

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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DOCUMENT 1-248/81

Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs

on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (Doc. 1-76/81) on economic policy guidelines for Greece for 1981

Rapporteur: Mr Jacques MOREAU

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By letter of 16 March 1981, the President of the Council of the European Communities consulted the European Parliament, pursuant to Article 4 of the Council Decision of 18 February 1974 on the attainment of a high degree of convergence of the economic policies of Member States, on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council on economic policy guidelines for Greece for 1981.

The President of the European Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs as the committee responsible on 6 April 1981.

The Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs appointed Mr Jacques MOREAU rapporteur on 15 April 1981.

It considered this proposal at its meeting of 14 May 1981.

During this meeting it also adopted :

- the addendum to the Communication from the Commission to the Council (Doc. COM(81) 95/final) by 6 votes to 0 with 9 abstentions,
- the motion for a resolution by 9 votes to 6.¹

The following were present : Mr Deleau, acting chairman; Mr Jacques Moreau, vice-chairman and rapporteur; Mr Arndt (deputizing for Mr Walter), Mr Beazley, Mr Beumer, Mr Caborn, Mr Damseaux (deputizing for Mr Combe), Mr Giavazzi, Mr Herman, Mr Lange, Mr Markozanis, Mr Mihr, Mr Petronio, Mr Wagner and Mr von Wogau.

¹ On this occasion the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs requested that this report be presented in plenary session without debate.

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A.

The Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs 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 proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council on economic policy guidelines for Greece for 1981

The European Parliament,

- Having regard to the addendum to the Communication from the Commission to the Council (Doc. COM(81) 95/final);
 - Having been consulted, pursuant to Article 4 of the Council Decision of 18 February 1974 on the attainment of a high degree of convergence of the economic policies of the Member States of the European Economic Community (Doc. 1-76/81);
 - Having regard to the report of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (Doc. 1-248/81),
1. Notes the economic policy guidelines for Greece for 1981 contained in the addendum to the Communication from the Commission to the Council.
 2. Instructs its President to forward this resolution and the report of its committee to the Council and the Commission of the European Communities.

B.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. The Commission of the Communities is obliged, pursuant to the Council Decision of 18 February 1974 on the attainment of a high degree of convergence of the economic policies of Member States of the European Community, to present an annual report on the economic situation in the Community and to establish economic policy guidelines for the coming year.

On 15 December 1980 the Council¹, having consulted the European Parliament², adopted the annual report on the economic situation of the Community in 1980 and the initial economic policy guidelines for 1981.

During the fourth quarter of every year since 1974, the European Parliament has delivered an opinion on the economic situation in the Community on the basis of a report drawn up by the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs. On these occasions the European Parliament takes note of the analyses of national economic situations and the economic policy guidelines recommended for each Member State in the Commission's report; however, the European Parliament's report always bears exclusively on the Community's economic situation and economic policy guidelines as a whole.

2. As the accession of Greece to the European Community did not come into effect until 1 January 1981, the Commission felt that an addendum to its initial communication was called for, containing economic policy guidelines for this new Member State. On 16 March 1981 the Council decided to consult the European Parliament on this document. It seems that this consultation is primarily a matter of procedure and that the European Parliament need do no more than follow its usual policy at this stage, which is simply to take note of the analyses contained in this document. This does not mean that the European Parliament and its Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs are not interested in the economic situation in Greece, on the contrary. However, as the Commission itself makes clear in its Communication 'Only during the first half-year will it be possible to assess whether the results achieved fully correspond to the objectives set'³. Thus the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, when it examines the economic situation at the end of the first half of this year, would do better to evaluate the development of the situation in Greece in the context of the Community's economic situation as a whole.

¹ OJ L 375, 31.12.1980

² Doc. 1-550/80

³ Doc. COM(81)95/final - addendum, p. 10