

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1974-1975

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Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Budgets

on the internal rules of procedure for consideration of the/draft general budget of
the Communities for the 1975 financial year

Rapporteur : Mr G. SPENALE

PE 37.851/fin.

By letter of 14 June 1974 the President of the European Parliament forwarded to the chairman of the Committee on Budgets a decision of the enlarged Bureau of 4 June 1974 inviting the Committee on Budgets to submit to the Parliament a motion for a resolution on the internal rules of procedure for consideration of the draft general budget of the Communities for the 1975 financial year.

At its meeting of 1 July 1974 the Committee on Budgets appointed Mr Spénale rapporteur.

At its meeting of 5 September 1974 the Committee on Budgets unanimously adopted the motion for a resolution.

The following were present: Mr Spénale, chairman and rapporteur, Mr Aigner and Mr Durand, vice-chairmen, Mr Fabbrini, Miss Flesch, Mr Gerlach, Mr Kirk (deputizing for Lord Bessborough), Mr de la Malene, Mr Radoux, Mr Schmidt, Mr Shaw (deputizing for Mr Pounder) and Mr Terrenoire.

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

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

on the internal rules of procedure for consideration of the draft general budget of the Communities for the 1975 financial year

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Treaty of 22 April 1970 amending Certain Budgetary Provisions of the Treaties establishing the European Communities and the Treaty establishing a Single Council and a Single Commission of the European Communities,
- recalling that the provisions of the Treaty of 22 April 1970 are applicable to the procedures for the 1975 budget of the Communities,
- regretting, however, that it has not been possible to amend the provisions of this treaty before its entry into force, in spite of the undertakings entered into by the Commission in its new proposals on the strengthening of the budgetary powers of the European Parliament,
- considering that if Article 78 of the ECSC Treaty, Article 203 of the EEC Treaty and Article 177 of the Euratom Treaty are to be applied, it will be necessary to lay down the following specific rules,
 1. Has agreed provisionally to consider and establish the budget of the Communities for the financial year 1975 in accordance with the provisions set out in Articles 1 to 6 below;
 2. Instructs its President to take all the necessary internal measures for the implementation of the rules contained in these articles and to inform it of his action.

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Article 1 (Working documents)

1. The following documents shall be printed and distributed:
 - (a) the communication from the Commission of the Communities on the maximum rate laid down in paragraph 8 of Article 78 of the ECSC Treaty, Article 203 of the EEC Treaty, and Article 177 of the Euratom Treaty.
 - (b) the proposal from the Commission of the Communities fixing a new rate;

- (c) the proposal from the Council fixing a new rate;
 - (d) a summary by the Council of its deliberations on the amendments and modifications adopted by Parliament to the draft budget;
 - (e) the modifications made by the Council to the amendments adopted by Parliament to the draft budget.
2. These documents shall be referred to the appropriate committee. Any committee concerned may deliver an opinion.
 3. Where other committees have been asked for their opinions, the President shall fix the time-limit within which these shall be communicated to the appropriate committee.

Article 2 (Rate)

1. Subject to the conditions set out below, any representative may table and speak in support of proposals for decisions fixing a new maximum rate.
2. Such proposals shall be admissible only if they are presented in writing and bear the signatures of at least five Representatives or if they are tabled on behalf of a political group or committee.
3. The President shall fix a time-limit for the tabling of such proposals.
4. The appropriate committee shall report on these proposals before they are discussed in plenary sitting.
5. Parliament shall then vote on the proposals.

Proposals shall be adopted only if they receive the support of a majority of the current Members of Parliament and three-fifths of the votes cast.

Article 3 (Consideration of the draft budget - first stage)

1. Subject to the conditions set out below, any Representative may table and speak in support of :
 - draft amendments to the draft budget;
 - proposed modifications to the draft budget.
2. Draft amendments shall be admissible only if they are presented in writing, bear the signatures of at least five Representatives or are submitted on behalf of a political group or committee, specify the budget

heading to which they refer and ensure the maintenance of a balance between revenue and expenditure.

The same provisions shall apply for proposed modifications.

3. The President shall fix a time-limit for the submission of draft amendments and proposed modifications.
4. The appropriate committee shall deliver its opinion on the texts submitted before they are discussed in plenary sitting.
5. Draft amendments to the estimates of the European Parliament which are similar to those already rejected by Parliament at the time the estimates were drawn up shall be discussed only where the appropriate committee has delivered a favourable opinion.
6. Notwithstanding Rule 26(1) of the Rules of Procedure, Parliament shall take separate and successive votes on :
 - each draft amendment and each proposed modification,
 - each section of the draft budget,
 - the draft budget as a whole,
 - a motion for a resolution concerning the draft budget.
7. Articles, chapters, titles and sections of the draft budget in respect of which no draft amendments or proposed modifications have been submitted shall be adopted.
8. Draft amendments shall require for adoption the votes of a majority of the current Members of Parliament.

Proposed modifications shall require for adoption an absolute majority of the votes cast.
9. If Parliament has adopted draft amendments that would raise the expenditure shown in the draft budget above the maximum rate laid down, the appropriate committee shall be required to submit to Parliament a proposal laying down a new maximum rate as provided in paragraph 8(4) of Article 78 of the ECSC Treaty, Article 203 of the EEC Treaty and Article 177 of the Euratom Treaty. The proposals shall be put to the vote after the various sections of the draft budget have been voted on. It shall be adopted, only if it receives the support of a majority of the current Members of Parliament and three-fifths of the votes cast. Where the proposal is rejected the draft budget as a whole shall be referred to the appropriate committee.
10. If Parliament has not amended the draft budget, adopted proposed modifications or adopted a proposal rejecting the draft budget, the President shall declare the budget to have been finally adopted.

If Parliament has amended the draft budget or adopted proposed modifications, the draft budget thus amended or accompanied by proposed modifications shall be forwarded to the Council.

11. The minutes of proceedings of the sitting at which the Parliament delivered its opinion on the draft budget shall be forwarded to the Council and Commission.

Article 4 (Agreement or disagreement by the Council)

1. The following documents shall be printed and distributed:
 - the position of the Council on the proposal fixing a new maximum rate,
 - the communication from the Council informing the Assembly of the fact that it has not modified any of the amendments adopted by it and that it has accepted the proposed modifications.
2. Where the Council has informed the Assembly of its agreement to the increased rate, the President shall declare in open sitting that the modified rate has been adopted.

If this is not the case, the Council's position shall be referred to the appropriate committee.

3. Where the Council has informed the Assembly that it has not modified its amendments and that it has accepted its proposed modifications, the President shall declare in open sitting that the budget has been adopted. He shall ensure that it is published in the Official Journal of the Communities.

Article 5 (Consideration of the Council's deliberations - second stage)

1. If the Council has modified one or more of the amendments adopted by the Assembly, the text thus modified by the Council shall be referred to the appropriate committee.
2. Subject to the conditions set out below, any Representative may table and speak in support of draft amendments to the text as modified by the Council.
3. Such drafts shall be admissible only if they are presented in writing, bear the signatures of at least five Representatives or are submitted on behalf of a political group or committee and ensure maintenance of a balance between revenue and expenditure.

A draft amendment shall not be admissible unless it refers exclusively to the text modified by the Council.

4. The President shall fix a time-limit for the tabling of draft amendments.
5. The appropriate committee shall deliver its opinion on the texts modified by the Council and on the draft amendments to the modified texts.

6. Draft amendments tabled to the texts modified by the Council shall be put to the vote. They shall be adopted only if they receive the support of a majority of the current Members of Parliament and three-fifths of the votes cast. If they are adopted, the text modified by the Council shall be deemed rejected. If they are rejected, the text modified by the Council shall be adopted.
7. The Council's summary of the results of its deliberations on the proposed modifications adopted by Parliament shall be discussed and a motion for a resolution may then be put to the vote.
8. Upon completion of the procedure provided for in this Article, and subject to the provisions of Article 6, the President shall declare the budget to have been finally adopted. He shall ensure that it is published in the Official Journal.

Article 6 (Total rejection)

1. Five representatives, a political group or a committee may submit a proposal to reject the budget as a whole. Such a proposal shall be admissible only if it is drawn up and presented within the time-limit set by the President.
2. The appropriate committee shall deliver its opinion on such a proposal, which will then be voted on in plenary sitting.

It shall be adopted only if it receives the support of a majority of the current Members of Parliament and three-fifths of the votes cast. If it is adopted, the draft budget as a whole shall be referred back to the Council.

