

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1981 - 1982

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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr PANNELLA and Mrs BONINO

pursuant to Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure

on the need for sound financial management
(Article 206a of the EEC Treaty) of the
expenditure of the European Parliament

The European Parliament,

Whereas:

- (1) The EP spends more than 500 million Bfrs each year for rent in the places of work, not to mention the considerable expenditure on maintenance which is often carried out by sub-contractors.
- (2) The EP has recently signed a 25-year lease to rent a single information office in London at a cost of 10,230,000 Bfrs per annum. In Paris the rent for the same purpose is 6,766,500 Bfrs per annum. (In Rome the EP Information Office costs about 306,500 Bfrs per annum).
- (3) In 1981 the EP proposes to spend about 15,700,000 Bfrs simply for entertainment and ancilliary expenses.
- (4) Although the EP has 35 cars which are continually replaced, the 1981 budget provides for the purchase of a further 16 cars and, in addition, 18 million Bfrs are provided for the hire of cars in the places of work of the EP.
- (5) During the last few months of 1980 - despite the astronomical sums paid in rent - the EP used rooms in the major hotels in Brussels, paying for these rooms up to 300,000 Bfrs for a few hours, not to mention the entertainment expenses, which were commensurate with the costs of the rooms.
- (6) The EP spent more than 18 million Bfrs for its delegation, chaired by Mrs VEIL, to Latin America. This is all the more outrageous if it is considered that the EP budget for 1981 provided for 356,000 ECU = 14,700,000 Bfrs for the activities of a dozen delegations, which makes it perfectly reasonable to suspect that illicit budgetary practices are being used in the EP.
- (7) The EP spends enormous sums for the meeting of the European Parliament delegation under the ACP/EEC Agreement. If this meeting takes place in Africa all the European Members take part (60 or 120 depending on whether it is the Committee or the Assembly) with their spouses and other persons, whereas for meetings in the European places of work there are not more than 10 or 15 Members present. In undertaking this particular form of parliamentary tourism, and bearing in mind that the subject of the meetings is under-development and hunger in the world, 'substitutes' can take the place of Members who are unable to attend, in violation of the ACP/EEC rules.

- (8) Certain political group chairmen managed to cover 100,000 km per year (more than 270 km per day for 365 days) with cars and drivers provided by the EP, which cost about 2,200,000 Bfrs per car and per annum.
- (9) The principal political groups have the habit of arranging official meetings as though they were tourist excursions. These meetings are paid for by the EP. For instance, the Liberal Group will soon be travelling in full force to Martinique and the Christian Democratic Group has held meetings in Cologne, Palermo and Taormina over a period of two weeks.
- (10) All the furniture of the EP is renewed every five years and sold for negligible amounts without any public procedure. Often nearly new furniture and machines which are in good condition are sold in this way.
- (11) The pay and all the allowances of Members - which are regulated in a complex and obscure fashion - are open to the same criticisms which have applied for some time to other areas of the financial management of the EP; by means of a complex series of payments, each Member can receive about 3 million Bfrs per annum in addition to his national salary.
- whereas the procedures and time available to the Committee on Budgetary Control prevent it acting quickly and since it is necessary and desirable to set up a parliamentary body which can examine the criteria and the reasons which have led to a situation which is critical for the image and operation of Parliament itself, and can verify quickly and specifically the conditions under which expenditure is committed, paid out, audited and regulated;
1. Decides to set up a committee of enquiry to undertake the tasks set out in the present resolution and consisting of a member of each political group and two representatives of the non-attached Members.