

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Committee on Budgetary Control

2005/2002(BUD)

4.10.2005

OPINION

of the Committee on Budgetary Control

for the Committee on Budgets

on the draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2006

Other sections
(C6-0000/2005 - 2005/2002(BUD))

Draftsman: Christopher Heaton-Harris

PA_NonLeg

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

In this report, the aim of your draftsman has been to ensure that the budget respects the rules and follows the policies adopted by Parliament in the field of financial management and the fight against fraud. The points raised below stem from an examination of the implementation of the budget, the discharge conclusions adopted by Parliament, reports on budgetary management by the European Court of Auditors, and Parliament conclusions on the fight against fraud.

Court of Auditors

1. In the Wynn report of 12 April 2005 on the discharge of the general budget for the financial year 2003, the Court of Auditors is invited to produce an annual performance report and to publish its audit manual and information on the DAS approach on its website¹. The Wynn report also wonders whether the current structure and functioning of the "top heavy" Court of Auditors should be reviewed, particularly the large proportion of A grades in Members' cabinets².

Use of official cars

2. The administrative decision of 31 March 2004 of the European Court of Justice and the administrative decision of 15 June 2004 of the European Court of Auditors allows private use of official cars. Private use of an official car represents an undisclosed benefit-in-kind which Parliament considers inappropriate. Your draftsman considers that a significant proportion of the relevant budget allocations should be placed in reserve until the decisions mentioned are revised appropriately.

¹ P6_TA-2005-0092, paragraphs 71-72.

² P6_TA-2005-0092, paragraph 78.

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Budgetary Control calls on the Committee on Budgets, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. asks the Court of Auditors for a reaction by 1 November 2005 to Parliament's invitation to the Court to produce an annual performance report and publish its audit manual and information on the DAS approach on its website, and to Parliament's suggestion that the Court's top heavy structure and functioning, and particularly the high proportion of A grades in the Members' cabinets, might need reviewing;
2. calls on the European Court of Justice and the European Court of Auditors to amend their respective administrative decisions by 1 November 2005 in such a way as to rule out private use of official cars.

PROCEDURE

Title	Draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2006 - Other sections
References	(C6-0000/2005 - 2005/2002(BUD))
Committee responsible	BUDG
Committee asked for its opinion Date announced in plenary	CONT 16.03.2005
Enhanced cooperation	No
Drafts(wo)man Date appointed	Christopher Heaton-Harris 16.03.2005
Discussed in committee	12.09.2005
Date amendments adopted	03.10.2005
Result of final vote	for: 11 against: 0 abstentions: 1
Members present for the final vote	Simon Busuttil, Szabolcs Fazakas, Ingeborg Gräßle, Umberto Guidoni, Bart Staes, Margarita Starkevičiūtė, Alexander Stubb, Jeffrey Titford, Kyösti Tapio Virrankoski, Terence Wynn
Substitutes present for the final vote	Edit Herczog, Esko Seppänen