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REPORT

on the Draft Amending Budget N° 7/2003 of the European Union for the
financial year 2003
(15276/2003 - C5-0568/2003 – 2003/2234(BUD))

Section III – Commission

Committee on Budgets

Rapporteur: Göran Färm

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PROCEDURAL PAGE

For the budgetary procedure for the financial year 2003, the Committee on Budgets appointed Göran Färm rapporteur at its meeting of 2 December 2002 .

On 18 November 2003 the Commission presented the Preliminary Draft Amending budget N° 8/2003 of the European Union for the financial year 2003 and forwarded it to Parliament (SEC(2003) 1297).

On 25 November 2003 the Council established the Draft Amending Budget N° 7/2003 of the European Union for the financial year 2003 and forwarded it to Parliament by letter of 26 November 2003.

At the sitting of 3 December 2003 the President will announce that he has referred the Draft Amending Budget N° 7/2003 to the Committee on Budgets as the committee responsible and to all the committees concerned for their opinions (C5-0568/2003 – 2003/2234(BUD)).

The Committee on Budgets considered the Draft Amending Budget N° 7/2003 and the draft report at its meeting of 26 November 2003.

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

The following were present for the vote: Terence Wynn (chairman), Reimer Böge (vice-chairman), Franz Turchi (vice-chairman), Göran Färm (rapporteur), Ioannis Averoff, Joan Colom i Naval, Den Dover, Bárbara Dührkop Dührkop, Salvador Garriga Polledo, Catherine Guy-Quint, Wilfried Kuckelkorn, Jan Mulder, Juan Andrés Naranjo Escobar, Joaquim Píscarreta, Esko Olavi Seppänen (for Chantal Cauquil), Per Stenmarck, Kyösti Tapio Virrankoski and Ralf Walter.

The report was tabled on 28 November 2003 .

MOTION FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION

on the Draft Amending Budget N° 7/2003 of the European Union for the financial year 2003, Section III – Commission (15276/2003 - C5-0568/2003 – 2003/2234(BUD))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Article 272 of the EC Treaty and Article 177 of the Euratom Treaty,
 - having regard to Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation of applicable to the general budget of the European Communities¹ 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 2002²,
 - 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 procedure³,
 - having regard to the preliminary Draft Amending Budget N° 8/2003 of the European Union for the financial year 2003, which the Commission presented on 18 November 2003 (SEC(2003) 1297)
 - having regard to the Draft Amending Budget No 7/2003 of the European Union for the financial year 2003, which the Council established on 25 November 2003 (15276/2003 - C5-0568/2003),
 - having regard to Rule 92 of and Annex IV to its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Budgets, (A5-0429/2003),
- A. Whereas the Budget Conciliation of 24 November 2003 achieved a global package on the 2004 budget, including the agreement to approve Amending Budgets 7 and 8,
- B. whereas the purpose of Draft Amending Budget No 7/2003 is to safeguard budgetary needs under heading 5 of the Financial Perspective in 2004,
1. Approves unamended Draft Amending Budget No 7/2003 as established by Council on 25 November 2003;
 2. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, and Commission, and the other institutions and bodies concerned.

¹ OJ L 248, 16.9.2002

² OJ L 54, 28.2.2003

³ OJ C 172, 18.6.1999, p. 1.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The Commission proposes to transfer the margin left in Budget 2003 to Budget 2004 through a frontloading approach similar to the one used in Budget 2003. The PDAB would transfer the 2003 margin to the budget of the Commission on the budget line financing the rent and ground rent. The Commission would pay the rent and ground rent of the first months of 2004 (which have to be paid before January 1, 2004) on budget 2003 instead of budget 2004. The appropriations for the rent and ground rent in budget 2004 could be reduced in the second reading by the amount frontloaded, increasing the margin of 2004 by the amount of the margin of 2003 (21,9 M EUR).

The Parliament could then adjust the amount of the remuneration and the pensions for 2004 in its second reading, leaving a margin between 25 M EUR and 30 M EUR in heading 5 in order to cope with unforeseen requirements which might arise in 2004, a decisive year for enlargement.