

# COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

GENERAL BUDGET 1981

COM(81) 110 final

SECTION III - COMMISSION

Brussels, 9th March 1981

TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS No 1/81  
(compulsory expenditure)

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100 CHAPTER 100 - PROVISIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

100 CHAPTER 49 - OTHER REPAYMENTS

Article 491 - Compensatory repayments to Greece

6 540 000 ECU

The Financial Controller approved this proposal on 29 January 1981 in accordance with Article 21(4) of the Financial Regulation and certified that the appropriations are available.

## G R O U N D S

On 27 October 1980, the Council adopted Regulations (EEC) Nos 2743/80<sup>1</sup> and 2744/80<sup>1</sup> to implement the agreement on the United Kingdom contribution to the budget of the Communities reached at the Council meeting (Foreign Affairs) on 29 and 30 May. The first Regulation amended Regulation (EEC) No 1172/76<sup>2</sup> setting up a financial mechanism and the second established supplementary measures in favour of the United Kingdom. Appropriations of 469 000 000 ECU for the financial mechanism and 855 000 000 ECU for the supplementary measures were included in the 1981 budget to cover the 1980 financial year. 1981 budget to cover 1980 financial year provides that Greece also would not contribute to this expenditure.

However, the way the budget is financed means that any change in expenditure gives rise to a change in the financial contributions to be paid by Greece, which must therefore be compensated in respect of the expenditure mentioned above. Under Article 127 of the Act of Accession of 28 May 1979<sup>3</sup>, 70% of Greece's contribution has already been repaid and on 19 November the Commission submitted a draft Council Regulation to provide a legal basis for the repayment of the remaining 30%. In its opinion delivered on 16 December, Parliament considered that there was no need to provide a legal basis since, as these repayments could be added to those already made under Article 127 of the Act of Accession, the budget itself provided the basis. It therefore invited the Commission to withdraw its proposal. The Commission did not do so and the Council, which agreed that a legal basis was required, adopted Regulation (EEC) No 284/81<sup>4</sup> on 20 January.

The budgetary authority entered an appropriation of 6 540 000 ECU to cover this repayment in Chapter 100 of the 1981 budget and made a token entry under Article 491 (Compensatory repayments to Greece). To allow the Commission to make these repayments, the sum must be transferred to the Article. Article 2 of the Regulation states that the first repayment must be made in April 1981.

In its preliminary draft amending and supplementary budget No 1 for 1980<sup>5</sup>, the Commission stated that it would make the necessary proposals to adjust the appropriations entered in the 1981 budget when the final cost of the supplementary measures for the United Kingdom for 1980 was known. This adjustment would also give rise to an adjustment in the compensatory repayments due to Greece. A proposal to amend the amount of the appropriations under Article 491 will be included in the abovementioned proposals and will be submitted to the budgetary authority at a suitable point during the 1981 financial year.

<sup>1</sup>OJ No L 284, 29 October 1980.

<sup>2</sup>OJ No L 131, 20 May 1976.

<sup>3</sup>OJ No L 291, 19 November 1979.

<sup>4</sup>OJ No L 32, 4 February 1981.

<sup>5</sup>COM(80)667, 29 October 1980.