

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1979 - 1980

10 December 1979

DOCUMENT 1-579/79

Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Budgets

on the outcome of Council's deliberations
on the/amendments adopted by the European
Parliament to Annex I of Section II -
Council: Economic and Social Committee -
of the draft general budget of the European
Communities for the financial year 1980

Rapporteur: Mr Robert JACKSON

On 6 September 1979, the Committee on Budgets appointed Mr Robert JACKSON rapporteur on Annex I to Section II - Council: Economic and Social Committee of the draft general budget of the European Communities for the financial year 1980.

The Committee on Budgets adopted the following report and the annexed amendment by 26 votes, with 4 abstentions at its meeting of 4 December 1979.

Present: Mr Notenboom, acting Chairman; Mr Spinelli, second Vice-Chairman; Mr Rossi, third Vice-Chairman; Mr Robert Jackson, rapporteur; Mr Adonnino, Mr Aigner, Mr Ansquer, Mr Baillot, Mr Balfe, Mr Barbi, Mr Bonde, Mr Colla, Mr D'Angelosante (deputizing for Mrs Boserup), Mr Dankert, Mr Flanagan, Mr Forth, Mrs Gaspard, Mr Gouthier, Mrs Gredal, Mr Hord, Mr Megahy (deputizing for Mr O'Leary), Mr Motchane, Mr Nord, Lord O'Hagan, Mr Orlandi, Mr Pfennig, Mr K. Schön, Mrs Scrivener, Mr Simonnet, Mr J. M. Taylor, and Mr Tuckman.

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Annex: Amendment

PDA 563/146

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 outcome of Council's deliberations on the amendments adopted by the European Parliament to Annex I of Section II - Council: Economic and Social Committee - of the draft general budget of the European Communities for the financial year 1980

The European Parliament

- having regard to the Council's deliberations on the amendments to the 1980 draft general budget adopted by Parliament on 7 November 1979, (Doc. 1-563/79)

- having regard to the report of the Committee on Budgets (Doc. 1-579/79),

- having regard to the fact that the Council's deliberations on the amendment proposed by Parliament on 7 November 1979 contain no justification for rejecting the reasoned arguments put forward in support of the amendment concerning staff conversions, adopted by Parliament,

confirms through an amendment its decision of 7 November 1979 to strengthen the establishment plan of the Economic and Social Committee.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. Parliament approved unanimously the report of the Committee on Budgets concerning Section II, Annex I (Economic and Social Committee) of the 1980 draft budget. The Committee had tabled two amendments to this part of the budget :

(i) Amendment No. 182/rev. adding to the establishment plan 5 post conversions (1 A 7 into 1 A 6, 1 LA 5 into 1 LA 4, 1 B 2 into 1 B 1, 2 C 5 into 2 C 3. The total net cost of these conversions would have amounted to 2,800 EUA ;

(ii) Amendment No. 183 increasing by 300 Belgian Francs the level of flat rate daily allowances to cover the subsistence expenses of members of the Economic and Social Committee.

2. Council, at its meeting of 23 November 1979 rejected the first amendment, and accepted the second. Its rejection of the first amendment was not accompanied by any explanation or justification. For the second amendment, which was accepted, Council nonetheless indicated that the actual increase in the allowances would necessitate a specific decision by Council and cannot be achieved solely through the budgetary procedure.

Conversion of posts

3. Your rapporteur proposes to the Committee on Budgets that it re-tables the amendment granting 5 post conversions.

The Economic and Social Committee had initially proposed converting some 20 posts.

These conversions were brought forward to take account of the seniority of persons concerned, increases in their responsibilities, and to take account of promotion prospects within other Community institutions and bodies.

4. A proper personnel policy must recognise that a problem must exist in view of the drain to other institutions experienced by the Economic and Social Committee because of the more rapid promotion prospects that exist elsewhere. It will be recalled

that the Council reduced the post conversions to 3 on a purely arbitrary basis. After examining the problem and after consulting the administration of the Economic and Social Committee, your rapporteur made what he considered to be a reasonable compromise proposal adding a further 5 up-gradings. This proposal was accepted by the Committee and by Parliament.

5. In view of the fact that no new argument has been brought forward against these proposals and in view of the further investigation of the question, your rapporteur suggests that the Committee on Budgets re-tables the amendment.

Allowances of Members of the Committee

6. The Council had accepted Parliament's amendment increasing the allowances for members of the Committee from 3,000 to 3,300 Belgian Francs, which took account of the increase in the inflation rate at the meeting place of the Committee and which corresponded with decisions taken by other institutions.

7. The Parliament accepted your rapporteur's argument that it was appropriate to take a decision on allowances during the budgetary procedure. Whilst the Council retains the right, under Article 6 of the merger treaty, to determine the level of salaries and allowances where they are made "instead of remuneration", allowances, such as those paid to members of the European Parliament, which are separate from remuneration, are not determined exclusively by Council. In this case the budgetary authority may decide upon the level allowances.

8. Your rapporteur notes that the Council has accepted this amendment but cannot concur with the accompanying remarks made by Council. The decision by the budgetary authority must, therefore, be taken as final: in other words, Parliament's amendment effectively increases the daily allowances to cover the subsistence expenses of members of the Economic and Social Committee. There is no need for any further decision by Council.

Conclusion

9. As explained above the Committee on Budgets recommends the re-tableting of the amendment to permit 5 post up-gradings, in accordance with the decision of Parliament on 7 November 1979, and in the absence of any reasonable justification by the Council for its rejection of Parliament's amendment.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

3 DECEMBER 1979

Doc. 563/146

COUNCIL MODIFICATIONS
TO PARLIAMENT'S AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAFT BUDGET
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1980 (Doc 378 79)

AMENDMENT No. 146.

tabled by Mr Robert JACKSON
rapporteur

to the Council's modification to Parliament's amendment No. 182/rev.

SECTION II - COUNCIL

Annex I - Economic and Social Committee

Staff posts - add to the establishment plan the following 5 post conversions:

1 A 7	into	A 6
1 LA 5	into	LA 4
1 B 2	into	B 1
2 C 5	into	C 3

A - Expenditure

Increase the paument appropriations in Title I by 14,210 EUA (from 11,684,500 EUA to 11,698,710 EUA)

B - Compensation

Reduce apprcpriations in Chapter 100 by 14,210 (from 1,788,000 EUA to 1,773,790 EUA)

C - Revenue

Increase revenue by 2,800 EUA

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Detailed analysis

Item 1100 - Basic salaries	+	10,600 EUA (7,660,000 to 7,670,600)
Item 1101 - Family allowances	+	880 EUA (628,000 to 628,880)

Item 1102	-	Expatriation allowance (including those under Article 97 - ECSC Staff Regulations)	+	1,580	EUA	(1,139,000 to 1,140,580)
Item 1130	-	Sickness insurance	+	330	EUA	(235,600 to 235,930)
Item 1131	-	Accident insurance and occupational diseases	+	110	EUA	(80,600 to 80,710)
Item 119	-	Provisional appropriations to cover any adjustment of the remuneration of officials and other servants of the European Communities	+	710	EUA	(513,000 to 513,710)
Chapter 100	-	Provisional appropriations -		14,210	EUA	(1,788,000 to 1,773,790)
Chapter 40	-	Proceeds from taxation on the salaries, wages and allowances of officials and other staff				
			+	2,010	EUA	(1,450,000 to 1,452,010)
Chapter 41	-	Staff contributions to the pension scheme	+	790	EUA	(570,000 to 570,790)

Justification

These five conversions include both upgrading of posts and promotions within certain career brackets.

The aim of these upgradings is to permit officials from the Committee to obtain promotions within career brackets and to take account, where necessary, of upgradings as a result of a change in the nature of the functions carried out by the officials.

The upgradings of an A7 to A6 and of an LA5 to LA 4 are requested in order to take account of seniority within the grade, within the service and of the age of the official concerned.

For the upgrading from B2 to B1, account has been taken of the length of service of the official concerned and the development of the workload and the level of responsibilities involved in his job.

For the upgradings for the C category, account has been taken of the more complicated machinery requiring higher qualifications, used by the officials concerned. Furthermore, the rapporteur has noted the drain of a relatively high proportion of staff from the secretariat of the Committee (more than 10%) towards other institutions which are able to offer greater career opportunities. Within the Committee 12% of C grade officials are classified within the C5 grade whereas, in other institutions, recruitment at the C5 level is practically non-existent - staff being recruited directly at C4 or even C3 levels.

This draft amendment was rejected without any justification by the Council.

The Committee on Budgets, at its meeting of 28 November 1979, decided unanimously to retable this amendment.