

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1981 - 1982

10 MARCH 1981

DOCUMENT 1-4/81

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr J.M. TAYLOR, Mr FORTH, Mr NEWTON DUNN,
Mr R. JACKSON, Mr BALFOUR, Mr HUTTON, Sir Fred WARNER,
Mr SIMMONDS, Mr WELSH, Mr HOPPER, Sir John STEWART-
CLARK, Mr SELIGMAN, Mr TURNER, Lord O'HAGAN,
Lady ELLES, Mr PRICE, Mr C. JACKSON, Mr FERGUSSON,
Mr JOHNSON, Mr DALZIEL, Mr BATTERSBY, Mr KELLETT-BOWMAN
and Mr HARRIS

with request for urgent debate pursuant to Rule 14

on the 1982 budget guidelines for the institutions
other than the Commission

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Committee on Budgets' reports on the budget proposals for Section I¹, II², IV³ and V⁴ for 1980 and 1981,
 - whereas all the institutions, and particularly Parliament as a result of the expansion of its work following direct elections and its membership being more than doubled, have over the last four years undergone a tremendous growth in staff and expenditure,
 - whereas the growth in staff and expenditure has taken place without any coherent investigation of the need and the possibility of achieving savings as proposed in the report on the Parliament's budget for 1980,
 - whereas the governments of the Member States have been requested to decide on the seat of the institutions by June 1981,
 - whereas Parliament has its specific responsibility deriving from its budgetary autonomy,
1. Instructs its Committee on Budgets to set up a working party in order to ensure the most cost-saving and rational functioning of the Parliament, and to increase its efficiency in carrying out its role as a Community institution, and to report back to Parliament before the adoption of the 1982 budget;
 2. Without prejudice to the budgetary powers and powers of scrutiny vested in Parliament, urges the Council, the Economic and Social Committee, the Court of Justice and the Court of Auditors to conduct similar investigations in their own institutions and to forward copies of the resulting reports to Parliament (whilst noting and respecting the inter-institutional agreement with the Council);

¹ Docs. 186/79, 276/80 and 546/80

² Docs. 446/79, 447/79, 541/80 and 542/80

³ Docs. 455/79 and 543/80

⁴ Docs. 445/79 and 544/80

3. Proposes, save in exceptional circumstances, in the light of the above that any expansion, conversion or upgrading of posts should not be effected before the investigation proposed above has been carried out;
4. Is convinced that it is possible to avoid increases in staff and administrative expenditure for all institutions;
5. Recommends to the Bureau and the Committee on Budgets that they examine all requests for appropriations in the light of the actual expenditure in 1980 and 1981 and not in the light of commitment appropriations for 1981; proposes in this respect that a goal be set for limiting expenditure levels so that requests for appropriations will be dealt with on the basis of a freeze, wherever possible, in expenditure in each budget line;
6. Calls on the Committee on Budgets to continue the work begun during the 1980 and 1981 budget procedures to create uniform terminology and greater transparency in the administrative budgets, particularly by showing under Item 3707 (expenditure on contacts between Members of the European Parliament and Members of the Parliaments of third countries) the total cost of such activities, and by showing under Item 1301 (staff mission expenses) details for each present location of Parliament's work;
7. Insists that expenditure made under national or other arrangements cannot be refunded;
8. Insists that expenses in connection with travelling of delegations of Parliament are limited to a minimum, and instructs its Budgets Committee to scrutinize the budget for delegations with this aim in mind;
9. Proposes that, subject to any existing contractual liabilities, any proposals for rent increases be frozen until the governments come to a decision on the seat of the institutions;
10. Proposes that the Staff Regulations, which have in practice proved to contain certain items causing wasteful expenditure and reducing efficiency, in particular through diminishing staff flexibility, should be reviewed by Parliament which will propose amendments to the Commission for adoption by the Council;

11. Requests that the working party of the Committee on Budgets, in order to ensure a smooth functioning of the Community institutions, examine whether the various administrations could not cooperate with a view to avoiding unnecessary expenditure and extravagant administrative practices; asks that the following areas be made the subject of a particularly critical examination: recruitment costs, purchase of paper and office equipment, sale of movable goods and publications, typing and printing expenses, travel and transport expenses, administrative services performed by outside firms on a contractual basis; the question should be specially examined whether tenders are invited on an adequate scale and whether advantage is taken of discount arrangements;

12. Calls on the various administrations to require that applications not only contain a detailed justification but also state the various alternatives from which the preferred proposal has been chosen.

JUSTIFICATION

The Parliament must adopt the 1982 budget guidelines for the Parliament itself and the other institutions at the same session as the guidelines for the Commission (Mr Spinelli's report Doc. 1-936/80).