

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1983 - 1984

26 March 1984

DOCUMENT 1-1471/83/ANNEX

ANNEX

to the report of Mr F. HERMAN
drawn up on behalf of the Committee on
Economic and Monetary Affairs

o
o o

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON BUDGETS

PE 88.898/fin./Ann.



OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON BUDGETS

Letter of chairman of the committee to Mr Jacques MOREAU,
chairman of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs

Brussels, 23 March 1984

Subject: Proposal for a Council Decision adopting a Community programme for
the development of the specialized information market in Europe
(COM (83) 661)

Dear Mr Moreau,

The Committee on Budgets recently¹ discussed this proposed Community programme, which follows three action plans in the same field which have been in operation over the period 1975-83². These action plans have, inter alia, supported the setting up of the Euronet transmission network and the Diane system of databases. The following points were made in the discussion.

The Committee on Budgets can accept the new programme and that it should run for five years (and not three, as in the past) in order to provide greater stability. In view of the lengthy period since 1975 during which the Community has been active in this field, the independent evaluation foreseen for the end of the five-year programme could usefully be done earlier, and in particular in time for the review half-way through the five years.

The committee underlined that appropriations for any Community programme can only be set during the annual budgetary procedure, but noted that the estimate of appropriations required for the five years (40 mECU) represented only modest growth over the previous action plans.

.../...

¹ At its meeting of 21/22 March 1984

² The following were present: Mr Lange, chairman; Mr Notenboom, vice-chairman; Mr Abens, Mr Gouthier, Mr Helms (deputizing for Mr Konrad Schön), Mr Kellett-Bowman, Mr Langes, Mr Louwes, Mrs Nikolaou, Mr Orlandi and Mr Pfennig

No additional permanent posts are proposed for this programme, but recourse is to be had to outside experts. In particular, the expertise built up by the Euronet Diane Launch Team appears to justify its retention, but the Commission's wish for a further 8 A-posts and 3 B-posts appears at first sight to be excessive, and should be reviewed. The cost of these additional experts (plus market evaluation and research) amounts to about 8% of the first-year costs of the programme.

The 'advisory' Committee associated with this programme (the Committee for Information and Documentation on Science and Technology - CIDST) is taking an increasing role, and appears to implement certain aspects of the programme. The duties of this Committee (see Annex II of the proposed decision, especially paragraphs 4 and 6) should be reviewed.

Yours sincerely,



Erwin LANGE

