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Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Budgets
on

- I. draft supplementary budget No. 3 of the European Communities for the financial year 1978 (Doc. 112/78)
- II. the request for the release of certain posts at the Court of Auditors submitted on 7 April 1978
- III. the request submitted to Parliament for the transfer of certain of the Court of Auditors' appropriations (Doc. 99/78)

Rapporteur: Mr M. COINTAT

1.2.1

The European Parliament has been asked to deliver an opinion on:

- I. draft supplementary budget No. 3 of the European Communities for the financial year 1978
- II. the request for the release of certain posts at the Court of Auditors submitted on 7 April 1978
- III. the request submitted to Parliament for the transfer of certain of the Court of Auditors' appropriations

At its meeting of 26 April 1978, the Committee on Budgets, the committee responsible, confirmed Mr COINTAT's mandate as rapporteur on section V 'Court of Auditors' of the general budget for 1978.

At its meeting of 8 May 1978 the committee considered the draft report and adopted it unanimously.

Present: Mr LANGE, chairman and acting rapporteur; Mr van AERSEN, Lord BRUCE of DONINGTON, Mr CARO, Mrs DALLERUP, Mr DANKERT, Mr NOTENBOOM, Mr RADOUX, Mr RIPAMONTI and Mr SPINELLI.

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A

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

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

- I. draft supplementary budget No. 3 ^{on} of the European Communities for the financial year 1978
- II. the request for the release of certain posts at the Court of Auditors submitted on 7 April 1978
- III. the request submitted to Parliament for the transfer of certain of the Court of Auditors' appropriations

The European Parliament,

- having regard to preliminary draft supplementary and amending budget No. 3 (COM(78) 160),
- having regard to draft supplementary budget No. 3 (Doc. 112/78),
- having regard to the requests for the release of posts and transfer of appropriations (Doc. 99/78),
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Budgets (Doc. 113/78),

I

1. Approves the changes in the establishment plan of the Court of Auditors put forward in the draft supplementary budget, most of which arise out of the proposal to establish an internal language service and involve:
 - the creation of 31 additional posts
(1 LA 3 - 6 LA 5/4 - 9 LA 6/7 - 5 BS - 4 C 3 - 4 C 4 - 2 D 3)
 - the deletion of two posts (2 C 1)
 - the conversion of one temporary post (C 1) into a permanent post;
2. Approves, therefore, supplementary budget No. 3 for 1978 and instructs its President to adopt it pursuant to Article 203(7) of the EEC Treaty.

II

3. Approves the release of the ten posts still frozen in the establishment plan of the Court (2 A 2 - 5 A 6 - 3 C 3).

III

4. Approves the request for the transfer, in the 1978 budget for the Court, of 207,520 ECU from Chapter 101 (contingency reserve) to Chapter 11 (staff), Chapter 15 (internal training courses), Chapter 22 (movable property) and Chapter 23 (administrative expenditure).

EXPLANATORY STATEMENTThe initial budget of the Court of Auditors for 1978 and subsequent modifications

1. As adopted by the President of the European Parliament on 21 December 1977, the Court's budget amounted to 9.98 m EUA, while its establishment plan comprised 87 permanent posts, 27 temporary posts and 21 frozen posts¹.
2. On 2 February 1978 the Court requested the Council and Parliament to release one A 2 post and 10 B 3 posts. Parliament acceded to this request and its President duly informed the Court to that effect by letter
3. On 30 March 1978 the Court requested authorization to transfer an appropriation of 207,520 EUA from the reserve in Chapter 101 to enable it to recruit auxiliary staff (100,000 EUA), to meet its additional administrative costs (which are higher than forecast) and set up a library fund.
4. On 7 April 1978 the Court requested that all the remaining frozen posts (2 A 2 posts, 5 A 6 posts and 3 C 3 posts) should be released.

Draft supplementary budget for 1978

5. On 30 March 1978 the Court sought authorization from the Commission to draw up a supplementary budget, primarily with a view to creating the Court's own language service. This will mean modifying the Court's establishment plan to accommodate the extra staff required and to provide for the corresponding additional expenditure.

Number of staff

6. The Court proposes that a language service should be set up consisting of 26 staff, graded as follows:

- 1 head of division	LA 3
- 6 revisers	LA 4/5
- 9 translators	LA 6/7
- 8 secretaries	C 3 - C 4/5
- 2 skilled employees	D 3.

¹ OJ No. L 36, 6.2.1978

7. The Court also proposes that:

- 5 accounting officer posts (BS) be created,
- 2 C 1 temporary posts be deleted
- one C 1 temporary post be converted into a permanent post.

Appropriations

8. The Court estimates that the creation of these new posts will entail an additional outlay in 1978 of 817,550 EUA, broken down as follows:

- 617,550 EUA for salaries and miscellaneous charges arising from the creation of the new posts,
- 200,000 EUA for the recruitment of auxiliary staff (Article 111).

9. The Court has not requested additional funds to meet this expenditure, but instead proposes that 817,550 EUA be released from Chapter 101 (Contingency reserve). The amount allocated to this reserve is 1,400,000 EUA. After 817,550 EUA had been released and 207,520 EUA transferred (see para. 3 above), the total amount left in Chapter 101 would be 374,930 EUA.

Comments by the Committee on Budgets

10. The Committee on Budgets can only take formal note of the Court's desire to establish at this stage, a language service to facilitate and expedite its proceedings.

11. When the initial 1978 budget was adopted, the committee expressed surprise that so few language staff had been requested by the Court and questioned the wisdom of the Court's decision to submit more or less provisional proposals¹.

12. At this stage, therefore, the committee can only reaffirm the need - in the interests of strict budgetary orthodoxy - for the Court to draw up a final establishment plan for 1979 (notwithstanding the fact that it may later be modified) and to lay down a timetable for its implementation in 1979 and in subsequent financial years.

¹ See report by Mr Cointat (Doc. 440/77, para. 15).

13. In addition, the Committee on Budgets welcomes the release of the last remaining frozen posts in the establishment plan of the Court and also the requested transfer from the reserve in Chapter 101.

Conclusions

14. The Committee on Budgets endorses the proposals put forward by the Court and recommends that the European Parliament adopt:

- the draft supplementary budget:
- the request for the release of posts:
- the request for the transfer of appropriations.