


Procedure file

Basic information		
BUD - Budgetary procedure	2003/2016(BUD)	Procedure completed
2004 budget: EP's estimates		
Subject 8.70.60 Previous annual budgets		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	BUDG Budgets	PSE GILL Neena	02/12/2002
Council of the European Union			

Key events			
01/01/2003	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
29/04/2003	Vote in committee		Summary
29/04/2003	Budgetary report tabled for plenary	A5-0140/2003	
13/05/2003	Debate in Parliament		
14/05/2003	Decision by Parliament	T5-0210/2003	Summary
14/05/2003	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2003/2016(BUD)
Procedure type	BUD - Budgetary procedure
Procedure subtype	Budgetary preparation
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 272
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	BUDG/5/19169

Documentation gateway					
Budgetary report tabled for plenary, 1st reading		A5-0140/2003	29/04/2003	EP	
Budgetary text adopted by Parliament		T5-0210/2003	14/05/2003	EP	Summary

2004 budget: EP's estimates

The committee adopted the report by Neena GILL (PES, UK) on the estimates of Parliament's revenue and expenditure for the 2004 financial year. The committee pointed out that the margin left under the ceiling in Heading 5 (Administrative expenditure) of the financial perspective would remain under pressure due inter alia to enlargement-related expenditure. It accordingly reiterated its view that Parliament must continue to apply a policy of budgetary rigour and make the best use of available resources in the current budget with the aim of reducing pressure in 2004. Pointing out that 2004 was a European election year, which would entail significant political, structural and budgetary implications, the report noted that, in addition to the challenges posed by enlargement, Parliament would also face profound changes in 2004. These would include the possible adoption of a Statute for Members, the increase in the total number of Members as provided for by the Treaty of Nice, the revision of the Staff Regulations and a reform of its administrative structure with a view to improving service to Members. The precise budgetary implications of some of these changes were not yet clear and would have to be taken into consideration during the 1st reading of the 2004 budget. The report also looked at a number of other key issues, including multilingualism. It stressed the need to further develop the concept of "controlled multilingualism" with a view to ensuring the best possible use of resources, while respecting the equality of all languages. In addition, the committee once more underlined the increased needs of Members and political groups for better interpretation facilities, especially in committee weeks, and called on the Secretary-General to examine, together with the interpretation services, the conditions under which distance interpretation would be feasible. With regard to information policy and new technologies, it recommended allocating EUR 1 million for internet broadcasting of plenary sittings and meetings, given that a number of meetings of great interest to the public would be taking place in the course of 2004 (i.e. relating to the accession of the new Member States, the hearings of future potential Commissioners and the inauguration of the new legislature). Other suggestions included setting up a user-friendly video library, following the example of other parliaments, making more use of video-conferencing as a way of reducing mission expenses, further enhancing interinstitutional cooperation in the area of IT, and looking at the possibilities for teleworking. Lastly, the report stressed the importance of Parliament's internet site as a means of communicating with the citizen and disseminating information, particularly in view of the forthcoming European elections and enlargement, and called for it to be modernised and "made more user-friendly and attractive". It added that Parliament's press and communication policy should increasingly focus on electronic means of communication and gradually reduce the amount of paper publications.?

2004 budget: EP's estimates

The European Parliament adopted a resolution based on the report by Neena GILL (PES, UK) on Parliament's estimates for 2004. (Please refer to the document dated 29/04/03). On the matter of expenditure related to Members, Parliament agreed to enter an amount of EUR 46 256 289 against Chapter 102 ("Reserve for the Statute of Members") on the assumption that it will be in force from July 2004 onwards. As a measure of budgetary rigour, it decided to cover this expenditure within the self-imposed ceiling of 20% of heading 5 in the 2004 Budget for the time being; Parliament reserves its position as to whether this expenditure should continue to be covered within the 20% ceiling in future budgets. Parliament went on to point out that enlargement expenditure will be the subject of a Supplementary and Amending Budget to the 2004 Budget. At this stage, Members are unwilling to enter appropriations against Item 1100 ("Basic salaries") and related items to cover the cost of permanent officials for the posts in the Administration in the 2004 Budget, in addition to funding to be entered for auxiliary contracts. On improving service to Members, Parliament stated that the current proposals are a first step in the right direction, but noted that they are not as ambitious as could have been expected in the follow-up to the ROME-PE exercise. The proposals should lead also to more rationalisation and to leaner management structures, while maintaining the respective roles of the administration and the political groups and promoting equal opportunities. Moving on to information policy, Parliament felt that its Administration and its parliamentary delegations should make more use of video-conferencing. Whilst personal contact between politicians cannot be replaced, video-conferencing could lead to a more regular dialogue and reduce mission expenses. The Secretary-General is asked to follow technological developments closely with a view to ensuring that Members are provided with appropriate means of video-communication and other IT tools. Parliament remained concerned at the fact that IT expenditure in Parliament remains relatively high, especially if compared with other European institutions, and the Secretary-General is asked to present a report by 1 September 2003 on a multi-annual plan on all envisaged IT expenditure. Finally, Parliament stated its determination to ensure that sufficient appropriations are made available to provide for the adequate participation in the WTO Parliamentary Assembly, with the necessary infrastructure, of its delegations in all meetings of, or leading up to, such an assembly.