

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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2009

Committee on Budgets

**PROVISIONAL
2004/2129(INI)**

14.10.2004

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Budgets

for the Committee on Constitutional Affairs

on the draft Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe
(2004/2129(INI))

Draftsman: Kyösti Tapio Virrankoski

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SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Welcomes the formalisation of the multiannual financial framework in the Treaty which if aligned with the parliamentary mandate from 2013 would improve the stability of budgetary planning and the accountability of the EU budget; notes moreover that not only does the Council still need Parliament's consent, but the Constitution includes a provision for a mechanism guaranteeing that negotiations between Parliament and Council take place;
2. Considers that the modifications to the articles concerning the budgetary provisions confirm the essential role of the European Parliament in determining the multiannual financial framework as well as in the annual budgetary procedure;
3. Underlines the importance of retaining the flexibility mechanism as a corollary to budgetary discipline in accommodating unforeseen needs in the future;
4. Welcomes the simplification of the budgetary procedure; considers that the elimination of the distinction between compulsory and non-compulsory expenditure is long overdue and that finally the Parliament must be recognised as an equal arm of the budgetary authority;
5. Regrets that no progress was achieved in increasing Parliament's role in determining the system of Own Resources but considers that the right of consent over the implementing measures is a first step toward more transparency and democracy in the revenue side of the budget;
6. Welcomes the fact that after the entry into force of the Constitution any change to the Financial Regulations which underlie all Community expenditure will be subject to the ordinary legislative procedure, thus according Parliament the power of codecision.