

ORAL QUESTION WITH DEBATE O-0067/04

pursuant to Rule 108 of the Rules of Procedure

by Josep Borrell Fontelles, on behalf of the Temporary committee on policy challenges and budgetary means of the enlarged Union 2007-2013
to the Council

Subject: Preparation of the next financial perspective

The preparation of the next financial perspective is one of the major challenges to be faced by the Union over the next few years.

In the report that it adopted during its fifth parliamentary term, Parliament notes that 'there will be no financial perspective without an agreement between the European Parliament and the Council on the financial package, as the existing Treaty foresees no obligation to have a financial perspective and only provides for annual budgets' (A5-0268/04).

The entry into force of the Constitution for Europe does not change the role of the European Parliament and provides for the multiannual framework to become a European law determined by the Council after obtaining the consent of, and following conciliation with, the European Parliament.

Given the current and future institutional context, how does the Council intend to cooperate with Parliament?

Can Council indicate the measures which it intends to put in place so as to guarantee the structured political dialogue provided for in the joint declaration adopted by the Institution in July 2004?

Can the Presidency outline the Council calendar?

Is the Council ready to accept a monthly triologue with the three presidencies, beginning in January 2005, so as to ensure an effective exchange of information?

Does Council regard the 'Prodi package' as its working basis?

In the Council's view, what connection exists between the Commission's proposals on the new financial perspective and the issue of own resources?

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Forwarded: 22.10.2004

Deadline for reply: 12.11.2004