

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Committee on Budgets

5.10.2006

PE 378.843v01-00

AMENDMENTS 1-33

Draft report

(PE 378.811v02-00)

Louis Grech

The draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2007 - Other Sections

Proposal for a resolution (C6-0300/2006 – 2006/2018B(BUD))

Amendment by Ingeborg Gräßle

Amendment 1

Paragraph 1

1. Agrees with the Council that budgetary discipline and productivity gain should constitute key principles for all institutions; *considers that, if staff numbers are to be reduced, the cuts should be made proportionally at all the institutions and other bodies, including decentralised agencies; considers, however, that the greatest need for immediate action exists at the Commission, because the necessary restructuring measures have not yet been taken seriously enough at that institution and it is there that the greatest capacities exist (16 827 staff as at 1 August 2006);*

Or. de

Amendment by Ville Itälä

Amendment 2

Paragraph 7

7. Welcomes the adoption by the institutions of the new nomenclature which renders the presentation of budgetary documents more understandable and transparent to the citizens *but considers it could be further improved;*

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Amendment by Ville Itälä

Amendment 3

Paragraph 15

15. Recommends *forms of* cooperation between institutions which *are* bound to create synergy and contribute towards financial savings and greater efficiency, whilst helping the citizens to better understand the role of the EU in their every day activity;

Or. en

Amendment by Louis Grech

Amendment 4

Paragraph 17

17. Calls on the *Bureau* to re-address the self-imposed ceiling of 20% of heading 5 in the coming years, taking into account the development and consequential requirements of Parliament for 2009 and beyond;

Or. en

Amendment by Ville Itälä

Amendment 5

Paragraph 21

21. Re-affirms its policy that the European Parliament should continue its efforts to develop an effective and user-friendly information strategy with the main objective of improving the relationship between the institution and European citizens; *considers that this can only be achieved when a global and coherent concept of Information and communication with citizens is established; requests the Administration to present a report on this issue by end of March 2007 and analyse the added-value of each information tool available to Members and EP;*

Or. en

Amendment by Ville Itälä

Amendment 6
Paragraph 21 a (new)

21a. Decides to modify the nomenclature and create two new budget lines for the Visitors' Centre and the Web-TV in order to enhance financial transparency and accountability.

Or. en

Amendment by Louis Grech

Amendment 7
Paragraph 22

22. Notes the Bureau's proposals to release EUR 6 700 000 from the reserve for information and communication policy earmarked for Web TV; has decided to maintain the EUR 6 700 000 allocated by the Bureau for Web TV in **Chapter 104 ("Reserve for Information and communication")**, as well as the 5 posts relating to the project, until the prototype is presented to the budgetary authority for its final decision;

Or. en

Amendment by Ville Itälä

Amendment 8
Paragraph 22

22. Notes the Bureau's proposals to release EUR 6.7 million from the reserve for information and communication policy earmarked for Web TV; has decided to maintain the EUR 6.7 million allocated by the Bureau for Web TV in the reserve, as well as the 5 posts relating to the project, until the prototype, **the content and the cost of the project including the structures and level of participation of political groups in the definition of the contents of the programmes** is presented to the budgetary authority for its final decision;

Or. en

Amendment by Ville Itälä

Amendment 9

Paragraph 24

24. Reiterates the call it made in paragraph 37 of its resolution of the 1 June 2006 for immediate action to resolve the sensitive issue regarding: the under spending of EUR 5 million relating to the visitors' programme; welcomes the Bureau's decision to adopt the Quaestors' proposal for the revision of rules on visitors' groups in order to increase the amount available to cover costs and to increase the number of visitors per Member to 100; appreciates also the early handover of the D4 building where the visitors Centre is located; requests the Secretary General to inform the budgetary authority on the impact of the implementation of the new rules and the efficiency of the system **by end of March 2007**;

Or. en

Amendment by Ville Itälä

Amendment 10

Paragraph 24 a (new)

- 24a. *Underlines that the reception of visitors' groups should be done under the best conditions; Requests therefore to the Administration to present a report by end of March 2007 on the facilities offered to the visitors' groups, their access to the new Visitors' Centre, the visit to Plenary, the availability of meeting rooms as well as proposals for the dedication of a space for political groups; requests that this report presents also a detailed evaluation of the needs in staff for the functioning of the new Visitors' Centre;***

Or. en

Amendment by Louis Grech

Amendment 11

Paragraph 26

26. Has decided to agree with the following Bureau proposals regarding various appropriations:
- to allocate an extra amount of EUR 2 700 000 for the visitors' programme,
 - to allocate EUR 6 800 000 for the fitting out of the Visitors' Centre premises ***transferred for EUR 2 600 000 from Chapter 104 ("Reserve for Information and communication") and 4 200 000 from Chapter 101 ("Contingency reserve"),***

- to ***maintain in*** chapter 104 ("*Reserve for information and communication policy*") an amount of EUR ***15 700 000 for the audiovisual equipment of the D5 building,***

Or. en

Amendment by Louis Grech

Amendment 12
Paragraph 26 a (new)

26a. Has decided to confirm the decision taken by the Bureau on the initiative "Citizens Agora" for a trial period; asks the Bureau to be informed on the cost consideration and content of this initiative before implementing this project;

Or. en

Amendment by Louis Grech

Amendment 13
Paragraph 27

27. Confirms the decision to enter an allocation of EUR 48 million for enlargement related expenditure (Romania and Bulgaria) in respect of the following:

1. new Member-related personnel expenses (35 Romanians and 18 Bulgarians);
(deletion) staff (226 permanents posts and 22 temporary posts for political groups);

Or. en

Amendment by Ville Itälä

Amendment 14
Paragraph 27

27. Confirms the decision to enter an allocation of EUR 48 million for enlargement related expenditure (Romania and Bulgaria) in respect of the following:

2. new Member-related personnel expenses (35 Romanians and 18 Bulgarians);
3. additional staff (***the remaining 113 out of the*** 226 permanents posts and 22 temporary posts for political groups);
4. interpretation and conference technicians;
5. equipment and furniture;
6. operating expenditure;

7. information and statutory financing of political groups and parties;

Or. en

Amendment by Louis Grech

Amendment 15

Paragraph 30

30. Notes that, following the amending letter by the Bureau, the level of new posts requested, before the redeployment measure, amounted to EUR **3 062 347** corresponding to 106 posts;

Or. en

Amendment by Ralf Walter

Amendment 16

Paragraph 38 a (new)

38a. Supports the efforts to provide vocational training for young people; calls on administrations, therefore, insofar as possible to award contracts, as a priority, to businesses which provide training places, and calls on the Secretary-General to submit an annual report on this;

Or. de

Amendment by Louis Grech

Amendment 17

Paragraph 40

40. Notes that the Bureau in its Amending Letter of 7 September 2006 has proposed to enter an additional EUR 19 million in the reserve for buildings over and above the EUR 50 million requested in Parliament's estimates; considers, after evaluating the property investment plan for 2007, that the amount of EUR 19 million is not at this stage a realistic requirement; has decided to maintain the EUR 50 million in the reserve for provisional appropriations for buildings to cover the institution's property investment **Chapter 105 ("Provisional appropriation for buildings")**;

Or. en

Amendment by Ingeborg Gräßle

Amendment 18
Paragraph 41a (new)

41a. *Calls on Parliament's Secretariat to adopt a clear, precise and unambiguous position as to who is responsible for the € 30 to 60 million excess rent payments to the City of Strasbourg and to draw conclusions from this regarding liability;*

Or. de

Amendment by Ingeborg Gräßle

Amendment 19
Paragraph 41 b (new)

41b. *Deplores the difficult conditions in which Members are required to work in the Strasbourg buildings and calls on Parliament's Secretariat to submit a report on how more office space could be made available to Members by having only those staff from Luxembourg and Brussels travel to plenary sittings in Strasbourg whose presence there is absolutely necessary; notes that it is some years since this matter was last reviewed and calls for the new report to contain practical information about the office space which could be made available to Members as a result of this change in the numbers of staff sent on mission;*

Or. de

Amendment by Ville Itälä

Amendment 20
Paragraph 42

42. *Notes that the appropriations which have to be allocated to the newly created line in the 2006 budget for Information Offices (Article 325) have not been activated and calls on the Administration to explain the reasons at the latest by end of March 2007;*

Or. en

Amendment by Ville Itälä

Amendment 21

Paragraph 44

44. Makes it very clear that it would fully endorse the take-up of any unutilised funds within the 20% of heading 5 - through amending budgets - in the event that Parliament is in need of additional capital outlay for unforeseen expenditure especially relating to the purchase and acquisition of essential new buildings; ***underlines that Administration should establish a more dynamic building policy and provide information on the financial requirements emanating from the purchase of property and the related costs, in order to allow budgeting at the level of actual budgetary needs;***

Or. en

Amendment by Ville Itälä

Amendment 22

Paragraph 44 a (new)

- 44a. Reminds the Administration the request to draw up a report examining whether it might be feasible to establish a European Building Authority charged with responsibility for the construction and maintenance of the EU Institutions and bodies (2004 discharge: Section I -European Parliament, P6_TA-PROV(2006)0363, par.20) and calls for this report to be presented to the Committee on Budgets;***

Or. en

Amendment by Gérard Onestà

Amendment 23

Paragraph 46

46. Considers that Parliament should ***as soon as possible*** put into practice the standards on the ***Environmental Management and Audit Scheme*** in offices and other Parliamentary buildings; ***reiterates that the Parliament has already called for a policy to reduce energy costs, e.g. by applying a "no ties" policy, reducing air-conditioning costs in summer.***

Or. en

Amendment by Ville Itälä

Amendment 24

Paragraph 47

47. Welcomes the efforts made by the Belgian authorities regarding the security around Parliament; is of the opinion that the costs of security inside the Parliament is becoming excessive and has decided to enter 10% of the appropriation in chapter ("100 *Provisional appropriation*"), is willing to release the appropriation when provided with a report which assesses the efficiency and the quality of the service provided against the cost and the associated risks in the three places of work **and Houses of Europe**;

Or. en

Amendment by Jens-Peter Bonde

Amendment 25

Paragraph 55 a (new)

55a. *Instructs its President not to pay travel allowances above factual costs or minimum published fares;*

Or. en

Amendment by Louis Grech

Amendment 26

Paragraph 58 a (new)

Miscellaneous

58a. *Takes note of the intention of the Bureau to set up the Euro-Latin American Parliament (EUROLAT); will consider this issue when all the necessary information including the financial implications are submitted.*

Or. en

Amendment by Jan Mulder

Amendment 27

Paragraph 69

69. Is of the opinion that the creation of the joint administrative service has been beneficial for both committees (*deletion*); encourages the two committees to renew their partnership agreement before the end of the year *and/or to explore more efficient forms of cooperation.*

Or. en

Amendment by Ville Itälä

Amendment 28

Paragraph 70

70. Is of the opinion that the creation of the joint administrative service has been beneficial for both committees (*deletion*); encourages the two committees to renew their partnership agreement before the end of the year *and/or to explore other forms of inter-institutional cooperation;*

Or. en

Amendment by Wojciech Roszkowski

Amendment 29

Paragraph 70

70. Is of the opinion that the creation of the joint administrative service has been beneficial for both committees (*deletion*); encourages the two committees to renew their partnership agreement before the end of the year.

Or. en

Amendment by Jan Mulder

Amendment 30

Paragraph 70 a (new)

- 70a. Takes note that the Committee of Regions commissioned two independent external**

assessments of the Joint Services, by Mr. Joan COLOM i NAVAL and Mr. Robert REYNDERS, and invites the Committee of Regions Secretary General to forward these reports to the European Parliament's Committee on Budgets.

Or. en

Amendment by Ville Itälä

Amendment 31

Paragraph 76

76. Agrees with the Council on the request for upgrades related to the new Staff Regulations and also on the request to upgrade one Committee of Regions Head of Unit to a Director's post for the joint service on the condition that this will not lead to the need for additional staff ***and will guarantee a more equitable governance between the EESC and the Committee of Regions for their joint services;***

Or. en

Amendment by Jan Mulder

Amendment 32

Paragraph 76

76. Agrees with the Council on the request for upgrades related to the new Staff Regulations and also on the request to upgrade one ***Committee on Regions*** Head of Unit to a Director's post for the joint service on the condition that this will not lead to the need for additional staff ***and will guarantee a more equitable governance between the EESC and the Committee on Regions for their joint services;***

Or. en

Amendment by Wojciech Roszkowski

Amendment 33

Paragraph 77

77. Agrees with the Council on the request for upgrades related to the new Staff Regulations and also on the request to upgrade one Head of Unit to a Director's post for the joint service on the condition that this will not lead to the need for additional staff ***(deletion);***

