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7 November 2000

REPORT

on the proposal for a Council decision on the granting of funds to Greece in order to relieve the interest burden on EIB loans for the reconstruction of the region which was devastated by the earthquake of September 1999 (COM(2000) 632 – C5-0532/2000 – 2000/0255(CNS))

Committee on Budgets

Rapporteur: Ioannis Averoff

Symbols for procedures

- * Consultation procedure
majority of the votes cast
- **I Cooperation procedure (first reading)
majority of the votes cast
- **II Cooperation procedure (second reading)
*majority of the votes cast, to approve the common position
majority of Parliament's component Members, to reject or amend
the common position*
- *** Assent procedure
*majority of Parliament's component Members except in cases
covered by Articles 105, 107, 161 and 300 of the EC Treaty and
Article 7 of the EU Treaty*
- ***I Codecision procedure (first reading)
majority of the votes cast
- ***II Codecision procedure (second reading)
*majority of the votes cast, to approve the common position
majority of Parliament's component Members, to reject or amend
the common position*
- ***III Codecision procedure (third reading)
majority of the votes cast, to approve the joint text

(The type of procedure depends on the legal basis proposed by the Commission)

CONTENTS

	Page
PROCEDURAL PAGE	4
LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL	5
DRAFT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION.....	5
EXPLANATORY STATEMENT	6

PROCEDURAL PAGE

By letter of 20 October 2000, the Council consulted Parliament, pursuant to Article 308 of the EC Treaty, on the proposal for a Council decision on the granting of funds to Greece in order to relieve the interest burden on EIB loans for the reconstruction of the region which was devastated by the earthquake of September 1999 (COM(2000) 632 - 2000/0255 (CNS)).

At the sitting of 27 October 2000, the President of Parliament announced that she had referred this proposal to the Committee on Budgets as the committee responsible.

At its meeting of 23 October 2000, the Committee on Budgets had appointed Ioannis Averoff rapporteur.

At this meeting it also considered the Commission proposal and it adopted the draft legislative resolution by 32 votes with two abstentions.

The following were present for the vote: Terence Wynn, chairman; Reimer Böge, vice-chairman; Bárbara Dührkop Dührkop, second vice-chairman; Ioannis Averoff, rapporteur; Herbert Bösch (for Joan Colom i Naval), Jean-Louis Bourlanges, Paulo Casaca, Chantal Cauquil, Carlos Costa Neves, Den Dover, James E.M. Elles, Göran Färm, Salvador Garriga Polledo, Neena Gill, Catherine Guy-Quint, Jutta D. Haug, Brice Hortefeux, Ulpu Iivari (for Constanze Angela Krehl), Wolfgang Ilgenfritz, Anne Elisabet Jensen, Armin Laschet, Jan Mulder, Juan Andrés Naranjo Escobar, Giovanni Saverio Pittella, Bartho Pronk (for Markus Ferber), Paul Rübig (for John Joseph McCartin), Heide Rühle, Luciana Sbarbati, Ioannis Soulidakis (for Wilfried Kuckelkorn), Per Stenmarck, Diemut R. Theato (for Edward H.C. McMillan-Scott), Francesco Turchi, Kyösti Tapio Virrankoski, Ralf Walter, Francis Wurtz.

The report was tabled on 7 November 2000.

The deadline for tabling amendments is 10 a.m. on 14 November 2000.

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL

Proposal for a Council decision on the granting of funds to Greece in order to relieve the interest burden on EIB loans for the reconstruction of the region which was devastated by the earthquake of September 1999 (COM(2000) 632 – C5-0532/2000 – 2000/0255(CNS))

The proposal is approved.

DRAFT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

European Parliament legislative resolution on the proposal for a Council decision on the granting of funds to Greece in order to relieve the interest burden on EIB loans for the reconstruction of the region which was devastated by the earthquake of September 1999 (COM(2000) 632 – C5-0532/00 – 2000/0255(CNS))

(Consultation procedure)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to the Council (COM(2000) 632¹),
 - having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 308 of the EC Treaty (C5-0336/2000),
 - having regard to Rule 67 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Budgets (A5-0322/2000),
1. Approves the Commission proposal;
 2. Calls on the Council to notify Parliament should it intend to depart from the legislative opinion approved by Parliament;
 3. Asks to be consulted again should the Council intend to amend the Commission proposal substantially;
 4. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council and Commission.

¹ OJ C ... (not yet published).

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Background

The Commission has presented a legislative proposal with the aim to grant EUR 2 million to the Greek State to cover 38% of the interest burden caused by EIB loans. These loans were initially provided for the reconstruction, replacement and rehabilitation of buildings, infrastructural and industrial installations in the Attica region after the damage caused by the devastating earthquake in September 1999.

In its resolution from 16 September 1999, the Parliament called on “the Commission, the Council and other competent bodies to consider all possible ways of speedily helping the victims and rapidly repairing the damage”. During the 2000 budgetary procedure, the Parliament decided to enter EUR 2 million under budget line B5-202 (Annual funding of interest subsidies on special loans to Greece following the 1981, 1986 and 1999 earthquakes). These funds were to remain in the reserve until the legal base would be adopted.

The rapporteur deplores the fact that it took the Commission over a year to come up with a legislative proposal, which was of an utmost importance and urgency. In order to avoid further delays, the Commission should make sure that the corresponding funds are granted as soon as the Council decision has been approved.

The present proposal provides the required legal basis. The proposal consists of only two articles, which specify the objectives and conditions of the decision.

The conclusions stipulate that the Commission will pay the funds in one single instalment before the end 2000. All funds received by the Greek State under this regulation shall be used exclusively for relieving the interest burden on EIB loans for the replacement, rehabilitation or reconstruction of buildings, infrastructural and industrial installations (including SMEs) in the Attica region affected by the earthquake of September 1999.

Conclusions

The Committee on Budgets can give its approval to the Commission's proposal, which is in line with Parliament's resolution from 16 September 1999 and the remarks stated in Budget 2000 on budget line B5-202.