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A3-0066/93

R E P O R T

of the Committee on Institutional Affairs

on holding a conference of representatives of the governments of the Member States with a view to the adoption of an addition to the Protocol on the Statute of the European Investment Bank (COM(93) 0003 - C3-0036/93)

Rapporteur: Mr Fernand HERMAN

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PE 203.609/fin.
Or. FR/DE/ES

Consultation procedure requiring a single reading
I Cooperation procedure (first reading)

**II Cooperation procedure (second reading) requiring the votes of a majority of the current Members of Parliament
*** Parliamentary assent requiring the votes of a majority of the current Members of Parliament

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By letter of 3 February 1993, the Council consulted the European Parliament, pursuant to Article 236 of the EEC Treaty, on holding a conference of representatives of the governments of the Member States (C3-0036/93) (COM(93) 0003) with a view to the adoption of an addition to the Protocol on the Statute of the European Investment Bank and requested the European Parliament to give its opinion on the urgency procedure pursuant to Rule 75 of its Rules of Procedure.

At the sitting of 8 February 1993 the President of Parliament announced that he had referred this proposal to the Committee on Institutional Affairs as the committee responsible and to the Committee on Budgets, the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and Industrial Policy and the Committee on Regional Policy, Regional Planning and Relations with Regional and Local Authorities for their opinions.

At the sitting of 9 February 1993 the Council's request for application of the urgency procedure was accepted.

At its meeting of 10 February 1993 the Committee on Institutional Affairs appointed Mr Herman rapporteur and adopted an interim motion for a resolution by 15 votes to 0, with 1 abstention.

At its meeting of 23 and 24 February 1993 the committee adopted a draft report by 13 votes to 3, with 2 abstentions.

The following were present for the vote: Oreja Aguirre, chairman; Prag, vice-chairman; Bru Puron, vice-chairman; Herman, rapporteur; Aglietta, Bandres Molet, Beiroco, Boissiere, Bonde (for Speroni), Capucho, Cheysson, de Giovanni, Duverger, Ephremidis, Ferrer y Casals (for Valverde), Glinne, Kostopoulos (for Pannella), Lagakos and Schodruch (for Blot).

The opinions of the Committee on Budgets and the Committee on Regional Policy, Regional Planning and Relations with Regional and Local Authorities are attached. The Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and Industrial Policy decided not to deliver an opinion, as it has itself been asked to draw up a report (C3-0037/93 - COM(93) 0003).

The report was tabled on 25 February 1993.

The deadline for tabling amendments will appear on the draft agenda for the part-session at which the report is to be considered.

A

MOTION FOR RESOLUTION

on holding a conference of representatives of the governments of the Member States with a view to the adoption of an addition to the Protocol on the Statute of the European Investment Bank

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Article 236 of the EEC Treaty,
 - having regard to the letter of 3 February 1993 from the Council seeking its opinion on the proposal for holding a conference of representatives of the governments of the Member States with a view to the adoption of an addition to the Protocol on the Statute of the European Investment Bank (C3-0036/93),
 - having regard to the opinion of the Committee on Budgets of 9 February 1993 and the opinion of the Committee on Regional Policy, Regional Planning and Relations with Regional and Local Authorities of 23 February 1993, having regard to the interim resolution of the Committee on Institutional Affairs (A3-0048/93),
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Institutional Affairs (A3-0066/93),
- A. Whereas the conclusions of the European Council meeting in Edinburgh on 11 and 12 December 1992 propose the setting up of a European Investment Fund;
 - B. Whereas the purpose of setting up the European Investment Fund is to encourage a revival in economic activity in Europe and, in particular, to strengthen the internal market and economic and social cohesion and also combat unemployment through investments in major projects of Community interest;
 - C. Whereas, under the proposal to amend the current Statute of the EIB, a decision on whether to set up a European Investment Fund must be taken by the Board of Governors unanimously;
 - D. Whereas unanimity among the Member States is required to amend the Protocol on the Statute of the EIB in order to set up a European Investment Fund and whereas it is therefore no longer necessary to require unanimity of the Governors of the EIB in order to take an identical decision;
 - E. Whereas there is a danger, in these circumstances, that a decision to set up a European Investment Fund will never be taken if there is opposition from a single Governor;
 - F. Whereas, with a view to the enlargement of the European Union, the principle that such decisions should be taken by a qualified majority should be considered;
 - G. Whereas it is essential that such an addition should be able to enter into force without unanimity among the Member States and whereas this principle should be made more flexible for such amendments;

1. Calls for Article 30 of the protocol proposed by the Commission to be amended as follows:

Article 30

Paragraph 1. The Board of Governors of the European Investment Bank may, acting by a majority as laid down in Article 10 of its Statute, decide to create the European Investment Fund, with legal personality and financial autonomy, and of which the Bank will be a founding member. (rest unchanged)

2. Calls for an amendment to Article B(2) of the proposal for an addition to the protocol:

Article B

Paragraph 2. This addition shall enter into force following ratification by a majority of Member States representing 75% of the total population of the European Union.

3. Approves the holding of an intergovernmental conference with a view to the adoption of an additional protocol to the Statute of the EIB, subject to the inclusion of the above two amendments and subject to the holding of an interinstitutional conference designed to allow the adoption of a text to be drawn up jointly by the three institutions and entrusts its delegation to the interinstitutional conference with the conduct of these negotiations;
4. Instructs its President to forward this motion for a resolution to the Council, Commission and the parliaments of the Member States.

OPINION

of the Committee on Budgets

Letter from the chairman of the committee to Mr Marcelino OREJA, chairman of the Committee on Institutional Affairs

Brussels, 23 February 1993

Subject: Proposal for an addition to the Protocol on the Statute of the European Investment Bank empowering the Board of Governors of the EIB to establish the European Investment Fund
(COM(93)0003 - C3-0036/93)

Dear Mr Oreja,

At its meeting of 19 February 1993, the Committee on Budgets considered the above proposal following the vote in Parliament to approve the request for urgent debate in respect of the holding of an intergovernmental conference to amend the Protocol on the Statute of the European Investment Bank.

The Committee on Budgets approves in principle the holding of an intergovernmental conference on this subject.

The Committee on Budgets is also of the opinion that the Commission should be involved in drafting the statute and that Community participation should be commensurate with its capital investment.

The Committee on Budgets therefore requests the Committee on Institutional Affairs, as the committee responsible, to include the following in its resolution:

'The Commission of the European Communities shall be involved in the drafting of the statute of the Investment Fund and in the decision-making process to an extent commensurate with its capital investment.'

Yours sincerely,

(sgd) Thomas von der Vring

The following were present for the vote: von der Vring, chairman; Pasty, second vice-chairman; Lo Giudice, draftsman; Böge, Colom i Naval, Duarte, Elles, Frimat, Kellett-Bowman (for Cassidy), Marques Mendes, Miranda da Silva, Samland, Theato, Wynn and Zavvos.

OPINION

of the Committee on Regional Policy, Regional Planning
and Relations with Regional and Local Authorities

Letter from the chairman of the committee to Mr OREJA AGUIRRE, chairman of the
Committee on Institutional Affairs

Brussels, 23 February 1993

Subject: Proposal for an addition to the Protocol on the Statute of the
European Investment Bank empowering the Board of Governors of the EIB
to establish the European Investment Fund
(COM(93)0003 final - C3-0036/93)

Dear Mr Oreja,

At its meeting of 23 February 1993 the Committee on Regional Policy, Regional
Planning and Relations with Regional and Local Authorities considered the above
proposal and adopted the following conclusions:¹

The Committee on Regional Policy, Regional Planning and Relations with Regional
and Local Authorities

1. Welcomes the establishment of a European Investment Fund - subject to
examining the precise details once its statutes are available - which, as
part of the plan for promoting economic recovery in Europe, approved in
Edinburgh by the Heads of State and Government, is intended to assist in
financing infrastructure projects in connection with trans-European networks
and SMEs in less developed areas of the Community, predominantly through
financial guarantees, and which should, therefore, represent an additional
means of furthering economic and social cohesion;
2. Welcomes the proposal to modify the Protocol on the Statute of the European
Investment Bank as it will allow the Board of Governors of the EIB to proceed
with setting up the European Investment Fund;
3. Requests that this opportunity also be taken to modify the Statute of the EIB
to bring it into line with the Structural Fund Regulations which it has not
been possible to apply satisfactorily hitherto, as the current Statute does
not allow the Bank to participate in planning, making it impossible for
grants and loans to fully complement each other under the Community Support
Frameworks.

Yours sincerely,

Antoni GUTIERREZ DIAZ

¹ The following were present for the vote: Gutiérrez Díaz, chairman and
draftsman; Cushnahan, vice-chairman; Arbeloa Muru, Bettini, Brito de Sousa
(for Dessylas), Contu, Da Cunha, Falconer, Forte (for Ferrer), Happart (for
Alexandre), Maher, Mitolo, Moretti, Nicholson, Onur (for Hume), Ortiz
Climent, Pack, Romeos and Santos.

