
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1979 - 1980

8 May 1979

DOCUMENT 165/79

Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Budgets

on the ~~/~~list of requests for the carry-over of appropriations from the 1978 to the 1979 financial year (Non-automatic carry-overs) (Doc. 135/79)

Rapporteur: Mr Michael SHAW

12.1.

By letter of 25 April 1979 the President of the Council of the European Communities requested the European Parliament, pursuant to Article 6(3) of the Financial Regulation, to deliver an opinion on the list of requests for the carry-over of appropriations from the financial year 1978 to the financial year 1979 (non-automatic carry-overs).

The President of the European Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on Budgets as the committee responsible.

On 7 May 1979, the Committee on Budgets confirmed the mandate of Mr SHAW as rapporteur.

It considered this proposal at the same meeting and unanimously adopted the motion for a resolution and the explanatory statement.

Present: Mr Lange, chairman; Mr Shaw, rapporteur; Mr van Aerssen, Lord Bessborough, Lord Bruce of Donington, Mrs Dahlerup, Mr Dalyell, Mr Dankert, Mr Notenboom, Mr Ripamonti and Mr Schreiber.

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The Committee on Budgets hereby submits to the European Parliament the following Motion for a Resolution and Explanatory Statement

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

embodying the opinion of the European Parliament on the list of requests for the carry-over of appropriations from the 1978 to the 1979 financial year (non-automatic carry-overs)

The European Parliament

- having regard to the list submitted by the Commission of the European Communities (COM(79) 214 final),
- having been consulted by the Council, pursuant to the provisions of Article 6 (3) and Article 108 (3) of the Financial Regulation¹, (Doc. 135/79),
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Budgets (Doc. 165/79),

1. Gives a favourable opinion on the carry-over of appropriations from the 1978 to the 1979 financial year in the following cases:

<u>SECTION III - Commission</u>		<u>EUA</u>
Item 3751	: Investment premiums	: 15,000,000
Article 390	: Research projects in the field of technology and industry	: 2,000,000
Article 470	: Refunds arising out of certain financial obligations in respect of fishing in the Adriatic	: 430,000
Item 6240	: Financial contribution by the Guarantee Section to premiums for the non-marketing of milk and premiums <u>for conversion</u>	: 30,430,739
Item 9601	: Financial cooperation with Portugal (Financial Protocol)	: 6,000,000
and from earlier years to 1979 in the case of		
Chapter 80	: Projects for the improvement of agricultural structures provided for under Article 13 of Regulation No. 17/64/EEC	: 122,221,055.29
<u>SECTION V - Court of Auditors</u>		
Article 260	: Consultations, studies and surveys of limited scope	: 60,000

2. Will pronounce on the details of these operations in the context of the report on the discharge for the 1978 financial year.

¹O.J. Vol. 20, L 356 of 31/12/77

B.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Background considerations

1. Parliament has, in the past, frequently expressed its concern about the danger that the extensive use of the carry-over procedure might pose for its budgetary prerogative. This unwelcome situation could come about if non-compulsory appropriations that had been carried over were transferred to other headings. However, when the Financial Regulation was being revised in 1977, Parliament agreed that, provided the last word over the transfer of non-compulsory appropriations rested with it, its earlier fears would have been eliminated.

2. However, use of the carry-over procedure could have a further adverse aspect: it could entail the postponement of the implementation of parts of the budget as adopted by Parliament and thus could thwart Parliament's political will.

3. On balance, however, the carry-over facility - if used sparingly and if it is adequately supervised - represents a desirable degree of flexibility in what is a very complicated budgetary procedure.

The 1978 to 1979 non-automatic carry-overs

4. No carry-overs under Article 6 (3) of the Financial Regulation have been sought in respect of Sections I, II or IV of the budget. In the case of Section V, the Court of Auditors, the carry-over of 60,000 EUA has been sought.

5. As usual, the bulk of the carry-over requests affects Section III - the Commission's part of the budget. Specifically, the Rapporteur regrets that Item 3751 should be the subject of a carry-over request because of the particular political significance which attached to it in the context of the 1978 budget. This delay in implementation is, however, a matter for consideration in the context of the discharge report on the 1978 accounts. The Rapporteur recommends giving a positive opinion on all the carry-over requests set out in COM(79) 214 final.