

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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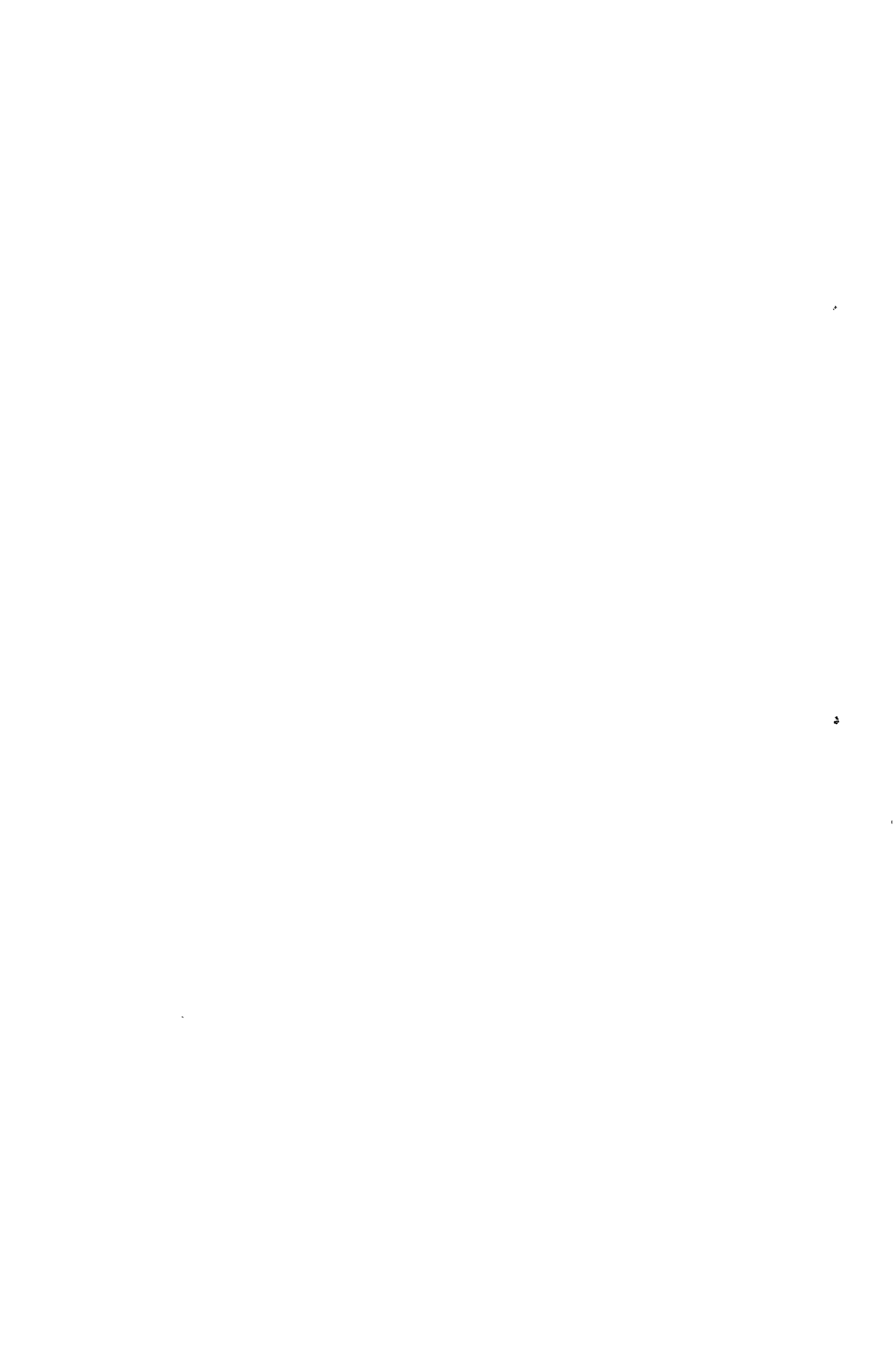
Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Budgets

on the draft general budget of the European
Communities for the financial year 1984,
Section III - COMMISSION, as modified by the
Council

Rapporteur: Mrs C. SCRIVENER

PE 87.960/fin.



On 22/23 November 1983 the Council acted on the draft general budget of the European Communities for the financial year 1984, Section III - COMMISSION, as amended and modified by the Parliament at its sitting of 27 October 1983.

At its meetings of 28/29 November 1983 and 5/6/7 December 1983 the Committee on Budgets considered the modified budget.

After having re-instated, in whole or in part, some of the amendments modified by the Council, the committee adopted the following motion for a resolution by 14 votes to 2 with 2 abstentions.

The following were present: Mr LANGE, chairman; Mr NOTENBOOM, vice-chairman; Mrs SCRIVENER, rapporteur; Mr ADONNINO, Mr ARNDT, Mr BAILLOT, Mr BARBAGLI, Mr BROK (deputizing for Mr SCHÖN), Mr CROUX, Mr FICH, Mr GOUTHIER, Mrs HOFF, Mr KELLETT-BOWMAN, Mr LALUMIERE, Mr LANGES, Mr LOUWES, Mrs NIKOLAOU, Mr PFENNIG, Mr PROTOPAPADAKIS, Mr SABY and Mr VAN ROMPUY (deputizing for Mr SIMONNET).

The explanatory statement will be presented orally by the rapporteur.

This report was tabled on 14 December 1983.

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The Committee on Budgets hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution:

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

on the draft general budget of the European Communities for the financial year 1984, as modified by the Council

The European Parliament,

- A. having regard to the draft budget (Doc. 1-800/83) amended and modified by Parliament in first reading on 27 October and modified by the Council on 22 and 23 November 1983 (Doc. 1-1100/83),
- B. recalling its resolution of 9 March 1983 on the 'guidelines for the 1984 budget'¹, in which it set out in detail its priorities for the coming financial year,
- C. recalling its resolution of 27 October 1983 on the draft general budget of the European Communities for the financial year 1984 (Section III - Commission), in which it expressed its opinion on the draft budget and gave the reasons for the proposed modifications and draft amendments which it adopted,
- D. having regard to the failure of the budgetary conciliation procedure between the Council and a European Parliament delegation;
- E. having regard to the report of its Committee on Budgets (Doc. 1-1165/83) and the amendments adopted by Parliament,

¹ OJ No. C 96 of 11.4.1983

BUDGETARY POLICY OF PARLIAMENT

1. Has amended the Council's draft budget in the first and second readings in order to achieve a better balance in the allocation of appropriations to the whole range of Community policies and to avoid jeopardizing the prospects for the development of the Community;

CONTAINING AGRICULTURAL EXPENDITURE

2. (a) Cannot comprehend the fact that the Council has not accepted the main points of Parliament's proposal to constitute an 'agricultural reserve' equivalent to 5% of the appropriations under the EAGGF-Guarantee Section; underlines once again that the purpose of this reserve was to encourage steps to introduce savings and the re-establishment of a balance in the expenditure entered in the budget and to guarantee the financial aspect of the decision on prices in respect of the forthcoming marketing year;

(b) Calls urgently on the Council to take a decision, at the latest by 31 March 1984, on the reorganization of the common agricultural policy in order to stop the expenditure due to the production of structural surpluses, which the Community budget is no longer able to meet;

(c) Emphasizes that if such a limitation of expenditure were not based on a well-prepared reform, it would be imposed anyway by the insufficiency of the financial resources of the Community and could then lead to a calling into question of what the Community has achieved so far, the holding up of new policies and the putting off of the increase in own resources;

EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL POLICY

3. (a) Remains convinced of the need to enter in the 1984 budget commitment appropriations intended for specific measures;

(b) Through this initiative it aims to

- underline the need for a Community industrial policy which can make European industries competitive throughout the Community and resolve the social and regional problems created by the current stagnation of the economy;

- help to restore balance to the expenditure entered in the budget;

(c) Is aware nevertheless that the commitment appropriations which it earmarks for this policy can only be utilized when there are resources available;

FINANCIAL COMPENSATION MEASURES

4. (a) Notes that the European Council of Athens failed to provide an answer to the financial problems of the Community; recalls its desire to see a lasting solution to the question of financial compensation measures; remains convinced that a final decision must be made before 31 March 1984 to avoid discrimination against any of the Member States;

(b) Stresses the Community nature of these appropriations by classifying them as non-compulsory expenditure in accordance with the views it has expressed on previous occasions, in particular concerning the 1983 budgets;

(c) Considers that, in this way, Parliament will be able to have a say as regards the objectives, implementation and monitoring of the programmes;

PARLIAMENT'S FOUR PRIORITY AREAS

5. Has decided, after having taken note of the arguments advanced by the Council, to reinstate the essential points of its amendments from the first reading which were designed to ensure, in a realistic and consistent manner, the implementation of the budgetary guidelines set out in its resolution of 9 March 1983, namely the combating of unemployment and hunger in the world;

BORROWING AND LENDING POLICY

6. Attaches particular importance, as in previous years, to the borrowing and lending activities of the Community; confirms its desire to see an annex entered in the budget as already proposed by the Commission in the preliminary draft budget;

BUDGET REVENUE

7. (a) Emphasizes strongly that Parliament, as the representative of all the citizens of the Community, must play a prominent role in the determination of revenue and that it must therefore be able to decide on revenue on the same basis as the Council given that the Treaties do not contain any provision limiting Parliament's power in this field; considers that this is an essential principle which it is all the more important to safeguard given that Community expenditure is now reaching the ceiling of own resources;

(b) Therefore, cannot accept the reasons put forward by the Council for its rejection of Parliament's amendments from the first reading concerning revenue;

THE 1984 BUDGET

8. Considers that in the current international and European economic situation, the Community must provide itself with a budget which serves as a basis for its operation, while acknowledging that this budget requires corrections and asks the Commission to submit proposals to this effect by 15 January 1984.

9. Believes that in the face of the Council's inability to take decisions and the Commission's inability to exercise its right to submit proposals, Parliament has a duty to try to define some progress even in the difficulties of the present situation.