

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

Session document

FINAL
A5-0062/2004

18 February 2004

REPORT

on the guidelines for Sections II, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII (A) and VIII (B) and on the European Parliament's preliminary draft estimates (Section I) for the 2005 budgetary procedure (2004/2002(BUD))

Section I	– European Parliament
Section II	– Council
Section IV	– Court of Justice
Section V	– Court of Auditors
Section VI	– European Economic and Social Committee
Section VII	– Committee of the Regions
Section VIII (A)	– European Ombudsman
Section VIII (B)	– European Data Protection Supervisor

Committee on Budgets

Rapporteur: Wilfried Kuckelkorn

CONTENTS

	Page
PROCEDURAL PAGE.....	3
MOTION FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION	4
OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON CITIZENS' FREEDOMS AND RIGHTS, JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS	9

PROCEDURAL PAGE

For the budgetary procedure for the financial year 2005, the Committee on Budgets appointed Wilfried Kuckelkorn rapporteur (other sections) at its meeting of 1 December 2003.

At its meetings of 20 January 2004, 10 February and 17 February 2004 the committee considered the guidelines for the 2005 budget procedure, Section I – European Parliament, Section II – Council, Section IV – Court of Justice, Section V – Court of Auditors, Section VI – Economic and Social Committee, Section VII – Committee of the Regions, Section VIII (A) – European Ombudsman, Section VIII (B) – European Data Protection Supervisor and decided to draw up a report (2004/2002(BUD)).

It considered the draft report at its meetings of 10 February and 17 February 2004.

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

The following were present for the vote: Terence Wynn (chairman), Reimer Böge, Anne Elisabet Jensen and Franz Turchi (vice-chairmen), Ralf Walter for Wilfried Kuckelkorn (rapporteur), Ioannis Averoff, Joan Colom i Naval, Den Dover, Göran Färm, Markus Ferber, Salvador Garriga Polledo, Neena Gill, Catherine Guy-Quint, María Esther Herranz García, Constanze Angela Krehl, John Joseph McCartin, Juan Andrés Naranjo Escobar, Joaquim Píscarreta, Giovanni Pittella, Per Stenmarck and Brigitte Wenzel-Perillo.

The opinion of the Committee on Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs is attached.

The report was tabled on 18 February 2004.

MOTION FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION

on the guidelines for Sections II, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII (A) and VIII (B) and on the European Parliament's preliminary draft estimates (Section I) for the 2005 budgetary procedure (2004/2002(BUD))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Article 272 of the EC Treaty,
 - 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 procedure¹,
 - having regard to the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2004²,
 - having regard to the annual report of the Court of Auditors for the 2002 financial year, together with the institutions' replies³,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Budgets and the opinion of Committee on Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs (A5-0062/2004),
- A. whereas the technical adjustment of the financial perspective projects a figure of EUR 6.185 million at current prices for heading 5 (Administrative expenditure) in the 2005 budget⁴,

Political priorities

European Union of 25 Member States

1. Recalls that the financial year 2005 will be the first full budgetary year for the European Union of 25 Member States; recalls that the year 2005 will be the first full year of activity for the newly-elected European Parliament, the newly-appointed Commission, the new Members of the Court of Justice, the Court of Auditors, Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, and the European Data-Protection Supervisor; recalls that the 2005 budget will be first full year of implementation of the new Staff Regulations;
2. Underlines the importance of satisfying the needs of the enlarged Union despite the existing financial constraints; calls on the institutions to apply sound financial management and budgetary rigour, and to ensure value for money for the European taxpayer;

General framework

¹ OJ C 172, 18.6.1999, p. 1.

² Not yet published in the OJ.

³ Not yet published in the OJ.

⁴ Calculated net of staff contributions to the pension scheme (EUR 175 million at 2005 prices).

3. Takes note of the financial constraints foreseen for heading 5 in 2005; underlines the fact that the technical adjustment reduces the ceiling of the financial perspectives of heading 5 for 2005 by EUR - 94 million at current prices;
4. Is looking forward to the new report on the developments in Heading 5 by the Secretaries General foreseen for February 2004, proposing a new financial programming for 2005-2006 to take into account the new financial limitations of heading 5; invites the institutions, taking into account the budgetary constraints and uncertainties relating to 2005 budget, to present realistic requests corresponding to their real needs in the 2005 estimates;
5. Takes note of the efforts made so far by the institutions to respond to the challenges of the enlargement; recalls that the amount of staff in most of the institutions has been increasing rapidly to cater for the needs of the enlargement; considers that the main bulk of the additional needs related to the enlargement are covered in the 2002-2004 budgets, even if a number of measures remains to be taken;
6. Regrets the delays in the selection procedures organised by the European Personnel Selection Office (EPSO), which may not allow the institutions to fill all the posts granted by the Budget Authority in the 2004 budget; considers it essential to make a thorough assessment of the recruitment situation in view of the 2005 budget; reiterates its view that all staff requests have to be based on real needs and realistic recruitment estimations;
7. Estimates that the financial impact of expanding the institutions' premises will occur mainly after 2005; invites the institutions to provide an update on their building projects including information on the increase of the number of offices due to enlargement;
8. Takes the view that the reform of the institutions continues to be one of the key issues for 2005 budgetary procedure; invites the institutions to continue their administrative reforms to improve their management and modernise staff policy; expects all institutions to increase efficiency by rationalising their working methods, making better use of modern technology, defining negative priorities (activities that can be discontinued or re-organised) and focusing more on the core activities;
9. Invites the institutions to analyse their budgetary structures while making the adjustments required by the new Staff Regulations, and to ensure that activity-based presentation is attached to the draft estimates in order to enhance transparency;
10. Encourages inter-institutional co-operation in order to reduce costs and increase value for money while ensuring the institutional independence of each institution; welcomes the establishment of inter-institutional offices, such as the European Personnel Selection Office, as well as setting up of the Commission's administrative offices (Paymaster Office, Infrastructure Offices in Brussels and Luxembourg); is of the opinion that further co-operation between linguistic services could be envisaged;
11. Points out that due to the budgetary constraints in 2005, new entities may have to be delayed unless savings are made by launching such bodies;
12. Welcomes the Commission communication on building policy and infrastructures in Brussels (COM(2003)755); invites the other institutions to encourage greater use of public transport and alternative means of transportation, and to update their mobility plans;

13. Stresses that the conditions for the environmental permit and the commitments entered into by SEL to provide new or renovated housing for the inhabitants of the district must be complied with;

Parliament (Section I)

14. Is aware of the several uncertainties relating to the setting-up of Parliament's budget for 2005, such as the current lack of agreement on a Member's Statute, the actual outcome of the enlargement-related recruitments in 2004, and developments of several building projects; reserves therefore at this stage its position regarding the self-imposed limit of 20% of the expenditure under heading 5;
15. Notes that the Member States have not been able to agree on a Member's Statute;
16. Follows closely the developments relating to the European Political Parties and considers that this expenditure should remain outside Parliament's self-imposed ceiling of 20% of heading 5 as it is not an administrative expenditure of the institution;
17. Expects the updated realistic estimates on the remaining needs for the enlargement by its Bureau's Steering Group on Enlargement; regrets the delays in recruitment procedures for staff from the new Member States and difficulties encountered in recruiting especially linguistic staff from certain new Member States, which create uncertainties regarding the rate of filling new posts in 2004; considers, therefore, that a decision on making appropriations available for additional enlargement-related staff can only be taken at the first reading of the 2005 budget;
18. Considers that a mid-term plan for building projects is necessary in order to define the level of Parliament's budget in 2005 in view of possible capital injections needed to pursue the property policy;
19. Is determined, as the driving force behind the movement to set up a WTO Parliamentary Assembly, to ensure that sufficient appropriations become available to provide for the adequate participation, with the necessary infrastructure, of its delegations in all meetings of or leading up to such an assembly;

Assistance to Members

20. Calls on its Bureau to assess the pilot project on expertise budgets based on the experience made by the Committees concerned; takes the view that in the light of the results of the pilot project, the Bureau should consider adopting modalities, including clear and objective criteria, for the possible future allocation of research envelopes to parliamentary committees;
21. Requests its Secretary General to submit a report by 1 September 2004 on all aspects of the "Raising the Game" reform;

Multilingualism

22. Is looking forward to its Bureau's Code of Conduct on multilingualism; stresses the importance of multilingualism in the Parliament of 21 languages, in order to assure the necessary translation and interpretation services for its Members, while keeping the costs of the language regime in relation to the benefits;

23. Points to its call for the European Union's diversity, which enlargement will increase still further, to be made visible as part of Parliament's image; expects what the working group on visible multilingualism has produced to be put into practice promptly in the interests of Members, visitors and media representatives;

Information policy and new technologies

24. Underlines the importance of web-publishing in disseminating information, including internet broadcasting of plenary sittings; considers that Parliament's internet site "Europarl" is crucial in bringing the Parliament closer to its electorate;
25. Encourages its parliamentary bodies and its Administration to use more video-conferencing, when appropriate; notes that wireless computer access is already in place in several national parliaments; points out that offering possibilities for remote access to Parliament's network for both Members and staff would increase efficiency and accessibility;

Staff policy

26. Requests its Secretary General to submit a report by 1 September 2004 on the effects of the new Staff Regulations on Parliament's staff evaluation and promotion policy as well as an evaluation of the mobility policy;

Security

27. Notes its Bureau's proposals on security strategy; stresses the need to target and manage efficiently the human and material resources available for enhancing the security;

Car Service

28. Underlines the need to evaluate whether the new measures that have been taken for the functioning of the car service provide a satisfactory service to the increased number of Members while guaranteeing value for money;

Council (Section II)

29. Invites the Council to consider presenting its estimates with the PDB instead of its first reading- to increase transparency; continues to monitor the Council operational budget, while respecting the Gentlemen's Agreement as regards the administrative expenditure;

Court of Justice (Section IV)

30. Notes that the Court of Justice has experienced in the last couple of years higher growth rates in staff than most other institutions; recalls that the Court of Justice continues to implement full multilingualism;

Court of Auditors (Section V)

31. Recalls that the Court of Auditors has distributed its enlargement-related staff increase over 2004 and 2005 budgets;

Economic and Social Committee (Section VI)

Committee of the Regions (Section VII)

32. Invites the two committees to pursue budgetary rigour in their estimates, especially in staff requests and building projects, and to improve the co-operation as regards the joint

services to fully benefit from the new joint premises; Expects that the move to the Belliard building and the vacation of the current buildings will take place as foreseen;

Ombudsman (Section VIII A)

33. Is aware that the Ombudsman has to be able to handle complaints from citizens in all EU languages;

European Data-Protection Supervisor (Section VIII B)

34. Welcomes the appointment of the EDPS and his deputy; expects that the appropriations for the EDPS will be included in the PDB for 2005;

35. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Court of Justice, the Court of Auditors, the Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions, the European Ombudsman and the European Data Protection Supervisor.

26 January 2004

OPINIÓN OF THE COMMITTEE ON CITIZENS' FREEDOMS AND RIGHTS, JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

for the Committee on Budgets

on the guidelines for Sections II, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII (A) and VIII (B) and on the European Parliament's preliminary draft estimates (Section I) for the 2005 budgetary procedure (2004/2002(BUD))

Draftsman: Ozan Ceyhun

PROCEDURE

The Committee on Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs appointed Ozan Ceyhun draftsman at its meeting of 2 December 2003.

It considered the draft opinion at its meeting of 22 January 2004.

At the latter meeting it adopted the following suggestions by 26 votes to 0, with 1 abstention.

The following were present for the vote: Robert J.E. Evans (acting chairman), Johanna L.A. Boogerd-Quaak (vice-chairwoman), Giacomo Santini (vice-chairman), Ozan Ceyhun (draftsman), Christian Ulrik von Boetticher, Marco Cappato (for Mario Borghezio), Carlos Coelho, Gérard M.J. Deprez, Adeline Hazan, Margot Keßler, Timothy Kirkhope, Eva Klamt, Ole Krarup, Lucio Manisco (for Giuseppe Di Lello Finuoli), Bill Newton Dunn, Arie M. Oostlander (for Charlotte Cederschiöld), Marcelino Oreja Arburúa, Hubert Pirker, Bernd Posselt, Martine Roure, Heide Rühle, Olle Schmidt (for Baroness Ludford), Ole Sørensen (for Francesco Rutelli), Joke Swiebel, Anna Terrón i Cusí, Maurizio Turco and Gianni Vattimo (for Carmen Cerdeira Morterero).

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs calls on the Committee on Budgets, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

The European Parliament - section I

- takes the view that the cooperation with national parliaments in the EU needs to be further strengthened, in particular in the field of a co-ordinated effort to enable the EU's national parliaments and the European Parliament to exchange information and documents relating to the EU's decision-making process;
- is of the opinion that the European Parliament needs to give itself more resources to purchase external services and expertise for its parliamentary committees;
- is also of the opinion that more resources are necessary to be able to deal with the increasing number of requests for assistance by citizens addressed to the European Parliament.

The Court of Justice - section IV

- is of the opinion that the initiatives to strengthen the links between constitutional courts of the Member States and the European Court of Justice need to be supported in particular the idea of a database including the constitutional case law of the Member States of interest to the EU including the necessary translations; calls in this context for a cooperation with the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe.

The European Data Protection Supervisor - section VIII b

- welcomes the appointment of the European Data Protection Supervisor and its deputy; notes that the imminent steps are being undertaken to make the necessary resources available for the budget year 2004; is willing to provide this newly established authority whose task is the protection of a fundamental rights of the citizens with continued support;
- is of the opinion that the European Data Protection Officer should, like the European Ombudsman, have its offices within Parliament.