

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1981 - 1982

30 October 1981

DOCUMENT 1-657/81

REPORT

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Budgets

on Annex I (Economic and Social Committee) to
Section II - Council - of the draft general budget
of the European Communities for the financial
year 1982

Rapporteur: Mr V. ANSQUER

On 25 May 1981 the Committee on Budgets appointed Mr ANSQUER rapporteur on Annex I (Economic and Social Committee) to Section II - Council - of the draft general budget of the European Communities for the financial year 1982.

At its meeting of 19-21 October 1981 the Committee on Budgets considered and adopted the draft amendments annexed.

At its meeting of 28 October it adopted the attached motion for a resolution by 16 votes to 2.

Present: Mr LANGE, chairman; Mr NOTENBOOM, 1st vice-chairman; Mr ANSQUER, rapporteur; Mr ADONNINO, Mr BAILLOT, Mr BALFE, Mr BALFOUR, Mr FICH, Mr HELMS (deputizing for Mr LEGA), Mr HOWELL, Mr NEWTON DUNN, Mr NORD, Mr PFENNIG, Mr PRICE, Mr SABY, Mr Konrad SCHÖN, Mrs SCRIVENER and Mr SIMONNET.

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

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

on Annex I (Economic and Social Committee) of Section II - Council - of the draft general budget of the European Communities for the financial year 1982

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the draft general budget for the financial year 1982 and the explanatory memorandum accompanying it (Doc. 550/81),
 - having regard to the report by the Committee on Budgets (Doc. 1-657/81),
- (a) whereas the Economic and Social Committee has provided the budgetary authority with full information in support of its request for additional staff and the conversion of posts,
- (b) whereas in its explanatory memorandum (volume 7 of the draft budget) the Council has not provided detailed justification of its decisions on those requests,
1. Points out that, contrary to its obligations under the Treaty, the Council has not forwarded the preliminary draft estimates for the Economic and Social Committee to Parliament;
 2. Acknowledges that the staffing and funding requirements of the Economic and Social Committee are increasing and refers in this connection to the resolutions adopted by Parliament favouring an increase in collaboration with the committee;
 3. Feels that the number of posts in the committee should be increased - even if not to the extent requested by it - and that it should be granted the funds necessary to organize and hold its meetings;
 4. Accordingly amends the 1982 draft budget of the Economic and Social Committee drawn up by the Council.

B

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. Parliament attaches considerable importance to the committee's budget. In its resolution of 9 July 1981 on relations between the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee¹, it pointed out that closer cooperation with the committee could be very important and beneficial to Parliament. In the same resolution it also noted that collaboration between the committee and Parliament had been gradually strengthened since 1975.

2. For the reason indicated above, Parliament and the Committee on Budgets regret that they were unable to inspect the budgetary documents prepared by the ESC in support of the requests relating to its establishment plan and estimates of revenue and expenditure for 1982.

This state of affairs deprives Parliament of access to a very detailed justification and may be prejudicial to the interests of the committee itself.

THE PROPOSALS OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEEEstablishment plan

3. The committee had pointed out that, unlike the other institutions, its establishment plan was increasing too slowly to allow it to cope with its increasing workload, as the following table shows:

Cat.	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
NC	1	1	1	1	1	1
A	37	37	38	39	40	43
LA	60	61	62	65	67	80
B	44	45	47	50	54	56
C	131	132	142	145	146	166
D	29	29	25	25	26	28
Total	302	305	315	325	334	374 ²

¹ OJ No. C 234/60, 14.9.1981

² Most of the posts obtained in 1981 were intended for Greek nationals:
2 A, 10 LA, 1 B, 13 C, 1 D

Requests made by the Committee to the Council

4. The committee has proposed the creation of 33 posts: 4 A, 4 B, 17 C, 2 D and 6 LA and the conversion of 18 posts: 1 A3 to A2, 1 A4 to A3, 1 A7 to A6, 2 LA 7-6 to LA 5-4, 2 B2 to B1, 2 C2 to BS 5-4, 2 C2 to C1, and 7 C5-4 to C3-2. It had also requested the following post conversions: 2 LA 7-6 to LA 5-4, 2 B2 to B1, 2 C2 to BS 5-4, 2 C2 to C1 and 7 C5-4 to C3-2.

The committee pointed out in support of its request for new posts that the 1982 budget requirements arose from the action undertaken by its Bureau since 1979 to adjust its secretariat's structures in the medium term to actual service requirements. This had already led to an increase of staff in the operational directorates for which posts for Greek administrators had been included in the 1981 establishment plan. The restructuring has however not been completed, particularly in the Directorate-General for Administration, Translation and General Affairs, and will have to be continued to take account of the increased work load which is partly due to Greek accession - extension of the language service - and of the need to strengthen some administrative units.

5. The committee justified the conversions requested on the basis of the increased work load, the technical nature of some services and their increasing responsibility. It ~~felt they were~~ also justified by the fact that some conversions had been requested several years earlier but to no avail.

Appropriations

6. The committee requested an increase of 17.36% over the 1981 appropriations. The preliminary draft estimates amounted to 24,962,500 ECU compared with 21,270,200 ECU in 1981. The committee broke down the increase of 3,692,300 ECU as follows:

Title 1	2,647,600 ECU	12.45%
Title 2	829,700 ECU	3.92%
Title 10	215,000 ECU	1.01%
		<hr/>
	Total	17.36%

The committee's explanatory memorandum gave a detailed explanation of the reasons for the increases under each budget title.

THE COUNCIL'S DECISIONS

7. The Council reduced the appropriations requested by the committee and fixed its estimates at 23,099,600 ECU, which represents an increase of 1,829,400 ECU or 8.6% over 1981. The only reason the Council gives for its decisions is that it has 'once again adopted a restrictive attitude in fixing its budgetary estimates and those of the Economic and Social Committee for the coming year'.

The Council has approved only four of the 33 posts requested by the committee: 1 LA5, 1 LA7, 1 C2 and 1 C3, and has not authorized any of the conversions.

REQUESTS MADE BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE TO THE COMMITTEE ON BUDGETS

Establishment plan

8. At its meeting with the Committee on Budgets on 30 September and 1 October the Economic and Social Committee drew attention to the fact that the Council had taken no action on 29 of the 33 new posts or any of the conversions. (18 + 15) requested in its establishment plan and asked the Committee on Budgets for a decision on the creation and conversion of a much smaller number of posts than it had originally requested, i.e. 15 new posts and 8 conversions¹.

¹ Creation of 1 C4 and 1 C5 (Greek posts); 1 LA6 and 2 LA7, 1 A7, 1 B3, 1 BS3, 3 C3 (secretaries), 2 C3 (security), 1 C5 and 1 D3.

Conversion of 1 A3 to A2, 1 A7 to A6, 1 B2 to B1 and 5 C5-4 to C3-2.

9. The committee once again based its latest request on the need for a more rational and effective structure as well as on the need to:

- supplement the number of Greek staff in the secretariat,
- supplement some translation teams,
- place the secretariats of the committee's three groups on an equal footing,
- create a minimum security service,
- strengthen the typing and reproduction services in order to cope with the increased work load.

In response to a criticism made by the Council during its deliberations on the establishment plan, the committee pointed out that as at 1 May 1981 17 posts on its establishment plan were still vacant but that it had already initiated the procedure for filling all of them; only 8 posts are still vacant. It also referred to the Court of Auditors document on the 1980 management and pointed out that recruitment was proceeding apace and at the end of the 1980 financial year only 4 posts were vacant.

Appropriations

10. The Economic and Social Committee also impressed upon the Committee on Budgets the need to maintain the increase of 500,000 ECU it had requested for expenditure on meetings.

The committee's representatives declared their willingness to allocate 300,000 ECU of this essential additional appropriation to Article 250 'expenditure on formal meetings and meetings in general' and 200,000 ECU to the reserve so that the budgetary authority could keep an eye on the way in which appropriations for expenditure on meetings were actually utilized throughout the financial year.

In support of this request, the committee's representatives pointed out that although the 1981 appropriation of 2,500,000 ECU would in all probability be sufficient because of the savings made due to the fact that Greek advisors had participated in the work of the committee only since April, the situation would be different in 1982, especially because of the considerable increase in transport costs.

THE RAPPORTEURS PROPOSALS

Establishment plan

11. In view of the committee's requirements and the exhaustive justification it gives in support of the requested amendments to its establishment plan, as well as the need for budgetary rigour and the advisability of working towards a compromise with the Council, the rapporteur feels that the committee's requests should be met. Nevertheless he feels that the 15 new posts and 8 conversions requested at the meeting of the Committee on Budgets on 30 September

and 1 October should be reduced to 11 new posts and 6 conversions broken down as follows:

Creation of posts

- 1 C4 (Greek post)
- 1 LA6 and 2 LA 7 posts for divisions with fewer translators than the others
- 1 A7
- 1 B3 (Group III)
- 1 BS3 (Typing pool)
- 3 C3 (Translation - secretaries)
- 1 C3 (Security)

Conversion of posts

- 1 A3 to A2
- 1 A7 to A6
- 1 B2 to B1
- 3 C5-4 to C3-2

He combines this proposal with the request for 140,590 ECU to cover net expenditure on payments related to these posts for a period of six months and the small increase in appropriations needed to cover expenditure on the 6 post conversions requested.

He accordingly submits an amendment to the Committee on Budgets.

Appropriations

12. The rapporteur feels that the fact that the Council has reduced the 3,000,000 ECU requested to 2,500,000 ECU under Article 250 of the draft budget could jeopardize the normal conduct of meetings and activities. He therefore proposes that the appropriation of 2,500,000 ECU approved by the Council be increased to 3,000,000 ECU and broken down as suggested by the committee, i.e. 300,000 ECU to Article 250 and 200,000 ECU to the reserve (Article 100) so that the budgetary authority can keep an eye on actual expenditure on meetings and travel throughout the year.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

26 OCTOBER 1981

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1-550/410



DRAFT
GENERAL BUDGET OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR .1982

DRAFT AMENDMENT No. 410..

tabled by Mr ANSQUER, RAPPORTEUR, ON BEHALF OF THE COMMITTEE ON BUDGETS

SECTION II - COUNCIL

Annex I - Economic and Social Committee

LIST OF POSTS

Complete the list of posts by creating 11 posts and converting 6 posts as follows:

Creation of posts

Cat. A	1 A7
B	1 B3
BS	1 BS3
C	4 C3, 1 C4
LA	1 LA6, 2 LA7

Conversion of posts

Cat. A	1 A3	to A2
	1 A7	to A6
B	1 B2	to B1
C	3 C5-4	to C3-2

A - Expenditure

Increase the appropriation under Title 1 by 160,000 ECU (from 15,293,100 to 15,453,100) broken down as follows:

Item 1100	113,600 ECU
1101	11,850
1102	18,100
1103	1,400
1130	3,400
1131	700
1141	4,300
Article 119	4,800
Item 1211	400
Article 124	1,500

B - Compensation

C - Revenue

Increase revenue by 160,000 ECU, 18,810 ECU of which will be provided by taxation on staff remuneration

Justification

In view of the committee's requirements and the exhaustive justification it gives in support of the requested amendments to its establishment plan, as well as the need for budgetary rigour and the advisability of working towards a compromise with the Council, the rapporteur feels that the committee's requests should be met. Nevertheless he feels that the 15 new posts and 8 conversions requested at the meeting of the Committee on Budgets on 30 September and 1 October should be reduced to 11 new posts and 6 conversions.

DRAFT AMENDMENT

BUDGET

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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DRAFT

GENERAL BUDGET OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1982

DRAFT AMENDMENT No. ...411

tabled by Mr ANSQUER, RAPPORTEUR, ON BEHALF OF THE COMMITTEE ON BUDGETS

SECTION II - COUNCIL

Annex I - Economic and Social Committee

Article 250: Expenditure on formal meetings and
meetings in general

A - Expenditure

Increase the payment appropriation by 300,000 ECU (from 2,500,000 to
2,800,000 ECU)

B - Compensation

C - Revenue

Increase revenue by the same amount

REMARKS

Unchanged

Justification

The rapporteur feels that the fact that the Council has reduced the 3,000,000 ECU requested to 2,500,000 ECU under Article 250 of the draft budget could jeopardize the normal conduct of committee meetings and activities. He therefore proposes that the appropriation of 2,500,000 ECU approved by the Council be increased to 2,800,000 ECU.



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26 OCTOBER 1981
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1-550/412



DRAFT
GENERAL BUDGET OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1982

DRAFT AMENDMENT No. 412.

tabled by Mr ANSQUER, RAPPORTEUR, ON BEHALF OF THE COMMITTEE ON BUDGETS

SECTION II - COUNCIL

Annex I - Economic and Social Committee

Title 10 Other expenditure

Chapter 100 Provisional appropriations

A - Expenditure

Increase the payment appropriation intended for Article 250
by 200,000 ECU (from 75,000 to 275,000 ECU)

B - Compensation

-

C - Revenue

Increase revenue by the same amount.

Justification

This amendment is the corollary to the amendment tabled to Article 250 to increase appropriations for expenditure on meetings and will provide the committee with a total additional sum of 500,000 ECU.

The allocation of 200,000 ECU (of the 500,000) to the provisional appropriations will enable the budgetary authority to monitor the trend of expenditure on committee meetings as and when requests for transfers are submitted by the committee throughout the year.

