

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Budgets

on the Computer Centre

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Rapporteur: Mr R. PÊTRE

By its decision of 9 May 1973 on the 'giving of a discharge to the Commission in respect of the implementation of the European Communities' budget for the financial year 1970 and on the Report of the Audit Board', the European Parliament set up a committee of enquiry within the framework of the Committee on Budgets with the task of working out a constructive solution with the Commission to the problems of the Luxembourg Computer Centre (OJ L 145, 2 June 1973, p. 32, para. 17).

On 21 May 1973 the Committee on Budgets decided to assign to its Sub-Committee on the Budget of the Communities (control of implementation) the duties of committee of enquiry.

On 13 July 1973 the Committee on Budgets appointed Mr PETRE rapporteur.

The Sub-Committee considered the problems connected with the Computer Centre at its meetings of 18 February, 7 June, 15 October 1974 and 15 January 1975.

On 16 January 1975 it forwarded its findings to the Bureau. At the same time it asked for permission to present an oral report to Parliament through the Committee on Budgets.

The Committee on Budgets considered the motion for a resolution and adopted it unanimously on 3 February 1975.

The committee instructed its rapporteur to present the report orally on the basis of the work carried out by the committee of enquiry and the constructive conclusions reached by the latter in cooperation with the Commission.

Present: Mr Aigner, vice-chairman and acting chairman; Mr Durand, vice-chairman; Mr Pêtre, rapporteur; Mr Artzinger, Mr Boano, Mr Cointat, Mr Fabbrini, Mr Hansen, Mr Houdet, Mr Lagorce, Mr Lautenschlager, Mr Maigaard, Mr Notenboom, Mr Nyborg (deputizing for Mr de la Malène), Mr Shaw, Mr Terrenoire and Mr Vernaschi.

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

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

on the Computer Centre

The European Parliament

- having regard to its decision of 9 May 1973 requesting the submission of a report on the problems affecting the functioning of the Computer Centre and setting up a committee of enquiry to seek a constructive solution to these problems with the Commission,
 - having regard to the work of the Sub-Committee on the Budget of the Communities (control of implementation) entrusted with this task by the Committee on Budgets at its meeting of 13 July 1973,
 - having regard to the report from the Commission forwarded to this sub-committee of Parliament on 30 September 1974,
 - having regard to the statements received and the information obtained by the rapporteur on behalf of the Sub-committee on the Budget of the Communities (control of implementation); whereas data processing is a new technique destined to play an increasingly important role in administration; having regard to the need to move towards optimal utilization of data-processing equipment,
1. Stresses that the smooth running of the Centre is of prime importance in view of developments in data processing and its increasing role in the administrative work of the Community;
 2. Recalls its own concern, when adopting the budget for the 1975 financial year, that the Commission should be endowed with the necessary staff and appropriations to improve the Community's computer system;¹

¹In its amendments to the draft 1975 budget, Parliament increased certain appropriations for computer activities, totalling 877,480 u.a.; these amendments allowed:

- the creation of 30 extra posts for the Computer Centre, (amendment No. 40);
- an increase in appropriations for the Centre (Article 224) of 447,000 u.a. (amendment No. 36);
- an increase in appropriations for the ECDOC programme (Article 226) of 100,000 u.a. (amendment No. 37)

3. Notes with satisfaction the steps taken by the Commission to remedy the Centre's operating problems and believes that these measures can give practical effect to the desire for improvement felt by those responsible for the Centre; notes in particular among these measures:
 - the reform of analysis and programming units;
 - the establishment of a Management Committee;
 - the establishment of a 'utilization' department at the Centre.
4. Believes that the Commission's efforts at improvement could usefully follow the main recommendations reached by the sub-committee, in particular:
 - functional unity of the Computer Centre;
 - unified authority, management and responsibility in defining and implementing the Community's data processing policy;
 - clarity in the budget concerning the use of appropriations earmarked for data-processing activities;
5. Requests the Commission to forward to the parliamentary sub-committee responsible the documents at present being drawn up concerning:
 - the future organization of the Centre;
 - the development plan for the Centre;
 - the detailed estimates of foreseeable requirements of appropriations and staff for the financial years 1976 to 1978;
6. Requests the Commission in addition to forward to the parliamentary sub-committee responsible: (1) a detailed account of appropriations provided for in the 1975 budget for developing the Community's data processing activities as regards estimated expenditure on staff (salaries and training), equipment (computers, other equipment, supplies), premises (hiring and upkeep), expenditure on program design and implementation, external contracts, etc.; (2) an annual

activity report giving details of the use made of appropriations and the utilization ratio of the data-processing equipment.

7. Instructs the sub-committee responsible to follow, particularly through information provided by the Commission, the process of renewing the Centre's data processing equipment;
8. Hopes that the Commission will continue its efforts to promote the essential coordination of the activities of the various Community Institutions on data-processing equipment and operations and instructs its sub-committee to follow the progress of this coordination;
9. Recalls the importance of the proposals put forward by the special committee of enquiry (ad hoc committee) in the light of Parliament's increased powers of control over Community expenditure;
10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission of the European Communities.

