EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



Committee on Budgets

5.10.2006 PE 378.842v01-00

AMENDMENTS 1-59

Draft report James Elles (PE 378.810v02-00)

The draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2007 - Section III - Commission

Proposal for a resolution (C6-0299/2006 – 2006/2018(BUD))

Amendment by Salvador Garriga Polledo

Amendment 1 Paragraph 3

3. Remarks that this is the first budget under the new Financial Framework, under a new Interinstitutional Agreement and with many new multi-annual programmes; remarks further that a new Financial Regulation *should* apply for the implementation of the 2007 budget;

Or. en

Amendment by Helga Trüpel

Amendment 2 Paragraph 3

3. Remarks that this is the first budget under the new Financial Framework, under a new Interinstitutional Agreement and with many new multi-annual programmes; remarks further that a new Financial Regulation will *ideally* apply for the implementation of the 2007 budget;

Or. en

AM\633679EN.doc PE 378.842v01-00

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Amendment by James Elles

Amendment 3 Paragraph 4

4. Highlights that, in line with the cost-benefit approach set out in paragraph 7 of the APS resolution, a qualitative value for money approach was achieved though policy hearings in the Committee on Budgets, and a thorough analysis of a number of sources of information on the quality of spending of EU funds and on budget implementation (delete); notes that budget amendments were prepared on the basis of the information thus obtained; welcomes the fact that both Council, Commission and Parliament participate in a value for money trend;

Or. en

Amendment by Helga Trüpel

Amendment 4 Paragraph 4

4. Highlights that, in line with the cost-benefit approach set out in paragraph 7 of the APS resolution, a qualitative value for money approach was *started* though policy hearings in the Committee on Budgets, cost-benefit studies being undertaken on a number of policy issues, and a thorough examination of the Activity Statements from the Commission, and from reports from the Court of Auditors on the quality of EU spending; notes that budget amendments were prepared *inter alia* on the basis of the information thus obtained; welcomes the fact that both Council, Commission and Parliament participate in a value for money trend;

Or. en

Amendment by Catherine Guy-Quint

Amendment 5 Paragraph 4

4. Highlights that, in line with the cost-benefit approach set out in paragraph 7 of the APS resolution, a qualitative value for money approach was achieved though policy hearings in the Committee on Budgets, cost-benefit studies being undertaken on a number of policy issues, and a thorough examination of the Activity Statements from the Commission, *(deletion)*; notes that budget amendments were prepared on the basis of the information thus obtained; welcomes the fact that both Council, Commission and Parliament participate in a value for money trend;

PE 378.842v01-00 2/20 AM\633679EN.doc

Amendment by Bárbara Dührkop Dührkop

Amendment 6 Paragraph 4

4. Highlights that, in line with the cost-benefit approach set out in paragraph 7 of the APS resolution, a qualitative value for money approach was achieved though policy hearings in the Committee on Budgets *(deletion)* and a thorough examination of the Activity Statements from the Commission, and from reports from the Court of Auditors on the quality of EU spending; notes that budget amendments were prepared on the basis of the information thus obtained; welcomes the fact that both Council, Commission and Parliament participate in a value for money trend;

Or. en

Amendment by Paulo Casaca

Amendment 7
Paragraph 4 a (new)

4a. Welcomes European Commission's positive reply to the consecutive demands from the European Parliament - namely the ones expressed in the 2001 Discharge Resolution, paragraph 102¹ - on public disclosure on the amounts and names of the beneficiaries of the European Budget as proposed in the Transparency Initiative² but regrets, however, that the equivalent information regarding recoveries of European funds are excluded from such transparency initiative and demands the Commission to make available to the budgetary authority and ultimately to the public the names and amounts of recoveries due or credited to the European budget as well as the final destination of these sums.

Or. en

Amendment by James Elles

Amendment 8 Paragraph 5

5. Considers that the *(deletion)* level of aggregate appropriations proposed by the Council

¹ OJ L 148, 16,06,2003.

² COM(2006)0194 and SEC(2005)1300.

in its draft budget *(deletion)* falls well below the level needed for the EU to respond effectively to the challenges of globalisation *it faces*, only serves to highlight the importance of the third strand of Parliament's strategy, preparing for the review of the MFF, which should deliver EU spending that is better focused on policy priorities; believes that by focusing commitments on priority programmes *and by ensuring that* funds are well spent, EU spending will better serve the interests of citizens;

Or en

Amendment by Helga Trüpel

Amendment 9 Paragraph 5

5. Considers that the insufficient level of aggregate appropriations proposed by the Council in its draft budget, which fall well below the level needed for the EU to respond effectively to the challenges *it faces*, only serves to highlight the importance of the third strand of Parliament's strategy, preparing for the review of the MFF, which should deliver EU spending that is better focused on policy priorities; believes that by focusing commitments on priority programmes *and by ensuring that* funds are well spent, EU spending will better serve the interests of citizens;

Or. en

Amendment by Bárbara Dührkop Dührkop

Amendment 10 Paragraph 5

5. Considers that the insufficient level of aggregate appropriations proposed by the Council in its draft budget, which fall well below the level needed for the EU to respond effectively to the challenges of globalisation, only serves to highlight the importance of the third strand of Parliament's strategy, preparing for the review of the MFF, which should deliver EU spending that is better focused on policy priorities; *(deletion)*

Or. en

Amendment by Salvador Garriga Polledo

Amendment 11 Paragraph 5 a (new)

5a. Expects that all new elements and reforms set down in the new Inter-institutional

PE 378.842v01-00 4/20 AM\633679EN.doc

Agreement of 17 May 2006 will be fully implemented in the course of the 2007 budget in order to have a rapid effect on the qualitative implementation of the budget and the inter-institutional relationship;

Or en

Amendment by James Elles

Amendment 12 Paragraph 6

6. In line with Parliament's priorities, considers that EU spending should be focused on priority areas and at a higher level than proposed in the draft budget of the Council in order to ensure effective delivery of priority programmes to citizens; therefore proposes to increase payments in the 2007 budget to a level of 1.04% of EU GNI by increasing appropriations on budget lines linked to the Parliament's political priorities; notes that most of the specialised parliamentary committees have proposed to restore the amounts of the Preliminary Draft Budget, in line with the ongoing (deletion) legislative procedures, or those beginning in 2007;

Or. en

Amendment by James Elles

Amendment 13 Paragraph 7

7. Believes that the European Union must actively address and engage more effectively with the economic, political, *social*, *environmental* and development challenges presented by the ongoing process of globalisation; therefore presents amendments to the 2007 budget that aim at boosting the capacity of the EU economy *to engage with these challenges in a more strategic manner*;

Or. en

Amendment by Helga Trüpel

Amendment 14 Paragraph 7

7. Believes that the European Union must actively address and engage more effectively with the economic, political, *social and environmental* and development challenges presented *inter alia* by the ongoing process of globalisation; therefore presents

AM\633679EN.doc 5/20 PE 378.842v01-00

amendments to the 2007 budget that aim at boosting the capacity of the EU economy to compete internationally, increasing the funds available to Community mechanisms for dealing with foreign policy challenges, and raising the amounts of development assistance available to regions such as Asia and Latin America;

Or en

Amendment by Bárbara Dührkop Dührkop

Amendment 15 Paragraph 7

7. Believes that the European Union must actively address and engage more effectively with the economic, political and development challenges presented by the ongoing process of globalisation; therefore presents amendments to the 2007 budget that aim at boosting the capacity of the EU economy to compete internationally, increasing the funds available to Community mechanisms for dealing with foreign policy challenges, and raising the amounts of development assistance available to regions such as Asia and Latin America *and the Mediterranean*;

Or. es

Amendment by James Elles

Amendment 16 Paragraph 8

8. Emphasises the need for improved value for money in the EU budget; proposes amendments to place *30* % of appropriations in reserve on a number *(deletion)* of budget lines until the Commission can reassure the Parliament that this money will be spent in a manner that delivers value for money to the European taxpayer;

Or. en

Amendment by Helga Trüpel

Amendment 17 Paragraph 8

8. Emphasises the need for improved value for money in the EU budget; proposes amendments to place x % of appropriations in reserve on a number (y) of budget lines until the Commission can reassure the Parliament that some specific weaknesses identified in CoA reports, Commission synthesis reports, cost benefit analyses or budget forecast alerts are being addressed;

PE 378.842v01-00 6/20 AM\633679EN.doc

Amendment by James Elles

Amendment 18 Paragraph 9

9. Recalls that these budget lines were selected on the basis of a thorough examination of the special reports of the Court of Auditors, the Synthesis Reports on the Commission's management of funds, *the Budget Forecast Alert prepared by the Commission, and* cost-benefit analyses carried out at the request of the Commission Budgets and taking into account the activity statements prepared by the Commission services:

Or. en

Amendment by Bárbara Dührkop Dührkop

Amendment 19 Paragraph 9

9. Recalls that these budget lines were selected on the basis of a thorough examination of the special reports of the Court of Auditors, the Synthesis Reports on the Commission's management of funds *(deletion)* and taking into account the activity statements prepared by the Commission services;

Or. en

Amendment by James Elles

Amendment 20 Paragraph 9 a (new)

9a. Specifically welcomes the call for a hearing in mid-November for the Commission to respond to the concerns raised in these amendments; urges members of Parliament's specialised committees to participate in this hearing;

Amendment 21 Paragraph 10

10. Reduces by 10% the appropriations for administrative management directly linked to programmes on a horizontal basis; *(deletion)* sees no contradiction for budget lines on which the Parliament both places amounts in reserve due to *some* concerns about the quality of implementation and increases appropriations according to political priorities; reaffirms, in this connection, that it wishes to see qualitative value for money in all areas of EU spending;

Or. en

Amendment by James Elles

Amendment 22 Paragraph 10 a (new)

10a. Recalls the importance attached by Parliament to achieving a positive statement of assurance (DAS) for funds under shared management; underlines its intention to ensure that, in line with the 2006 IIA, the relevant audit authorities in member states produce an assessment concerning the compliance of management and control systems with the regulations of the Community; requests that member states therefore undertake to produce an annual summary at the appropriate national level of the available audits and declarations;

Or. en

Amendment by James Elles

Amendment 23 Paragraph 11

11. As regards pilot projects and preparatory actions, notes the increased ceilings for new projects set out in the inter-institutional agreement (IIA) of 17 May 2006; proposes a number of new projects broadly in line with the priorities set out in paragraph 6 of the APS resolution;

Amendment 24 Paragraph 11

11. As regards pilot projects and preparatory actions, notes the increased ceilings for new projects set out in the inter-institutional agreement (IIA) of 17 May 2006; proposes new projects aimed at preparing the ground for new legal bases or modifying existing ones, including through more integrated research capacity, improving business and scientific links with China and India, a new financial instrument with a leverage effect that aims to boost projects relating to renewable energies and energy efficiency in third countries and new projects in the field of information policy;

Or. en

Amendment by James Elles

Amendment 25 Paragraph 12

12. For existing agencies proposes, as a general approach with a small number of specific exceptions, to restore appropriations in the preliminary draft budget (PDB) but placing increases above a reference amount in reserve, in order to assess whether the increases on 2006 are justified; As regards the new agencies (Chemicals Agency, Gender Institute, Fundamental Rights Agency), with a view to ensuring the application of Point 47 of the IIA of 17 May 2006, proposes to delete the appropriations entered in the draft budget in particular in light of the fact that no legal base yet exists for these agencies; (deletion)

Or. en

Amendment by Anne E. Jensen

Amendment 26 Paragraph 12

12. As regards the new agencies (Chemicals Agency, Gender Institute, Fundamental Rights Agency), with a view to ensuring the application of Point 47 of the IIA of 17 May 2006, proposes to delete the appropriations entered in the draft budget in particular in light of the fact that no legal base yet exists for these agencies; for existing agencies proposes, as a general approach with a small number of specific exceptions, to restore appropriations in the preliminary draft budget (PDB) but placing increases above a reference amount in reserve, in order to limit excessive increases; *Expects the Council to clarify host countries' contributions to agencies already established and to adopt a set of binding common standards.*

Amendment 27 Paragraph 12

12. As regards the new agencies (Chemicals Agency, Gender Institute, Fundamental Rights Agency), with a view to ensuring the application of Point 47 of the IIA of 17 May 2006, proposes to delete the appropriations entered in the draft budget in particular in light of the fact that no legal base yet exists for these agencies; for existing agencies proposes, as a general approach with a small number of specific exceptions, to restore appropriations in the preliminary draft budget (PDB) but placing increases above a reference amount in reserve, *awaiting further information*;

Or. en

Amendment by Jens-Peter Bonde

Amendment 28 Paragraph 12 a (new)

12a. Believes that a farmer or legal unit should not be paid more then 40.000 € a year in total agricultural spending by the European Commission and the Member States and asks the European Commission and the Member States may not pay more than 40.000 € in total agricultural spending per farmer or legal unit in 2007 without discriminating the new Member States.

Or. en

Amendment by James Elles

Amendment 29 Paragraph 13

13. Confirms its conviction expressed in its resolution on the APS that knowledge, skills, research and development, innovation, information society technologies, *and a sustainable* transport and energy *policy* form the basis of a healthy modern economy and are essential for job creation; has therefore decided to reject the Council's approach of reductions in a number of crucial budget lines aiming at improving the competitiveness of the EU's economy; has decided to increase payment appropriations for priority programmes linked to the Lisbon agenda such as the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme and the 7th Framework Programme for Research;

Amendment 30 Paragraph 13

13. Confirms its conviction expressed in its resolution on the APS that knowledge, skills, research and development, innovation, information society technologies, *a sustainable* transport and energy *policy* form the basis of a healthy modern economy and are essential for job creation; has therefore decided to reject the Council's approach of reductions in a number of crucial budget lines aiming at improving the competitiveness of the EU's economy; has decided to increase payment appropriations for priority programmes linked to the Lisbon agenda such as the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme and the 7th Framework Programme for Research;

Or. en

Amendment by Anne E. Jensen

Amendment 31 Paragraph 13 a (new)

13a. Regrets that the appropriations for trans-European transport networks have been considerably reduced for the 2007 - 2013 MFF than had been anticipated; underlines the importance of a clear statement from the Commission of its proposed priorities for TEN-T investment; awaits a satisfactory agreement with the Council and the Commission on a regulation on financial aid in the field of trans-European transport networks and priority projects to which funds should be allocated;

Or. en

Amendment by Catherine Guy-Quint

Amendment 32 Paragraph 14

14. Is convinced that raising the EU's competitiveness is an essential element of the EU's response to the challenges of globalisation; therefore considers increases in appropriations in heading 1a to be a clear signal of the future direction that EU spending should take; recalls the need for adequate public funding to create the pump-priming effect expected of EIB cofinancing; awaits with impatience the

proposals by the Commission and Council on this subject; stresses that an increase in the long-term subscribed capital would be desirable for the EIF, both to accompany the introduction of the new mandates (including the CIP) in 2007 and to finance the new technology transfer project operations, as wished by Parliament, the Council or the Commission:

Or fr

Amendment by Helga Trüpel

Amendment 33 Paragraph 14

14. Is convinced that raising the EU's competitiveness, *where sustainable*, is an essential element of the EU's response to the challenges of globalisation; therefore considers increases in appropriations in heading 1a to be a clear signal of the future direction that EU spending should take;

Or. en

Amendment by Reimer Böge

Amendment 34 Paragraph 14 a (new)

14a. Stresses the extraordinary technological and economic significance of the Galileo programme; reminds the Commission that, taken over the period as a whole, this programme is underfinanced in the new multi-year financial framework and calls on the Commission to seek promptly a workable and lasting solution in order to ensure the success of this programme;

Or. de

Amendment by James Elles

Amendment 35 Paragraph 15

15. **Notes** that the appropriations for the structural and cohesion funds are considerably lower for the 2007 - 2013 MFF than had been anticipated, largely as a result of the conclusions of the December 2005 European Council; considers therefore **(deletion)** the appropriations in the PDB should be restored; underlines the importance of establishing and approving **as quickly as possible** national programmes now that the

PE 378.842v01-00 12/20 AM\633679EN.doc

new IIA has been agreed; has decided to increase payment appropriations for budget lines linked to cohesion in line with its policy priorities;

Or. en

Amendment by James Elles

Amendment 36 Paragraph 16

16. *(deletion)* Calls on the Commission to present the requisite texts and initiate procedures as soon as possible to enable the allocation of resources for the International Fund for Ireland during the 2007 budgetary exercise, further calls on the Commission to clarify the legal basis for the Peace Programme.

Or. en

Amendment by James Elles

Amendment 37 Paragraph 17

17. Notes that 2007 will be the first year of full implementation of the most recent reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP); deplores the Council's drastic across the board cut in market expenditure of EUR 525 million, based on accounting criteria and without taking account of Parliament's priorities; calls therefore for the reestablishment of the figures in the PDB (deletion);

Or. en

Amendment by Helga Trüpel

Amendment 38 Paragraph 17

17. Notes that 2007 will be the first year of full implementation of the most recent reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP); *notes* the Council's drastic across the board cut in market expenditure of EUR 525 million, based on accounting criteria and without taking account of Parliament's priorities; *has in most cases restored the amounts in the PDB awaiting the Commission letter of amendment;*

Amendment by James Elles

Amendment 39 Paragraph 18

18. Deplores the fact that in spite of the major needs for restructuring, modernisation and diversification of Europe's rural economy, the resources allocated to rural development are set to fall in real terms; considers that *a voluntary transfer of* funds from direct agricultural support (CAP "first pillar") to rural development is not the appropriate means for *remedying this situation*; Ex AM 19 modified Expresses in this connection strong reservations about the current Commission proposal regarding voluntary modulation of up to 20% of direct agricultural support to rural development; *(deletion)*

Or. en

Amendment by James Elles

Amendment 40 Paragraph 19

19. *(delete)* Merge with paragraph 18 + modifications

Or. en

Amendment by Helga Trüpel

Amendment 41 Paragraph 18

18. Deplores the fact that in spite of the major needs for restructuring, modernisation and diversification of Europe's rural economy, the resources allocated to rural development are set to fall in real terms; considers that *a voluntary transfer of* funds from direct agricultural support (CAP "first pillar") to rural development is not the appropriate means for *remedying this situation*;

Or. en

Amendment by Helga Trüpel

Amendment 42 Paragraph 20

20. Points out that *the area of Freedom, Justice and* security, in particular *the promotion*

 of fundamental rights, the definition of a common asylum and migration policy and the fight against terrorism and organised crime, is one of the Union's key priorities; resolves accordingly to increase the resources allocated to this area, in particular to Eurojust, the sole body for judicial cooperation between the Member States in the criminal law field, the growing effectiveness of which must be stepped up still further;

Or. en

Amendment by Catherine Guy-Quint

Amendment 43 Paragraph 21 a (new)

21a. Stresses that these objectives have a corollary in policies on integrating migrants into European societies;

Or. fr

Amendment by Jens-Peter Bonde

Amendment 44 Paragraph 22

22. Recalls the importance of the principle of subsidiarity in the field of culture, education, training and youth, and believes that respect of pluralism of opinion is the first condition for an effective communication policy in order to bring the EU closer to citizens; considers that better use can be made of new communications media to bring together European policymakers from all political opinion to share ideas; urges the Commission to clarify the budget implications of and the actions to be taken under the Plan D for Democracy Debate and Dialogue; asks the Commission to publish on the internet the detail of allocation of subsidies (amounts and beneficiaries) for all action in the field of communication policy in addition to the advertisement in the action itself as being supported by the EU Budget;

Or. en

Amendment by James Elles

Amendment 45 Paragraph 23

23. **Believes that** the EU can and should be **engaging more quickly and more strategically** with the process of globalisation **(deletion)**; proposes the restoration of

AM\633679EN.doc 15/20 PE 378.842v01-00

PDB figures on a number of lines and increases beyond the PDB in *payments in* some areas with a view to boosting EU activities through community programmes in the fields of foreign policy, development and humanitarian aid, and business and scientific exchanges with key emerging countries such as China and India;

Or. en

Amendment by Helga Trüpel

Amendment 46 Paragraph 23

23. *(deletion)* Proposes the restoration of PDB figures on a number of lines and increases beyond the PDB in some areas with a view to boosting EU activities through community programmes in the fields of foreign policy, development and humanitarian aid, and business and scientific exchanges with key emerging countries such as China and India:

Or. en

Amendment by Helga Trüpel

Amendment 47 Paragraph 24

24. Notes that the new legal framework for the EU's external actions also implies a new budget structure; welcomes in general the simplification of instruments and the new budget nomenclature proposed with it; welcomes also the presentation of a separate instrument on Human rights and Democracy, which requires a modification of the nomenclature of the PDB; cannot accept, however, that a number of the proposed changes reduce transparency for either sectors and/ or regions and will introduce necessary modifications;

Or. en

Amendment by James Elles

Amendment 48 Paragraph 25

25. Is concerned that the expansion of activities in the area of foreign and security policy (CFSP) has not been matched by increased democratic accountability and parliamentary scrutiny; proposes budgetary amendments that seek to foster a greater

PE 378.842v01-00 16/20 AM\633679EN.doc

degree of transparency and co-operation in this regard;

Or. en

Amendment by James Elles

Amendment 49 Paragraph 26

deleted

Or. en

Amendment by Helga Trüpel

Amendment 50 Paragraph 26

26. Is concerned by the overall administrative costs for the external aid and cooperation programmes which have sharply risen over the course of the 2000-2006 financial perspective; will therefore place xx% of these expenditures in reserve pending *explanations by the Commission*;

Or. en

Amendment by Catherine Guy-Quint

Amendment 51 Paragraph 27

27. *Is firmly opposed to the approach adopted by the* Council in the draft declarations annexed to the draft budget on administrative resources that advocated cutting 200 posts in the EU institutions, principally the Commission, in 2008 and a further 500 posts between 2008 and 2010;

Or. fr

Amendment 52 Paragraph 27

27. **Rejects** the approach of the Council in the draft declarations annexed to the draft budget on administrative resources that advocated cutting 200 posts in the EU institutions, principally the Commission, in 2008 and a further 500 posts between 2008 and 2010;

Or. en

Amendment by Ingeborg Gräßle

Amendment 53 Paragraph 28

28. Decides to maintain the amounts of the Preliminary Draft Budget for administrative expenditure; reiterates its request for the Commission to come forward with a detailed, medium-term planning document as regards its human resources needs for the coming years; underlines that such a document should build upon the information supplied in its document of 8 September 2006 and provide details of all types of persons employed in the Commission, including officials, national experts, temporary agents and other staff categories; calls, in particular, for this report to contain an assessment of the potential efficiency of Luxembourg as a place of work of the Commission and for the Commission report to be based on objective data obtained in particular also by evaluating horizontal units such as DG ADMIN and the Secretariat, and by the most cost-intensive operational unit, DG RTD;

Or. de

Amendment by Salvador Garriga Polledo on behalf of the EPP/ED Group

Amendment 54 Paragraph 28

28. Decides to maintain the amounts of the Preliminary Draft Budget for administrative expenditure; reiterates its request for the Commission to come forward with a *more* detailed, medium-term planning document as regards its human resources needs for the coming years *and a more detailed report on the Commission's staffing of support* and coordination functions latest by 15 November 2006;

Amendment by Jan Mulder

Amendment 55 Paragraph 28 a (new)

28a. Expresses its deep concern about the follow-up the Council and the Commission are giving to national management declarations, transparency, a calculated risk of error, and moreover how the Commission is catering for the absence of accountability at central management level; Urges the Commission and the Council to communicate how these concrete proposals made by Parliament in the 2004 Discharge can be incorporated in the overall and specific objectives governing the European Union's audit strategy.

Or. en

Amendment by Salvador Garriga Polledo on behalf of the EPP/ED Group

Amendment 56 Paragraph 28 a (new)

28a. Encourages the Commission to set up a data base for of young people which have collected first professional experience in the European Institutions in stages and training programmes or other kind of short term contracts in order to better use and make available this know-how for the European environment including for contractors and executive agencies;

Or. en

Amendment by Ingeborg Gräßle

Amendment 57 Paragraph 28 a (new)

28a. Calls on the Commission to devote more attention to the transposition of European legislation into national law by the Member States, which should be reflected in a doubling of the human resources available for it;

Or. de

Amendment by Ingeborg Gräßle

Amendment 58 Paragraph 28 b (new)

28b. Calls on the Commission to submit a report assessing the reform of the Staff Regulations of Officials and Other Servants of the European Communities, which should contain comparative data on similar administrations of the Member States, particularly regarding the number of hours in the working week, salaries, allowances and other additional payments, but also non-monetary benefits such as language courses for spouses and partners and discounts on membership of sports associations, conditions relating to early retirement/disability and continued payment of salary in the event of a disciplinary measure;

Or. de

Amendment by Ingeborg Gräßle

Amendment 59 Paragraph 28 c (new)

28c. Reiterates its call for each Member State to be appropriately represented among the institutions' staff;

Or. de