

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

11579/80 (Presse 173)

670th meeting of the Council

- Budget -

Brussels, 24 and 25 November 1980

President: Mr Jacques SANTER
Minister of Finance,
Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

Netherlands:

Mr D.F. van der MEI

State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr Nigel LAWSON

Financial Secretary to the
Treasury

Commission:

Mr Christopher TUGENDHAT

Member

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Also present as an observer was:

Greece:

Mr Miltiades EVERT

Minister for the Economy

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DRAFT GENERAL BUDGET FOR 1981

In the course of its discussion on the preparation of the general budget of the Communities for 1981, the Council held a meeting with a delegation from the European Parliament led by Mrs VEIL, President of the European Parliament. The Parliament delegation was composed of the following:
Mr LANGE, Chairman of the Committee on Budgets, Mr NOTENBOOM, Mr SPINELLI and Mr ROSSI, Deputy-Chairman of the Committee on Budgets, Mr ADONNINO, Rapporteur for the 1981 budget (Commission), Mr ANSQUER, Rapporteur for the 1981 budget (other Institutions), Mr TAYLOR, Mr BONDE and Mr AIGNER, members of the Committee on Budgets, Mr AIGNER also being present in his capacity as Chairman of the Committee on Budgetary Control.

This meeting enabled the Parliament delegation to explain the European Parliament's priorities in drawing up their amendments and proposed amendments to the draft general budget of the Communities for 1981. This useful dialogue, following up that conducted at the first meeting on the 1981 budget on 24 September 1980, continued in a broad exchange of views between various Ministers and members of the Parliament delegation.

Following this exchange of views, the President of the Council said that the Council would proceed without delay with discussing the amendments and proposed amendments to the draft budget in full cognizance of the views and wishes of the European Parliament

The Council then proceeded with an item-by-item examination of the amendments and proposed amendments to the draft budget, keeping in mind the comments made by the delegation from the European Parliament.

With regard to the most important items under the heading of non-compulsory expenditure (NCE) in the draft budget, the Council signified its approval to the following increases for commitment appropriations in relation to the draft approved by the Council in September.

European Regional Development Fund:	+ 140 MEUA
European Social Fund	: + 40 MEUA
Energy policy	: + 47.3 MEUA
Aid for non-associated developing countries:	+ 50 MEUA

The increases decided on by the Council for non-compulsory expenditure total 281 MEUA. The Council moreover decided to suggest to the European Parliament that it fix a new rate for payment appropriations.

The Council also signified its approval of a reduction of the order of 51,250,000 EUA in expenditure under the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund, mainly covering aid for skimmed milk powder for use as feed for calves.

Following this discussion, the Council drew up the draft general budget of the European Communities for 1981. The draft budget thus amended by the Council will be forwarded to the European Parliament for debate at its next plenary session which will take place in Luxembourg from 15 to 19 December

