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Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Budgets

on the ~~unfreezing~~ of appropriations entered under chapter 21 of the budget of the European Communities for the 1978 financial year

Rapporteur: Mr Michael SHAW

1.21

PE 53.743/fin.



By letter of 21 April 1978, the Commission of the European Communities raised the issue of the unfreezing of appropriations under Item 2100, increased rent and two new external offices, which had been frozen by decision of Parliament during the course of the budgetary procedure for 1978.

The Committee on Budgets followed the procedure laid down for the unfreezing of appropriations in its report (Doc. 144/76) in the context of the unfreezing of certain research expenditure, and confirmed the mandate of Mr Michael Shaw, rapporteur on the general budget of the Communities for 1978, at the occasion of its meeting of 24 May 1978.

The draft report was examined by the Committee on Budgets at its meeting of 24 May 1978 and was adopted unanimously.

There were present: Mr Lange, Chairman; Mr Cointat, vice-Chairman; Mr Shaw, rapporteur; Mr van Aerssen; Lord Bessborough; Lord Bruce of Donington; Mr Ripamonti; Mr Schreiber and Mr Spinelli.

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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 unfreezing of appropriations entered under chapter 21 of the budget of the European Communities for the 1978 financial year

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its Amendment No. 29 to Item 2100 adopted when considering the draft budget of the European Communities for the 1978 financial year,
  - having regard to the budget of the European Communities for the 1978 financial year and, in particular, Item 2100 of Section III, Commission,
  - having regard to its resolution of 18 June 1976<sup>1</sup> concerning a procedure for the unfreezing of appropriations,
  - having regard to the Commission's request for the unfreezing of the appropriations frozen at Item 2100,
  - having regard to the report of the Committee on Budgets (Doc. 144/78),
    - (a) appreciating the usefulness of the procedure for the freezing of appropriations as an element which adds to Parliament's scope for flexible control;
    - (b) believing that the provisions for rent of offices should be fully justified and that the need for such expenditure should be set out in an overall statement of policy with regard to external offices;
    - (c) considering that the additional material provided in relation to the sum at Item 2100 is appropriate and acceptable;
1. Notes that the conditions set by it in relation to Item 2100 when adopting the 1978 budget have been satisfied;
  2. Authorizes the unfreezing of the 244,450 EUA at Item 2100 (increased rent and two new external offices) referred to in its Amendment No. 29 of 15 December 1977.
  3. Instructs its President to forward the resolution contained in the report of its committee to the Council and the Commission.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ C 159, 12.7.1976, p. 37

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT1. Freezing of appropriations

In its resolution of 18 June 1976<sup>1</sup>, the European Parliament established a procedure for unfreezing appropriations. This procedure gives a mandate to the Committee on Budgets to deliberate and, where necessary, to consult other committees and to inform the President of Parliament so that he may contact the other institutions and inform them of its decision.

2. Procedure for unfreezing

The background to this procedure is set out in Mr Cointat's<sup>2</sup> report on the release of appropriations entered under certain chapters of the 1976 budget. The unfreezing may be communicated to the President by way of letter or, where specific problems arise or where large sums are involved, the Committee on Budgets may approach Parliament more formally by submitting a motion for a resolution.

3. Sums frozen in the 1978 budget

In the 1978 budget, among the items frozen was the sum of 244,450 EUA at Item 2100 "rent" by way of Amendment No. 29, adopted by Parliament on 15 December 1977. The remarks on this item were amended to read as follows:-

"244,450 EUA to be frozen.

These appropriations to be released when the need for a cost increase and two new external offices has been demonstrated."

4. Demonstration of need for appropriations

At its meeting of 24 May, the Committee on Budgets considered the letter from Mr Tugendhat, the Member of the Commission responsible for the budget, and two documents from the Commission - COM(77) 368/final and COM(78) 66/final - which provided considerable supplementary information on community policy in regard to external representation. Having deliberated on these texts, the Committee on Budgets were satisfied that adequate justification for unfreezing these appropriations had been provided and that the proper course to follow was to submit an appropriate motion for a resolution to Parliament.

<sup>1</sup>OJ C 159 12.7.76 p.37

<sup>2</sup>Doc. 144/76