr Piet DANKERT State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Portugal:

Mrs Maria Manuela FERREIRA-LEITE State Secretary for the Budget

United Kingdom:

Sir John COPE Paymaster General

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Commission

Mr Peter SCHMIDHUBER Member

LETTER OF AMENDMENT NO 1 TO DRAFT SUPPLEMENTARY AND AMENDING  
BUDGET NO 1/93

The Council established letter of amendment No 1 to draft supplementary and amending budget No 1 for the financial year 1993, which provides for an adjustment of the estimated revenue for customs duties and the inclusion of a budget heading, with a "p.m." entry, to cover refunds on own resources to Greece, Spain and Portugal.

The letter of amendment will be forwarded to the European Parliament very shortly.

CONTINUATION OF THE 1994 BUDGET PROCEDURE

The Council held a second reading of the draft general budget of the European Communities for 1994. It took a decision on all the proposed modifications and amendments adopted by the European Parliament at first reading, in the light of the new Interinstitutional Agreement.

The Council expressed the wish that the 1994 budget should remain within the bounds of genuine budgetary discipline, given the efforts that would be needed from the national budgets. It stressed the need to leave substantial margins for the various headings, and reiterated the importance it attached to ensuring budgetary transparency and having specific legal bases.

The Council gave clear political signals to the European Parliament by accepting amendments in the areas of Growth and Employment and Research.

**Expenditure agreed by the Council at the close of its second reading of the 1994 draft budget totals (in millions of ecu, round figures) (1)**

<b>Appropriations for commitment (c/a)</b>	<b>73.112,4</b>
<b>Appropriations for payments (p/a)</b>	<b>69.726,5</b>
<b>of which non-compulsory expenditure:</b>	
<b>c/a 34.126,0</b>	
<b>p/a 30.758,7</b>	

**The appropriations break down as follows (in millions of ecu, round figures):**

	<b>c/a</b>	<b>p/a</b>
<b>Common agricultural policy</b>	<b>35.922,0</b>	<b>35.922,0</b>
<b>Other measures</b>	<b>543,0</b>	<b>543,0</b>
<b>Structural funds</b>	<b>21.323,0</b>	<b>19.416,0</b>
<b>Other structural measures</b>	0	209,1
<b>Cohesion Fund</b>	1.853,0	1.679,0
<b>Research</b>	2.549,5	2.380,8
<b>Other internal policies</b>	1.643,0	1.432,9
<b>External action</b>	4.139,4	3.004,2
inc. PHARE	1.423,0	788,0
<b>Administrative expenditure:</b>		
- Commission	2.424,2	2.424,2
- Other institutions	1.185,3	1.185,3
<b>Monetary reserve</b>	<b>1.000,0</b>	<b>1.000,0</b>
<b>Emergency aid reserve</b>	<b>212,0</b>	<b>212,0</b>
<b>Repayments, guarantees, reserves</b>	<b>318,0</b>	<b>318,0</b>

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(1) Taking account of letter of amendment No 1 to the 1994 DB, these amounts are respectively ECU 73.147,4 million in c/a and ECU 69.745,5 million in p/a of which NCE: ECU 34.161,0 million in c/a and ECU 30.777,7 million in p/a.

(2) Taking account of letter of amendment No 1 to the 1994 DB, these amounts are respectively:

External action: ECU 4.174,4 million in c/a and ECU 3.023,2 million in p/a.

The rates of increase in NCE are thus 3,82% for commitment appropriations and 4,87% for payment appropriations. (3)

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The Council instructed its President to forward the result of its second reading of the draft budget to the European Parliament.

#### FINANCIAL PERSPECTIVE FOR 1994

The Council unanimously adopted a Decision increasing the expenditure ceilings for 1994 by ECU 175 million in commitment appropriations and by ECU 120 million in payment appropriations, in order to meet additional requirements not taken into account when the financial perspective was drawn up, in particular Community measures to contribute to the relaunch of economic activity and the Community contribution to the Middle East peace process.

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(3) Taking account of letter of amendment No 1 to the 1994 DB, the rates of increase in NCE are: 3,93% in c/a and 4,93% in p/a.



**MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS****Community loan of ECU 1250 million to the former USSR: Eligibility of Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan - Council conclusions**

On the Commission's initiative the Council took note of the arrangements concluded by Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan with the Government of the Russian Federation whereby Russia assumes full responsibility for payment of those countries' debt to foreign creditors arising from the debt of the former USSR.

The Council agreed that Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan would be considered eligible to benefit from the Community loan facility of ECU 1250 million granted to countries of the former USSR pursuant to the Council Decision (91/658/EEC) of 16 December 1991 (as interpreted by the Ecofin Council on 10 February 1992) once these arrangements had been agreed by the group of official creditors (Paris Club) of the former USSR.

The Council and the Commission agreed that the loans for Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan would in fact be implemented in accordance with the procedures laid down in the basic Decision and that any reallocation of the sums available under the ECU 1250 facility would be made in close consultation with the appropriate Council bodies.

**Environment**

The Council approved the mandate for the Commission to negotiate a second Protocol to the 1979 Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution concerning the control of sulphur emissions or their transboundary fluxes.

The second stage of the Protocol relating to nitrogen oxide emissions will be the subject of a later Council decision.

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## BUDGET COUNCIL OF 15 NOVEMBER 1993 - SECOND READING

Dans sa deuxieme' lecture, le Conseil a aujourd'hui adopte un projet de budget en s'ecartant sensiblement de sa premiere lecture du mois de juillet.

'On constate avec satisfaction que le nouvel accord interinstitutionnel a marque les esprits - le Conseil s'est montre ouvert a l'egard des positions du Parlement', a commente le commissaire responsable du budget, M. Peter Schmidhuber.

Le Conseil a en effet repris de nombreux amendements que le Parlement a vote en premiere lecture pendant sa session d'octobre.

Son projet de budget prevoit desormais des credits d'engagement de 73,112 milliards d'ecus et des paiements s'elevant a 69,726 milliards. Par rapport a la premiere lecture du Conseil, cela represente une augmentation de 705,5 millions en engagements et 715,5 en paiements. Ainsi, le projet de budget du Conseil se rapproche beaucoup des chiffres de l'APB presente par la Commission et de la premiere lecture du Parlement: dans le premier cas, l'ecart est de -196 millions, dans le deuxième de -347 millions (credits d'engagement).

#### Les decisions par grande rubrique

FEOGA-Garantie : le Conseil confirme sa premiere lecture.

Politiques structurelles : le Conseil n'accepte pas la reduction des credits par le nouvel objectif 4 - adaptation aux transformations structurelles - de 454 a 106 millions d'ecus au profit de l'ancien objectif 3. Le commissaire Schmidhuber avait egalement critique cet amendement du Parlement.

'Le nouvel objectif 4 doit etre dote de moyens considerables pour assurer la credibilite de la reforme des fonds structurels. Il s'agira de combattre le chomage de maniere preventive et cet objectif parait plus important encore a la Commission que d'aider, comme on l'a fait jusqu'alors, a posteriori, lorsque le chomage et son cortege de consequences sociales et financieres ont deja frappe les travailleurs', avait-il alors declare.

#### Rubrique 3 - politiques internes

C'est dans cette rubrique que le changement est le plus remarquable : si en premiere lecture le Conseil a limite la dotation a 3,638 milliards d'ecus (baisse de 12 % par rapport a 1993!), il a vote aujourd'hui des credits s'elevant a 4,192,5 milliards (hausse de plus de 1 % par rapport a 1993).

M. Schmidhuber a toutefois critique l'attitude du Conseil a l'egard de



certaines politiques : dans les actions sociales par exemple, le Conseil propose 107 millions d'ecus (Commission 143 millions, Parlement 155 millions) - une baisse de 5 % par rapport a 1993. Pour la TVHD, les credits ont reduit de plus d'un quart par rapport aux propositions de la Commission et du Parlement (73 millions au lieu de 100).

Point de discussion important, le Conseil a inscrit 45,5 millions d'ecus au titre de l'initiative de croissance et d'emploi ( en suivant l'amendement du Parlement); cet argent servira a bonifier les credits que la BEI accordera a de petites et moyennes entreprises.

#### Rubrique 4 - politiques internes

La discussion a surtout porte sur les credits a affecter a la cooperation transfrontaliere dans le cadre de PHARE - le Parlement avait affecte 150 millions a ce poste, en retirant cet argent aux programmes operationnels. M. Schmidhuber avait averti le Parlement que la dotation de 150 millions d'ecus pour la cooperation transfrontaliere risquait de mettre en danger les programmes deja prevus et ne correspondait pas aux priorites des programmes des pays beneficiaires, et avait rappelé la proposition de la Commission : 20 millions a financer par des credits supplementaires.

Le Conseil a cependant accepte l'amendement du Parlement.

Par ailleurs, le Conseil n'a pas accepte l'inscription des credits TACIS dans une reserve, amendement que le commissaire Schmidhuber avait critique en jugeant qu'elle pouvait etre 'mal comprise', c'est-a-dire interpretee comme un signal politique. 'La Communaute ne devrait cependant pas nourrir le moindre doute sur sa volonte de continuer pleinement son aide au processus de restructuration economique et de democratisation' dans les pays concernes', avait dit le commissaire.

#### Rubrique 5 - administration

Le Conseil n'a pas accepte les 50 nouveaux postes pour l'UCLAF (Unite de coordination de la lutte anti-fraude) demande par la Commission.

Le debat a surtout porte sur le budget pour le Comite des Regions : le Conseil a accepte la demande du Parlement d'établir un projet de budget en bonne et due forme. 12 millions d'ecus sont prevus.

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