

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1981 - 1982

14 December 1981

DOCUMENT 1-858/81

REPORT

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Budgets

on the Council's modifications to the
amendments adopted by Parliament to the
following sections:

- Section II 'Council - Annex I - Economic
and Social Committee'
- Section IV 'Court of Justice'
- Section V 'Court of Auditors'

of the draft general budget for the financial
year 1982

Rapporteur: Mr V. ANSQUER

On 25 May 1981 the Committee on Budgets appointed Mr ANSQUER rapporteur for Section I 'Parliament', Section II 'Council', Annex I to Section II 'Economic and Social Committee', Section IV 'Court of Justice' and Section V 'Court of Auditors' of the draft general budget of the European Communities for the financial year 1981.

At its meeting of 9 December 1981 the Committee on Budgets adopted the following motion for a resolution by 19 votes to 0 with one abstention. The amendments adopted by the Committee on Budgets at the same meeting are attached to this report.

Present: Mr LANGE, chairman; Mr NOTENBOOM, first vice-chairman; Mr SPINELLI, second vice-chairman; Mr Rossi, third vice-chairman; Mr ANSQUER, rapporteur; Mr ADONNINO, Mr ARNDT, Mr BAILLOT, Mr BALFE, Mr BALFOUR, Mr BARBI, Mr FICH, Mr FORTH, Mr GEORGIADIS, Mr GOUTHIER, Mr R. JACKSON, Mr KELLETT-BOWMAN, Mr LANGES, Mr ORLANDI, Mr PRICE, Mr SABY, 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 the Council's modifications to the amendments adopted by Parliament to Section II 'Council: Annex I - Economic and Social Committee', Section IV 'Court of Justice' and Section V 'Court of Auditors' of the draft general budget for the financial year 1982.

The European Parliament

- having regard to the Council's deliberations of 24 November 1981 and the modifications made to the amendments adopted by Parliament, (Doc. 1-657/81, Doc. 1-658/81 and Doc. 1-659/81),
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Budgets, (Doc. 1-858/81),
- having regard to the failure of the Council to offer any justification for its modifications to some of the amendments adopted by Parliament,

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

1. Confirms its decision to provide the Committee with the increase in appropriations necessary for the organization and convocation of its meetings;

Section IV 'Court of Justice':

2. Is unable, in the light of the growth in the workload of the Court of Justice, to go back on its decisions to increase the establishment of the secretariat of that institution taken by Parliament at the first reading of the draft budget for 1982;

Section V 'Court of Auditors':

3. Is obliged, in view of the Court of Auditors' substantiated requirements as regards staff and appropriations, to confirm in their entirety the decisions it took at the first reading of the budget, rejected in whole or in part by the Council.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENTINTRODUCTION

1. The rapporteur would point out that, in preparation for the first reading of the budget of the Communities for 1982, Sections II - Council (Annex I, Economic and Social Committee), IV - Court of Justice, V - Court of Auditors, he submitted to the Committee on Budgets and subsequently to Parliament detailed reports setting out the reasons that had led him to propose the reinstatement of certain appropriations and certain posts on the establishment plans of the institutions in question.

The rapporteur's proposals were endorsed by the Committee on Budgets and, on the whole, by Parliament, as he had carefully considered the institutions' needs and taken account of the concern for economy invoked by the Council when it cut back the institutions' requests. Conscious of the fact that due weight ought to be given to the institutions' needs, the Committee on Budgets instructed its rapporteur to seek compromise solutions which might show a better balance than the Council's decisions, given that they ought to take into account both the need for economy and the requirements of the institutions concerned in regard to staff and appropriations.

This is a necessary premise since the decisions taken by the Council on the amendments adopted by Parliament at the first reading appear, in the absence of any precise justification or explanation, to be based solely on the more or less blind application of the principle that Parliament's requests should be cut by half.

COUNCIL DECISIONS AFTER PARLIAMENT'S FIRST READING OF THE DRAFT BUDGET

2. At its meeting of 24 November 1981 the Council took the following decisions:

Section I - Parliament

The Council merely took note of Parliament's amendments to its own budget. This decision is in accordance with the principle of Parliament's budgetary autonomy. The rapporteur therefore considers that this report should not formally be concerned with Parliament's amendments to its own budget.

Section II - Council (Annex I - Economic and Social Committee)

3. The Committee on Budgets had proposed to Parliament three amendments, one concerning the Committee's establishment plan and two providing for an increase of 500,000 ECU in the appropriations for formal and other meetings, 300,000 ECU being entered under Article 250 and 200,000 ECU under Chapter 100.

Of these three amendments, Parliament endorsed only that providing for an increase of 300,000 ECU under Article 250.

Since the Council has now reduced this amount by half, the rapporteur considers it necessary to reinstate Parliament's initial request, which is fully justified both by the level of utilization of appropriations in 1981 and by the fact that the reduction made by the Council is such as to jeopardize the normal conduct of the Committee's meetings and activities.

Section IV - Court of Justice

4. Parliament had adopted:

- an amendment creating 22 posts;
- an amendment increasing by 11,000 ECU the appropriations to cover the operating expenses of the restaurant.

The Council accepted the second of these two amendments. On the other hand, without offering any proper explanation, it accepted only 11 out of the 22 posts requested by the Court. The rapporteur considers it essential to reinstate Parliament's initial request for 22 posts, which already reduced by half the Court's original request for 1982 of 43 posts. It should be pointed out, moreover, that the Council gives no specific justification in support of its decision.

The rapporteur would repeat that the expansion of the Court's activities, analysed in his report to Parliament at the first reading of the budget, clearly demonstrates the need for the posts requested. He therefore feels that it is not possible to postpone by one year the creation of the 11 remaining posts required to meet the genuine needs of the Court of Justice.

Section V - Court of Auditors

5. Parliament had adopted:

- one amendment creating 9 posts;
- one amendment increasing the appropriation for mission expenses (Item 1301) by 120,000 ECU;
- one amendment increasing the appropriation for studies and surveys (Article 260) by 20,000 ECU, 10,000 ECU of that sum being taken from the reserve.

The Council approved the creation of 5 out of the 9 posts requested and agreed to an increase of only 30,000 ECU in the appropriation for staff mission expenses, instead of the 120,000 ECU requested by Parliament. It deleted the amendment increasing the appropriation for studies and surveys by 20,000 ECU.

The rapporteur considers:

- that the request for the creation of the four remaining posts should be repeated, not only in the light of the needs of the Court of Auditors, but also because the posts rejected by the Council are at clerical level (category B and C: 1 B1, 2 B2, 2 C3) and their deletion produces a lack of balance even in the creation of the 4 LA posts approved by the Council, since the decision does not provide for the recruitment of secretaries or clerical staff for these translators.

On the other hand the rapporteur points out that his amendment at the first reading, calling for the creation of 9 posts, did not provide for any increase in expenditure on revenue, taking account as it did not only of the need for budgetary austerity, but also of the time it takes to recruit staff at the Court of Auditors, and the fact that the posts in question will not be filled until the very end of the financial year. The Council, in approving the creation of 5 posts for the secretariat of the Court of Auditors, goes beyond Parliament's request in its Amendment No. 406 by increasing the appropriation by 101,900 ECU. The rapporteur proposes that this sum should not be accepted.

- that, as was explained in the amendment at the first reading, the sum of 120,000 ECU for staff mission expenses must be provided if the Court's on-the-spot audits are not to be placed in jeopardy, the increase being justified by the rate of utilization of the appropriations under this item in 1981.
- He is of the opinion that the increase of 20,000 ECU in the appropriation for studies and consultations proposed by Parliament at the first reading remains justified, given that the studies in question are likely to

facilitate the preparation of the mission and tasks of the Court of Auditors.

In connection with the amendments concerning the Court of Auditors, it must be pointed out that Council puts forward no specific justification to explain its decisions.

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Conclusion

In view of the above, the rapporteur proposes to the Committee on Budgets the following amendments, copies of which are attached:

- 1 amendment for the Economic and Social Committee;
- 1 amendment for the Court of Justice;
- 3 amendments for the Court of Auditors.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

10 December 1981
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Doc. 1-826/135

COUNCIL MODIFICATIONS
TO PARLIAMENT'S AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAFT BUDGET
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1982 (Doc. .../...)
1-826/81

AMENDMENT No. 135..

tabled by Mr ANSQUER, rapporteur

to the Council's modification to Parliament's amendment No. 411...

SECTION II - COUNCIL

Annex I - Economic and Social Committee

Title 2 : Buildings, equipment and miscellaneous operating expenditure
Chapter 25 : Expenditure on formal and other meetings
Article 250 : Expenditure on formal meetings and meetings in general

A - Expenditure

Increase the payment appropriation by 150,000 ECU (from 2,650,000 to 2,800,000 ECU) so as to reinstate the appropriation voted by Parliament at the first reading.

B - Compensation

-

C - Revenue

Increase revenue by the same amount

REMARKS

Unchanged

Justification

In the light of the actual expenditure in 1981 on meetings organized by the Economic and Social Committee, the Committee on Budgets had proposed to Parliament that the appropriation for meetings be increased by a total of 500,000 ECU, 300,000 ECU being entered under Article 250 and 200,000 ECU in the reserve. Parliament approved only the first of the two amendments proposed by the Committee on Budgets. Offering no specific explanation, the Council has accepted only half of the increase of 300,000 ECU proposed by Parliament under Article 250.

The Committee on Budgets considers that, at the very least, it is necessary to reinstate the figure of 300,000 ECU called for by Parliament at the first reading, and therefore to increase by 150,000 ECU the sum shown in the draft budget as amended by Parliament and modified by the Council.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

... 10. DECEMBER 1981

Doc 1-826/136

COUNCIL MODIFICATIONS
TO PARLIAMENT'S AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAFT BUDGET
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1982 (Doc 1-826/81)

AMENDMENT No. 116..

tabled by Mr ANSQUER, rapporteur

to the Council's modification to Parliament's amendment No. 408...

SECTION IV - COURT OF JUSTICE

Establishment plan

- Create the following posts:

- Cat. A 1 post (1 A5)
- Cat. B 1 post (1 B1)
- Cat. C 9 posts (1 C1, 1 C2, 4 C3, 2 C4, 1 C5)

- Upgrade the following post:

1 A6 to A5.

A - EXPENDITURE

Increase the payment appropriation by 207,800 ECU

B - COMPENSATION

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C - REVENUE

Increase revenue by 354,610 ECU

JUSTIFICATION

The Council agreed to only 11 of the 22 new posts requested by Parliament on first reading. The Committee on Budgets cannot accept this decision by the Council given that the European Parliament's proposal reduced by half the 43 posts requested by the Court of Justice for 1982 and that the soundness of the requests had been checked by the rapporteur.

The Council's decision is all the more unacceptable in that no justification whatsoever is provided and appears to be based solely on one over-simple criterion, that of cutting Parliament's requests by 50%.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

10 DECEMBER 1981
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Doc.1-826/137

COUNCIL MODIFICATIONS
TO PARLIAMENT'S AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAFT BUDGET
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1982 Doc.1-826/81

AMENDMENT No. 137..

tabled by Mr ANSQUER, rapporteur

to the Council's modification to Parliament's amendment No. 406..

SECTION V - COURT OF AUDITORS

ESTABLISHMENT PLAN

Add the following posts: 1 B1 - 1 B2 - 3 C3

Total: 4 posts

(A) EXPENDITURE

Reduce the appropriations added by the Council by 101,900 ECU

(B) COMPENSATION

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(C) REVENUE

Reduce the revenue added by the Council by 12,400 ECU

JUSTIFICATION

The Council agreed to create 5 of the 9 posts requested by Parliament on first reading: 2 LA 6 - 2 LA 7 and 1 C3.

The rapporteur points out that the creation of the LA posts accepted by the Council makes it necessary to create the other posts requested by Parliament on first reading, for, as the rapporteur had clearly stressed, they are vitally linked with the development of the Court's language service. For this reason, and given that the Council provided no specific justification for partially rejecting Parliament's proposal on first reading, the rapporteur considers that the 4 posts not accepted by the Council should be created.

When it decided on first reading to create the 9 posts, the Committee on Budgets considered that there was no need to reinstate the appropriations needed to cover the salary payments corresponding to the 9 posts requested for a period of six months, the amount involved being 122,958 ECU. This decision by the Committee on Budgets was justified as follows:
'Since, however, the Court only recently started the open competition for the recruitment of persons to fill the posts still vacant on its establishment plan and since, therefore, initiation of the procedure for filling the 9 posts in question can be scheduled for the second half of next year, it is considered that no appropriations should be entered in the budget as a consequence of the creation of those 9 posts.'

In accepting five of the nine posts requested, the Council increased the appropriation by 101,900 ECU and revenue 912,400 ECU. Parliament maintains that the creation of posts for the Court of Auditors should not, in view of the arguments put forward by the Committee on Budgets, be accompanied by an increase in appropriations. For this reason, it has deleted the appropriations entered by the Council for the 5 posts which it saw fit to accept. The Council has gone further than what was proposed by Parliament in its amendment.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

.. 10. DECEMBER 1981

Doc.1-826/138

COUNCIL MODIFICATIONS
TO PARLIAMENT'S AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAFT BUDGET
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1982 (Doc.1-826/81)

AMENDMENT No. ..138

tabled by Mr ANSQUER, Rapporteur

to the Council's modification to Parliament's amendment No. ..405..

SECTION V - COURT OF AUDITORS

Article 130: Mission expenses, travel expenses and incidental expenditure

Item 1301: Staff

(A) EXPENDITURE

Increase the payment appropriation by 90,000 ECU (from 380,000 to 470,000 ECU), thus reinstating the appropriation voted by Parliament on first reading.

(B) COMPENSATION

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(C) REVENUE

Increase revenue by the same amount

JUSTIFICATION

The Council agreed to increase by only 30,000 ECU the appropriation for mission expenses of the Court of Auditors without stating its reasons.

The Committee on Budgets must insist on the reinstatement of the appropriation voted by Parliament on first reading, given the reasons initially put forward in the justification of this amendment; these may be summarized as follows:

- a) the cuts made could well hinder the Court in the fulfilment of its tasks;
- b) the contingency reserve available to the Court is at a minimum (50,000 ECU);
- c) the level of actual expenditure for the current year is such that an increase in the appropriation for mission expenses is absolutely justified.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

..10. DECEMBER 1981.

Doc 1-826/139

COUNCIL MODIFICATIONS
TO PARLIAMENT'S AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAFT BUDGET
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1980

Doc 1-826/81

AMENDMENT No. 139.

tabled by Mr ANSQUER, rapporteur

to the Council's modification to Parliament's amendment No. 407.....

SECTION V - COURT OF AUDITORS

Article 260: Limited consultations, studies and surveys

A - Expenditure

Enter a payment appropriation of 20,000 ECU

B - Compensation

Reduce the appropriations in Chapter 100 (Article 260) by 10,000 ECU

C - Revenue

Increase revenue by 10,000 ECU

JUSTIFICATION

The Council rejected this amendment without giving any explanation. The Committee on Budgets points out that an increase in this appropriation is essential since, in order to **organize** its activities and thus even to cut back on overall operating costs, the Court deemed it necessary to call in consultants or have studies made on highly specialized subjects.

