



European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

SESSION DOCUMENTS

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A3-0348/90/PART A

REPORT

of the Committee on Budgets

on the aide-mémoire from the Commission of the European Communities on the fixing of the ECSC levy rate and on the drawing up of the ECSC operating budget for 1991
 (SEC(90) 1495 final - C3-0300/90)
 (SEC(90) 1884 final - C3-0389/90)

Rapporteur: Mr Jean-Claude PASTY

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PART A: Motion for a resolution

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A Series: Reports - B Series: Motions for Resolutions, Oral Questions - C Series: Documents received from other Institutions (or Contributions)

* = 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

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By letter of 3 August 1990 the Commission of the European Communities forwarded to the European Parliament its aide-mémoire on the fixing of the ECSC levy rate and on the drawing up of the ECSC operating budget for 1991.

On 8 October 1990 the President of the European Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on Budgets as the committee responsible and to the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and Industrial Policy, the Committee on Energy, Research and Technology and the Committee on Social Affairs, Employment and the Working Environment for their opinions.

By letter of 15 November 1990 the Commission of the European Communities forwarded a draft amending ECSC operating budget for 1991.

At its meeting of 31 May 1990 the Committee on Budgets had appointed Mr Pasty rapporteur.

At its meetings of 28 September, 27 November and 3 December 1990 it considered the Commission proposal and draft report. At the last meeting it adopted the motion for a resolution unopposed with 1 abstention.

The following were present for the vote: Von der Vring, chairman; Lamassoure and Cornelissen, vice-chairmen; Pasty, rapporteur; Arias Cañete, Böge, Cochet, Colom I Naval, Desama, Elles, Goedmakers, Langes, Larive (for Holzfuß), Lo Giudice, Marques Mendes, Miranda da Silva, Theato, Tomlinson, Wynn and Zavvos.

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The opinions of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and Industrial Policy, the Committee on Energy, Research and Technology and the Committee on Social Affairs, Employment and the Working Environment are attached.

The report was tabled on 4 December 1990.

The deadline for tabling amendments will be announced by the President in plenary sitting.

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

A

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

embodying the opinion of the European Parliament on the aide-mémoire from the Commission of the European Communities on the fixing of the ECSC levy rate and on the drawing up of the ECSC operating budget for 1991

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the aide-mémoire from the Commission on the fixing of the ECSC levy rate and on the drawing up of the ECSC operating budget for 1991 (SEC(90) 1495 final - C3-0300/90),
 - having regard to the draft amending ECSC operating budget for 1991 (SEC(90) 1884 final - C3-0389/90),
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Budgets and the opinions of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and Industrial Policy, the Committee on Energy, Research and Technology and the Committee on Social Affairs, Employment and the Working Environment (A3-0348/90),
- A. whereas the ECSC operating budget for 1991 marks the beginning of what may be the final decade of existence of this Community, since under normal circumstances the Treaty of Paris instituting the ECSC will expire in 2002,
- B. whereas the ECSC operating budget for 1991 is the first budget to take account of the incorporation into the Community of the five new Federal German Länder,
- C. whereas the ECSC operating budget covers only a very small proportion of the activities of that Community, the vast majority of which is made up of borrowing and lending operations,
- D. recalling that, for several years, it has been calling for:
- ECSC borrowing and lending operations to be included in the budget,
 - the ECSC operating budget and the general budget of the Communities to be merged in a single budget,
 - the ECSC operating budget to be presented, accordingly, as a genuine budget with its appropriations divided into commitment appropriations and payment appropriations,
- E. whereas, despite additional expenditure connected with the incorporation into the Community of the five new Federal German Länder and other expenditure in other sectors, the readjustment of resources has given rise to a surplus of 14 m ECU for 1991,

As regards the Commission proposals for the 1991 budget

1. Welcomes the significant increase in aid to research, and urges the Commission to maintain this level of commitment and to submit a study on the fostering of research in coming years in the steel and, more particularly, coal sectors with a view to establishing the volume of resources needed, as part of a genuine Community energy policy, to maintain the position of coal as a viable energy source in the long term;
2. Welcomes the fact that in various areas of expenditure the notion of specific environmental impact has been taken into account at considerable cost to the budget;
3. Notes the significant increase in resources as a result of the additional levy for the former GDR, the cancellation of commitments and the freeing of unused resources from the previous financial year;
4. Notes, despite the volume of expenditure, that the additional resources have given rise to a surplus of 14 m ECU;
5. Refuses to accept this surplus and, therefore, in their current form, the Commission proposals concerning the statement of revenue and expenditure;
6. Rejects the Commission proposal to maintain the current levy rate of 0.31% which has given rise to a surplus of 14 m ECU;
7. Calls on the Commission, therefore, to reduce the levy rate for the 1991 budget to 0.29%, a measure which would remove the surplus shown in its proposals without affecting the overall volume of expenditure;

As regards the general problems affecting the ECSC

8. Looks to the Commission, in the light of the developments in Eastern Europe and the Gulf crisis, rapidly to draw up an overall energy strategy and to inform Parliament of its main components;
9. Urges the Commission to submit to it immediately any information and any reports, studies or other documents which have already been drawn up in the Commission, by agreement with the Consultative Committee, on the future of the ECSC Treaty, which expires in 2002;
10. Asks to be involved in any steps which deal more specifically with the budgetary and financial consequences of the policy decisions taken;
11. Calls for the setting-up of a working party that would bring together the various parliamentary committees concerned and would be responsible for studying the future development of the European Coal and Steel Community;
12. Hopes that policy decisions concerning the future of the ECSC will include increased funding for the operating budget in forthcoming years through the use of reserves, as a result of a gradual reduction in total borrowing, and that levy rates will consequently be set annually;
13. Instructs its President to forward this resolution and the decisions of the European Parliament concerning the fixing of the ECSC levy rate and the drawing up of the ECSC operating budget for 1991 to the Commission.

