
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1982-1983

11 January 1983

DOCUMENT 1-1125/82

Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Budgetary
Control

embodying the opinion of the European Parliament
on the appointment of a member of the Court of
Auditors of the European Communities

(Doc. 1-1125/82)

Rapporteur: Mr H. AIGNER

By letter of 8 December 1982 the Council consulted the European Parliament on the appointment of a member of the Court of Auditors pursuant to Article 78(e)(4) of the ECSC, Article 206(4) of the EEC, Article 180(4) of the EAEC.

At its meeting of 10 January 1983 the Committee on Budgetary Control, pursuant to Rule 51 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, considered a draft report tabled by Mr Aigner, Chairman of the Committee, and adopted it unanimously.

Participated in the vote:- Mr Aigner, chairman and rapporteur; Mrs Boserup, vice-chairman; Mr Price, vice-chairman; Mr Kellett-Bowman; Mr Key; Mr Mart; Mr Papaefstratiou (deputising for Mr Gontikas); Mr Patterson; Mr Konrad Schön; Mr Treacy (deputising for Mr Saby); Mrs Van Hemeldonck.

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The Committee on Budgetary Control hereby submits to the European Parliament the following Motion for a Resolution, together with Explanatory Statement:

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

embodying the opinion of the European Parliament on the appointment of a member of the Court of Auditors of the European Communities

The European Parliament

- a) having regard to Article 78(e)(4) of the ECSC Treaty,
- b) having regard to Article 206(4) of the EEC Treaty,
- c) having regard to Article 180(4) of the EAEC Treaty,
- d) having been consulted by the Council by letter of 8 December 1982 (Doc 1-1015/82),
- e) having regard to the report of the Committee on Budgetary Control (Doc 1-1125/82),

1. Endorses the Council's proposal that Mr. Keld Brixtofte be appointed as a member of the Court of Auditors and, therefore, decides together with that institution to appoint him accordingly,
2. Observes that, in October 1983, the terms of office of six members of the Court of Auditors will expire and considers that the process of consultation on that occasion may be more extensive in nature than on the present occasion; therefore, suggests that the Council should contact the Parliament, well in advance of the date of expiry of the terms of office of the members in question, with a view to ensuring that the consultation procedure takes place in conditions that allow for an unhurried exercise of the due processes,
3. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Court of Auditors and to transmit it for information to the other institutions.

Explanatory StatementConsultation of Parliament on appointment of members of the Court of Auditors

1. Rule 51 of the Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament provides as follows:-

'Before the appointment of Members of the Court of Auditors by the Council pursuant to Article 206(4) of the EEC Treaty, Parliament shall adopt an opinion on this matter on the basis of a motion for a resolution tabled by the appropriate committee.'

2. This consultation of Parliament by the Council, in accordance with the provisions of the Treaties, is of considerable political significance. The most recent occasion on which this consultation took place is described in Doc 1-469/81. On that occasion, regrettably, there was inadequate time for a full exchange of views. However, it is worthy to note that on that occasion all four candidates appeared before the Committee on Budgetary Control and answered questions put to them.

The present candidate

3. Attached for the information of members is a curriculum vitae of Mr. Keld Brixtofte who is proposed by Council as a replacement for Mr. Johansen. The Bureau and group spokesmen of the Committee on Budgetary Control had an interview with the candidate member. Furthermore, the Committee on Budgetary Control at a full meeting, discussed the various relevant matters with Mr. Brixtofte. It is the unanimous view of the Committee on Budgetary Control that, having regard to the experience, professional training and academic background of Mr. Brixtofte, he is a suitable candidate for the Court of Auditors and the Committee looks forward to working with him harmoniously in the interests of democratic control of the use made of taxpayers' funds and in ensuring that the EC budget is implemented in accordance with the wishes of the budgetary authority.

Future consultations

4. The Committee on Budgetary Control notes that the terms of office of six members of the Court of Auditors will expire in October of this year. The process of consultation on that occasion may be more complex than in the present instance. So that the due process of consultation may proceed in a dignified manner, the Committee expresses the wish that Council should launch the procedure of consultation well in advance.

Appreciation of the work done by Mr. Johansen

5. The Committee expresses its keen appreciation of the valuable work done by Mr. Johansen during his term of office when he assisted the Committee in a competent, effective and tactful manner and wishes him every success in the future.

Curriculum Vitae**Keld Brixtofte**

Born: 6 May 1922, Herrested

Married: 1945, to Inger Pedersen, two children

1948: Law degree, Copenhagen University

1958: Called to the Bar

1949: Secretary, State Audit Board

1956-1958: Employed part-time on NATO Audit Board

1960-1964: Auditor, NATO Audit Board

1967: Head of department, State Audit Board

1974: Head of division, State Audit Board

1976-1980: Council-elected auditor at ECMWF, Reading, UK

1978-1982: Council-elected auditor at EMBL, Heidelberg

1977: Deputy state auditor