

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Budgets

on the Council's modifications of the European
Parliament's amendments to

- Section I 'PARLIAMENT'

of the draft general budget for the financial
year 1984

Rapporteur: Mr G. PFENNIG

PE 87.977/fin.

On 29 November 1982 the Committee on Budgets appointed Mr PFENNIG rapporteur on Section I - Parliament - of the draft general budget of the European Communities for the financial year 1984.

At its meeting of 7 December 1983 the Committee on Budgets adopted amendment No. 315. At its meeting of 14 December 1983 the Committee on Budgets adopted the motion for a resolution by 11 votes to 1 with 5 abstentions.

The following were present: Mr Lange, chairman; Mr Notenboom, first vice-chairman; Mrs Barbarella, second vice-chairman; Mr Pfennig, rapporteur; Mr Adonnino, Mr Baillet, Mr Barbagli (deputizing for Mr Konrad Schön), Mr Croux, Lord Douro, Mr Gouthier, Mrs Hoff, Mr Lalumière, Mr Louwes, Mrs Nikolaou, Mr Pöttering (deputizing for Mr Simonnet), Mr Protopapadakis and Mr Saby.

The report was tabled on 14 December 1983.

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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 Council's modifications of the European Parliament's amendments to Section I - Parliament - of the draft general budget for the financial year 1984

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the amendment to the breakdown of certain articles and items in the remarks column of the budget adopted by Parliament at the first reading of 27 October 1983,
 - having regard to its resolution of 27 October 1983,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Budgets (Doc.1-1214/83),
- A. whereas a breakdown of individual articles and items in the remarks column of its budget is desirable for the purpose of greater transparency,
- B. whereas certain services of the Parliament have not yet been able to comply fully with these wishes,
- C. whereas it is necessary at last to take a practical step in the restructuring of Parliament's Secretariat and thereby towards greater efficiency in the service of all Members,

With regard to the transparency of the budget

1. Considers it necessary that the information required for the transparency of the budget should be forwarded as soon as possible to the rapporteur;

- stresses the binding nature of the information given so far in the remarks column of the budget and instructs its Committee on Budgetary Control to take serious discrepancies into consideration in the context of the discharge to be granted in respect of the 1984 financial year and immediately to carry out a check on all budget items in respect of which no breakdowns or inadequate breakdowns are given in the remarks column,
- recommends that in the case of some budget articles the suggestions of the Court of Auditors should be followed and that possibly in the 1985 budget further articles should be subdivided into individual items (see Article 151 of the Court of Auditors' budget);

With regard to restructuring

2. Re-emphasizes, with reference to paragraph 8 of the resolution of 27 October 1983, the need for a restructuring of its administration, looks forward to receiving corresponding proposals at an early date and refers to the studies by its rapporteur.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENTI BUDGETARY TRANSPARENCY

1. At the first reading on 27 October 1983 the plenary sitting adopted, on a proposal by the rapporteur on behalf of the Committee on Budgets, a general amendment to the effect that certain articles and items of the budget should be broken down in the remarks column. The administration of the European Parliament had already been asked by the rapporteur beforehand to submit a corresponding breakdown of the relevant articles and items together with statistics.
2. The result of the information supplied by the administration is not at all satisfactory: full information was provided on only half of the 14 articles or items listed as requiring more details in the remarks column. In the case of three budget lines (Articles 202, 203 and 204) the administration was unable to provide the information requested; the information on two budget lines (Items 2220 and 2221) is still unsatisfactory, because it is too general and not broken down; in the case of two other budget lines (Article 115 and Item 2222) your rapporteur was able to obtain the information himself from his own research.
3. It should be pointed out in this connection that two of the other institutions (Court of Justice and Court of Auditors) set an example by providing this information only two days after the request was made; the Economic and Social Committee forwarded certain outstanding items of information at the end of November.

The speed with which the other institutions forwarded the figures requested and the clarity of their information demonstrate in the opinion of your rapporteur that the respective administrations have a clear idea of the expenditure planned for the next financial year.

4. It is inexplicable why the Council, in spite of acknowledging Parliament's desire for greater transparency in the remarks against certain items of expenditure, adopted a modification deleting Parliament's amendments from the first reading and merely called on the institutions concerned to provide the

necessary information, if possible, as part of the documentation to be appended as an annex (!) to the preliminary draft budget for the 1985 financial year, although this information had already been available for a long time for the 1984 financial year and all the necessary facts are therefore available now for making a breakdown of the remarks for the 1984 financial year.

5. Consequently, Parliament must insist that its decisions taken during first reading be upheld.