

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1975-1976

14 November 1975

DOCUMENT 358/75/ANNEX

OPINION

of the Committee on Budgets

on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (Doc. 332/75) for a decision in regard to the intervention of the European Social Fund in favour of persons occupied in the textile and clothing sectors

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON BUDGETS

Letter from the Chairman to Mr A. Bertrand, chairman of the Committee on Social Affairs and Employment

Luxembourg, 13 November 1975

Dear Mr Bertrand,

At its meeting of 12 November 1975, the Committee on Budgets¹ considered the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (Doc. 332/75) for a decision in regard to the intervention of the European Social Fund in favour of persons occupied in the textile and clothing sectors: prolongation and extension to the clothing industry.

The Committee on Budgets was of the opinion that the drop in employment in these sectors over the period 1971 - 1974 - 15% in the textile and 10% in the clothing sector - revealed the seriousness of their employment problem. The causes of this trend and the difficulties still being experienced in these sectors - growing competition, changes in the world market, the effect of technical innovation and the existence of structural problems - indicate that these factors, which led to the Council decision of 19 December 1972, will continue to make themselves felt.

The Committee on Budgets regretted that the present proposal was submitted so late, although the Commission had long known that the date fixed for extending the Social Fund to persons employed in the textile sector was 1 January 1976. A proposal for prolonging these measures ought to have been submitted by the Commission for an opinion much earlier. The proposal to extend the decision to the clothing industry should also have been submitted earlier this year.

On the basis of a probable 31,000 to 34,000 recipients and of the Commission's estimate, based on previous experience, of an average of 670 u.a. per person per year, expenditure for the European Communities' budget will amount to between 20 m u.a. and 22 m u.a. for a whole year.

Taking all these considerations into account, the Committee on Budgets approved this proposal. However, with a view especially to keeping a check on the social and economic effectiveness of these measures and in the light of the urgent need for more precise estimates of their probable budgetary implications, the Committee on Budgets has asked the Commission to keep it informed during 1976 of developments in this area.

Yours sincerely,

Edwin Lange