


# Procedure file

| Basic information   |                                |                     |
|---|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| INI - Own-initiative procedure  | <a href="#">2003/2050(INI)</a> | Procedure completed |
| Accession Treaty: European Parliament recommendation for a financial frame (Rule 96(4) EP Rules of Procedure) |                                |                     |
| Subject<br>8.20.40 Enlargement's financial point of view<br>8.70.40 Basic budgetary texts                     |                                |                     |

| Key players         |   |   |            |
|---------------------|---|---|------------|
| European Parliament | Committee responsible   | Rapporteur                                    | Appointed  |
|                     | <b>AFET</b> Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security, Defense |   | 18/03/2003 |
|                     |   | PPE-DE <a href="#">BROK Elmar</a>             | 18/03/2003 |
|                     |   | PSE <a href="#">WYNN Terence</a>              |            |
|                     | Committee for opinion   | Rapporteur for opinion                        | Appointed  |
|                     | <b>BUDG</b> Budgets<br>(Associated committee)                       |   |            |
|                     | <b>AFCO</b> Constitutional Affairs                                  | The committee decided not to give an opinion. |            |

| Key events |  |   |         |
|------------|--|---|---------|
| 12/03/2003 | Additional information                     |   | Summary |
| 13/03/2003 | Committee referral announced in Parliament |   |         |
| 19/03/2003 | Vote in committee                          |   | Summary |
| 19/03/2003 | Committee report tabled for plenary        | <a href="#">A5-0077/2003</a>  |         |
| 26/03/2003 | Debate in Parliament                       |  |         |
| 27/03/2003 | Decision by Parliament                     | <a href="#">T5-0120/2003</a>  | Summary |
| 27/03/2003 | End of procedure in Parliament             |   |         |
| 11/03/2004 | Final act published in Official Journal    |   |         |

| Technical information |  |
|-----------------------|--|
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| Procedure reference        | 2003/2050(INI)   |
| Procedure type             | INI - Own-initiative procedure                         |
| Legal basis                | Rules of Procedure EP 134o; Rules of Procedure EP 57_o |
| Stage reached in procedure | Procedure completed                                    |
| Committee dossier          | AFET/5/19349   |

### Documentation gateway

|   |  |            |    |         |
|---|--|------------|----|---------|
| Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading | <a href="#">A5-0077/2003</a>   | 19/03/2003 | EP |         |
| Text adopted by Parliament, single reading          | <a href="#">T5-0120/2003</a><br>OJ C 062 11.03.2004, p.<br>0018-0143 E | 27/03/2003 | EP | Summary |

## Accession Treaty: European Parliament recommendation for a financial frame (Rule 96(4) EP Rules of Procedure)

Following the meeting on 11 March with Mr George Papandreou, the President of the European Parliament, Mr Pat Cox stated that: " Everything should be done to avoid that the problem which faces us today does not transform itself into a crisis that affects the enlargement process or the budgetary powers of the Parliament". The Conference of Presidents of the European Parliament examined the question, in the presence of Mr Terry Wynn and Mr Elmar Brok, respective presidents of the committee on budgets and foreign affairs. A consensus was reached to defend the rights of the European Parliament and not to delay the enlargement process. The Conference stated that if Annex XV was not amended or taken out, it would constitute a violation of interinstitutional agreements and that the Parliament should draw the necessary conclusions. If the principle of the multiannual financial perspectives is questioned, the Union should return to annual negotiations. The Conference has put Mr Cox in charge of writing to the President of the European Commission, Mr Romano Prodi on this issue. This issue shall be discussed by Mr Cox, Mr Prodi and Mr Costas Simitis on 19 March 2003, on the eve of the Spring Summit. The Conference of Presidents has decided to submit this question in order for it to be debated at the 26-27 plenary session in Brussels.?

## Accession Treaty: European Parliament recommendation for a financial frame (Rule 96(4) EP Rules of Procedure)

The Foreign Affairs Committee, in cooperation with the Budgets Committee, adopted a joint recommendation drafted by the two committee chairmen, Elmar BROK (EPP-ED, D) and Terence WYNN (PES, UK), on the introduction in the draft Accession Treaty of a financial framework. The report warned that the inclusion of budgetary figures for the ten candidate countries in the Accession Treaty (referred to therein as "maximum enlargement-related appropriations") would be an infringement of Parliament's budgetary prerogatives, and would appear to subject those countries to a separate and extra-restrictive regime. This, it said, would be in breach of the fundamental principle of the equality of Member States. MEPs interpreted this move by the Council as a signal that the latter "intends to abandon" the Interinstitutional Agreement on the budget procedure and the Financial Perspective. They stressed that if Council insisted on preserving Annex XV to the Accession Treaty containing those figures, Parliament could only continue budgetary cooperation if Council agreed to raise the ceiling for the budget category "Internal Policies" by EUR 600 million for the 25 Member States until 2006 and if it also agreed to make pre-accession aid available to neighbouring countries as well. The report added that, if Annex XV and the wording "maximum enlargement-related appropriations" therein were maintained, the Member States should clarify that this wording does not imply that separate expenditure ceilings for the new Member States are created but that the financial perspective remains a single and indivisible framework. It urged the Member States and the Council to follow these recommendations in order not to delay the signing of the Accession Treaty (Parliament, whose assent is needed for the accession of any new country, is due to vote on the accession of the 10 applicant countries at its Strasbourg session in April 2003). ?

## Accession Treaty: European Parliament recommendation for a financial frame (Rule 96(4) EP Rules of Procedure)

The European Parliament adopted a resolution containing its recommendations to the Council on the introduction in the draft Accession Treaty of a financial framework. The rapporteurs were Elmar BROK (EPP-ED, Germany) and Terence WYNN (PES, United Kingdom). This resolution required an absolute majority of 313 votes. Parliament stated that, whilst it remained fully committed to accession on 01/05/04, it could not accept Article 32 of the Act of Accession or Annex XV. If the latter are maintained in their current form, Parliament regarded this as: - an infringement of Parliament's prerogatives in budgetary matters as laid down in Article 272 of the EC Treaty; - a violation of the Interinstitutional Agreement; and - discrimination against the new Member States. The Member States' approach is a breach of the principle of loyal co-operation between the institutions. Parliament interpreted this as a signal that the Council intends to abandon the Interinstitutional Agreement and the financial perspective in it. If Member States insist on maintaining Article 32 and Annex XV in the draft Act of Accession in their current form, Parliament could continue budgetary co-operation only if Parliament's powers are fully respected and the new Member States are treated in the same way as the current Member States. The Commission is reminded of its role as guardian of the Treaties and asked to take all necessary steps. It should also be noted that at a trilogue held between a delegation of Parliament's Budget Committee, Council and Commission, no agreement was reached. The Foreign Affairs Committee chair Elmar BROK (EPP-ED, D) told the House before

the vote that a trilogue will be held on 1 April in Athens. Parliament was set to vote on the accession of ten countries on 9 April and this makes a speedy solution for the budgetary dispute all the more urgent. Finally, Parliament invited Member States and the Council to follow its recommendations so as not to delay the signing of the Accession Treaty.?