

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1981 - 1982

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Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Budgets
on the ~~inter~~-institutional dialogue on certain
budgetary questions

Rapporteurs: Mr ADONNINO,^{etal} rapporteur for Section III
of the 1981 budget

Mr ANSQUER, rapporteur for Sections I,
II, IV and V of the 1981
budget

Mr DANKERT, rapporteur for Section III
of the 1980 budget

Mr R. Jackson, rapporteur for Sections I,
II, IV and V of the
1980 budget

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On the basis of its terms of reference, which make it responsible for matters concerning the Community budget, the Committee on Budgets has decided, further to the report on the 1981 budget, to submit a report to Parliament on the inter-institutional dialogue on certain budgetary questions.

The aim of this report is to continue the conciliation procedure with the Council on a number of problems which arose during the 1981 budgetary procedure.

At its meeting of 19 January 1981, the Committee on Budgets decided to appoint as rapporteurs the rapporteurs for the 1980 and 1981 budgets, namely: Mr Adonnino, rapporteur for Section III of the 1981 budget, Mr Ansquer, rapporteur for Sections I, II, IV and V of the 1981 budget, Mr Dankert, rapporteur for Section III of the 1980 budget, and Mr R. Jackson, rapporteur for Sections I, II, IV and V of the 1980 budget.

At its meeting of 28 January 1981, it considered a working document on this subject drawn up by the rapporteurs (PE 70.989).

The committee considered the report at its meeting of 25 March and adopted it by 11 votes to 2.

Present: Mr Lange, chairman; Mr Notenboom, vice-chairman; Mr Adonnino and Mr R. Jackson, rapporteurs; Mr Bonde, Mr Fich, Mr Forth, Mr Lega, Mr Newton Dunn, Mr Orlandi, Mr Konrad Schön, Mrs Scrivener and Mr Tuckman.

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

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

on the inter-institutional dialogue on certain budgetary questions.

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the outcome of the 1980 and 1981 budgetary procedures,
 - having regard to the resolution tabled by Mrs Scrivener and others (Doc. 1-789/80),
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Budgets (Doc. 1-77/81),
- a. Whereas these budgetary procedures have enabled some progress to be made in the achievement of certain of the objectives set by Parliament: namely the striking of a better balance within the budget as between compulsory and non-compulsory expenditure, the taking of the first steps to contain the growth in agricultural expenditure to finance structural surpluses, the strengthening of financial support for social and regional policies,
 - b. Whereas the budgetary collaboration procedure which operates throughout the budgetary period requires improvement in order to create the appropriate negotiating structure to avoid unnecessary conflicts,
 - c. Whereas the lending and borrowing activities of the Community have only been partially included in the budget - and for guarantee purposes only; whereas the European Development Fund has only been included with a token entry; the budgetary authority is therefore not able to participate in the authorisation process for these activities;
 - d. Whereas the application of Article 203 during the course of the budgetary procedure continues to give rise to legal and political difficulties of interpretation, making it more difficult for the adoption of the budget to take place under clear and normal conditions,
1. Believes that progress must be made on the remaining procedural points of difference between Council and Parliament concerning the Community budget before the beginning of the 1982 budgetary procedure;

2. Considers that the procedure of budgetary collaboration between Council and Parliament during the annual budgetary process should be improved by a series of practical measures: for example, the Committee of Permanent Representatives and the Budgetary Committee of Council should supply the rapporteur and the members of the Committee on Budgets with the working documents and minutes of their meetings;

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3. Attaches the greatest possible importance to resolving certain questions of substance which have arisen during the 1980 and 1981 budgetary procedures and which result from difficulties arising in the application of Article 203 of the Treaty;
4. Insists that the arrangements provisionally agreed for the partial budgetisation of lending and borrowing activities of the Communities and of the European Development Fund be implemented and completed;
5. Urges that a definitive agreement be reached on the classification of expenditure as between compulsory and non-compulsory items, on the basis of the document annexed to Parliament's first report on the 1981 budget;⁽¹⁾
6. Notes the difficulties arising from the application of Parliament's margin for increasing non-compulsory expenditure;
7. Proposes that Council and Parliament seek to reach agreement on the following points:
 - (i) at which moment the margin for increasing non-compulsory expenditure may be applied by Parliament;
 - (ii) the application of this margin to supplementary budget procedures;
 - (iii) the decision-making procedures in Council when it examines Parliament's amendments to the budget and when it sets a new rate for increasing non-compulsory expenditure;
 - (iv) the application of a maximum rate to commitment appropriations;
 - (v) the relationship between commitment appropriations and payment appropriations;

⁽¹⁾ Doc. 1-540/80/Annex II

8. Believes that before the 1982 budgetary procedure is concluded certain other items concerning the relationship between the Community budget and Community legislation must be clarified;
9. Considers that, as a priority, the following matters should be examined:
 - (i) the role of the budget as a legal basis permitting the implementation of appropriations;
 - (ii) the determining of the level of appropriations by budgetary or legislative procedures;
 - (iii) the right of the Commission to implement the budget autonomously and the role of management committees;

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10. Instructs, therefore, its Committee on Budgets to make the necessary contacts with the Council so that, with the active assistance of the Commission, as many of these items as possible may be resolved before the commencement of the 1982 budgetary procedure;
11. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission.