

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

---

*Session document*

FINAL  
**A5-0316/2003**

1 October 2003

## **REPORT**

on the Draft Amending Budget N° 5/2003 of the European Union for the financial year 2003,  
(0000/2003 – C5-0000/2003 – 2003/2144(BUD) and 2003/2181(BUD))

Section III - Commission

Committee on Budgets

Rapporteur: Göran Färm



## CONTENTS

	<b>Page</b>
PROCEDURAL PAGE.....	4
MOTION FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION.....	5
EXPLANATORY STATEMENT .....	7

## PROCEDURAL PAGE

For the budgetary procedure for the financial year 2003, the Committee on Budgets appointed Göran Färm rapporteur at its meeting of 10 December 2001.

On the 30 July 2003 and on the 25 September 2003, respectively, the Commission presented the Preliminary Draft Amending Budgets N° 5/2003 and N° 6/2003 of the European Union for the financial year 2003 and forwarded them to Parliament (SEC(2003) 886 and SEC(2003) 1059).

On 7 October 2003, the Council will establish one single Draft Amending Budget N° 5/2003 covering the Preliminary Draft Amending Budgets N° 5/2003 and N° 6/2003 of the European Union for the financial year 2003 and will forward it to Parliament by letter of .... (xxx/2003).

At the sitting of 8 October 2003 the President will announce that he has referred the Draft Amending Budget N° 5/2003 to the Committee on Budgets as the committee responsible and to all the committees concerned for their opinions (C5-0000/2003 – 2003/2144(BUD) and 2003/2181(BUD)).

The Committee on Budgets considered the Draft Amending Budget N° 5/2003, subject to final adoption by the Council, and the draft report at its meetings of 10 September and 30 September 2003.

At the latter meeting the committee adopted the motion for a resolution unanimously.

The following were present for the vote: Terence Wynn, chairman; Reimer Böge, vice-chairman; Anne Elisabet Jensen, vice-chairman; Franz Turchi, vice-chairman; Göran Färm rapporteur; Ioannis Averoff, Kathalijne Maria Buitenweg, Paulo Casaca, Joan Colom i Naval, Den Dover, James E.M. Elles, Ilda Figueiredo (for Chantal Cauquil), Salvador Garriga Polledo, Neena Gill, Catherine Guy-Quint, Jutta D. Haug, María Esther Herranz García, Ian Stewart Hudghton, Constanze Angela Krehl, John Joseph McCartin, Jan Mulder, Juan Andrés Naranjo Escobar, Joaquim Piscarreta, Guido Podestà, Esko Olavi Seppänen, Kyösti Tapio Virrankoski, Ralf Walter and Brigitte Wenzel-Perillo.

The report was tabled on 1 October 2003.

## MOTION FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION

**on the Draft Amending Budget N° 5/2003 of the European Union for the financial year 2003, Section III - Commission (0000/2003 - C5-000/2003 - 2003/2144(BUD)and 2003/2181 (BUD))**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to Article 272 of the EC Treaty and Article 177 of the Euratom Treaty,
- having regard to Financial Regulation of 25 June 2002<sup>1</sup> applicable to the general budget of the European Communities and particularly Articles 37 and 38 thereof,
- having regard to the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2003, as finally adopted on 19 December 2002<sup>2</sup>,
- having regard to the Interinstitutional Agreement of 6 May 1999 between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on budgetary discipline and improvement of the budgetary procedure<sup>3</sup>
- having regard to the Interinstitutional Agreement of 7 November 2002 on the financing of the European Union Solidarity Fund supplementing the Interinstitutional Agreement of 6 May 1999<sup>4</sup>
- having regard to the preliminary Draft Amending Budgets No 5/2003 and 6/2003 of the European Union for the financial year 2003, which the Commission presented on 30 July and 25 September 2003 (SEC(2003) 886 and SEC(2003)1059),
- having regard to the Draft Amending Budget No 5/2003 of the European Union for the financial year 2003, which the Council established on 7 October 2003 (0000/2003 - C5-0000/2003),
- having regard to the decisions of the European Parliament and the Council of 8 October 2003 to mobilise the flexibility mechanism relating to the European Union Solidarity Fund for amounts of € 56.25 million and € 48.539 million respectively,
- having regard to Rule 92 of and Annex IV to its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Budgets (A5-0316/2003),

A. whereas the European Union should give a response of solidarity to assist in the work following the damage resulting from the sinking of the *Prestige* oil tanker, the earthquake in Molise and Apulia and the eruption of Mount Etna, at the end of 2002, and the forest

---

<sup>1</sup> OJ L 248, 16.09.2002

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 54, 28.02.2003

<sup>3</sup> OJ C 172, 18.06.1999, p.1

<sup>4</sup> OJ C 283, 20.11.2002

fires in Portugal in 2003,

- B. whereas the appropriate budgetary resources have been mobilised in accordance with the provisions of the European Union Solidarity Fund and the Interinstitutional Agreement relating to its financing,
- C. whereas the purpose of AB 5/2003 is to formally enter these budgetary resources in the 2003 budget,
  - 1. Expresses its satisfaction with AB 5/2003, the purpose of which is to enter without delay the budgetary resources mobilised as part of the European Union Solidarity Fund in the 2003 budget so that those affected by these natural disasters can be assisted;
  - 2. Welcomes the fact that the adoption of AB 5/2003 in one single reading ( as well as the decision of the European Institutions to merge the two procedures initially foreseen into one) has ensured the most rapid assistance possible from the EU budget, following the applications presented, to the countries and regions concerned;
  - 3. Approves unamended Draft Amending Budget No 5/2003 drawn up by the Council on 7 October 2003
  - 4. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission.

## EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Following the serious flooding in the summer of 2002, a number of institutional and budgetary decisions were taken in order to ensure that an adequate response to natural disasters could be taken also at the level of European Union, to support national efforts, the necessity of which was strongly felt and unanimously agreed.

This process included the creation of a legal base for the European Union Solidarity Fund as well as an Interinstitutional Agreement (complementing the IIA of 1999) concerning its financing.

Applications have now been received from Spain, Italy and Portugal following the disasters involving the *Prestige* oil tanker off the Spanish coast, the earthquake in Molise and Apulia in northern Italy, the eruption of Mount Etna, at the end of 2002, and the forest fires in Portugal in 2003.

According to the provisions in force, and following the Commission's evaluation and proposals, the Parliament and Council arrived at a joint decision as to the mobilisation of these resources in accordance with the rules and procedures laid down in the Solidarity Fund's legal base and the Interinstitutional Agreement on its financing.

However, in order to make sure that support actions can commence, it is also necessary to ensure that the financial resources mobilised can be put to use in the current budgetary year.

In order to make that possible they have to be entered formally into the 2003 budget and it is exactly that which is the purpose of this Amending Budget.

It should be recalled that the necessary nomenclature in the budget was agreed by Parliament in 2002. This involved the creation of two budget lines, one under heading 3 of the financial perspective (concerning the support for Member States affected) and one under heading 7 (concerning the support for affected candidate countries negotiating for accession).

So, what remains to be done now is to enter the actual amount which has been mobilised.

Finally, it should be noted that the Parliament sought to conclude this process as quickly as possible to make sure that the regions and people whom have suffered are helped without delay. The adoption of this report will be the last stage in that process.