




Procedure file

Basic information		
BUD - Budgetary procedure	1995/2235(BUD)	Procedure completed
1996 budget: other sections		
Subject 8.70.60 Previous annual budgets		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	BUDG Budgets		26/09/1994
		GUE MIRANDA Joaquim	
	Former committee responsible		
	BUDG Budgets		26/09/1994
Council of the European Union		GUE MIRANDA Joaquim	
	BUDG Budgets		26/09/1994
		GUE MIRANDA Joaquim	
	Former committee for opinion		
	JURI Legal Affairs, Citizens' Rights		22/02/1995
Council of the European Union		PSE ROTHLEY Willi	
	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Budget	1882	01/12/1995
	Budget	1866	24/07/1995

Key events			
22/03/1995	Vote in committee		
22/03/1995	Preparatory budgetary report tabled for plenary	A4-0067/1995	
04/04/1995	Debate in Parliament		
05/04/1995	Decision by Parliament	T4-0137/1995	
15/06/1995	Commission preliminary draft budget published	COM(1995)0300	Summary
24/07/1995	Debate in Council	1866	
24/07/1995	Council draft budget published	N4-300/1995	
23/10/1995	Vote in committee		

23/10/1995	Budgetary report tabled for plenary	A4-0245/1995	
24/10/1995	Debate in Parliament		Summary
26/10/1995	Decision by Parliament	T4-0515/1995	Summary
01/12/1995	Amended budget adopted by Council		
01/12/1995	Council amended draft budget published	11978/1995	
04/12/1995	Vote in committee, 2nd reading		Summary
04/12/1995	Budgetary report tabled for plenary, 2nd reading	A4-0310/1995	
11/12/1995	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 2nd reading		
12/12/1995	Debate in Parliament		Summary
14/12/1995	Decision by Parliament, 2nd reading	T4-0614/1995	Summary
14/12/1995	End of procedure in Parliament		
29/01/1996	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1995/2235(BUD)
Procedure type	BUD - Budgetary procedure
Procedure subtype	Budget
Legal basis	Euratom Treaty A 177; EC before Amsterdam E 203; ECSC Treaty C 078
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	BUDG/4/06416; BUDG/4/06833

Documentation gateway

Preparatory budgetary report tabled for plenary		A4-0067/1995 OJ C 109 01.05.1995, p. 0005	22/03/1995	EP	
Parliament's opinion on budgetary estimates/guidelines		T4-0137/1995 OJ C 109 01.05.1995, p. 0032-0049	05/04/1995	EP	
Commission preliminary draft budget		COM(1995)0300	15/06/1995	EC	Summary
Council draft budget		N4-300/1995	24/07/1995	CSL	
Document attached to the procedure		04021/1995	20/10/1995	CSL	
Budgetary report tabled for plenary, 1st reading		A4-0245/1995 OJ C 308 20.11.1995, p. 0013	23/10/1995	EP	
Budgetary text adopted by Parliament		T4-0515/1995 OJ C 308 20.11.1995, p. 0097-0122	26/10/1995	EP	Summary
Document attached to the procedure		SEC(1995)1827	07/11/1995	EC	Summary
Council amended draft budget		11978/1995	01/12/1995	CSL	
Budgetary report tabled for plenary, 2nd reading		A4-0310/1995	04/12/1995	EP	

		OJ C 017 22.01.1996, p. 0016			
Final budget adopted by Parliament		T4-0614/1995 OJ C 017 22.01.1996, p. 0132-0162	14/12/1995	EP	Summary
Final act					
Budget 1996/96 OJ L 022 29.01.1996, p. 0001					

1996 budget: other sections

OBJECTIVE: Preliminary draft budget for 1996 - Other sections. SUBSTANCE: The preliminary draft budget for 1996 (other sections) breaks down as follows: . European Parliament/Ombudsman: the appropriations included in the estimates for the 1996 financial year amount to ECU 763 639 800, which represents an increase of 5.57% (without taking account of a total of ECU 120 million for buildings). The EP extended the number of employees authorised in 1995 and called for the upgrading of 119 jobs; . Court of Justice: the appropriations included in the 1996 estimates total ECU 127 352 744, an increase of 11.35%. The creation of 21 jobs is requested together with the upgrading of 110 jobs; . Court of Auditors: the appropriations included in the estimates for 1996 amount to ECU 60 174 200, an increase of 15.41%. Thirty-nine new posts are requested, including eight to cover the requirements of enlargement; . Economic and Social Committee: the appropriations included in the 1996 estimates total ECU 29 095 000, an increase of 9.04%. Five new jobs are requested together with 26 upgrades; . Committee of the Regions: the appropriations included in the 1996 estimates amount to ECU 17 465 700, which represents an increase of 11.27%. Fourteen new posts are requested together with 34 upgrades. ?

1996 budget: other sections

The rapporteur pointed out that the priorities of the new budget were rigour, transparent management and an improved working method. He regretted that some of the increases in administrative expenditure for 1996 were higher than the overall increase envisaged (for example with regard to pensions). In his opinion, the accession of the new Member States to the Union meant that it was essential to create new, vital posts, even though that would create a more complex linguistic situation. Of the more innovative elements adopted, the rapporteur highlighted the interinstitutional cooperation (organisation of competitions, joint invitations to tender, etc.) as well as the decisions on terminations, freelance interpreters and the creation of seven reserve posts for linguist-lawyers.

1996 budget: other sections

In adopting the report by Mr MIRANDA DA SILVA (GUE, P) the European Parliament approved the Community budget for 1996 (Section I - European Parliament/Ombudsman, Section II - Council, Section IV - Court of Justice, Section V - Court of Auditors, Section VI - Economic and Social Committee/Committee of the Regions). * General: In the first part of its resolution, Parliament recalled that as far as appropriations were concerned, the budget year 1996 provided for an increase in funding of 4.20% over 1995. It underlined in particular that the 1996 draft budget had left a margin of approximately ECU 60 m in heading 5, that the projections for the institutions varied from -9% to + 15% in comparison with 1995 and that the Council had drawn up the draft budget at slightly more than ECU 4 billion, leaving a margin of ECU 169 m. Parliament decided to include provisional appropriations in the form of rent for Parliament itself (ECU 37.7 m) and for the Court of Justice (ECU 60 m), with a reserve of ECU 10 m. With regard to EU staffing levels, and taking initial note of the decision of the Council to create 42 jobs in its general secretariat and 6 for the Committee of the Regions (temporary staff plus 22 upgrades), Parliament decided to introduce reserve appropriations for the creation of a budgetary structure capable of taking account of measures introduced by the Council to cut back on officials as a result of enlargement. As regards interinstitutional cooperation, and convinced of the usefulness of this mechanism, Parliament took the view that savings had to be made in the area of administrative expenditure. Amendments have been adopted in this regard. Appropriations have also been included under budget heading 100 (provisional appropriations) for activities such as recruitment and professional training. * Section II - European Parliament: Taking the view that the volume of appropriations was sufficient to ensure the smooth operation of the EP, Parliament regretted that no common legal and language service had been established for the 3 institutions and felt obliged to push ahead with this in order that it might be able fully to exercise its legislative prerogatives. At the same time it decided: . to create one permanent A1 post as head of the Epicentre; . to create seven LA7 posts for the legal and language service; . to create two LA3 posts in the interpreting department (for new Member States); . to upgrade certain posts in the political groups. Parliament also included a number of allocations designed to regulate the problems of internal organisations (such as the hiring of transport, secretarial allowances for MEPs, voluntary pension scheme for Members and free-lance interpreters). Parliament repeated its call for a solution to be found to the problem of a Statute for Parliamentary Assistants in the very near future. * Section IV, Court of Justice: Parliament pointed out first and foremost that this institution had called for the creation of 21 jobs and the upgrading of 110 others, without any note accompanying or justifying this request. Parliament decided to reduce the basic allowance from 6.5% to 4.5% for personnel working for this institution and proposed creating three temporary A6 jobs as well as upgrading several other lower-grade positions. It also decided to strengthen a number of other purely technical lines (expenditure on meetings and charges for cleaning, stationery and telephone services). * Section V, Court of Auditors: Here too the level of appropriations was considered as satisfactory, though Parliament stressed that it was necessary to provide budget coverage for jobs which were actually paid over a period of 12 months. It decided to reduce the basic allowance from 7% to 5% for personnel working for the Court of Auditors. * Section VI : a) ESC: Parliament recalled its position on the management of human resources, particularly with a view to establishing a functional and transparent organisational structure within this institution. At the same time it decided to upgrade 2 posts and to create a permanent grade A position. For the rest, the budget allocated to this institution was satisfactory (except for the addition of ECU 74,300 for study purposes). b) Committee of the Regions: Parliament was concerned that the Committee of the Regions should be given

sufficient human and infrastructure resources to support the activities of this institution. It subscribed to the creation of six temporary A7 posts and took the view that the budget for the Committee of the Regions was adequate, apart from the extra ECU 30,000 granted to cover the cost of meetings, official missions and studies. c) joint organisational structure: Parliament pointed out that the Council had included ECU 300,000 for rental charges in anticipation of the hiring of Parliament meeting rooms and decided, in this context, to create a new heading "expenses for meetings in the premises of other institutions" (ECU 97,000) and to adjust, as a result of this, the appropriations for "rental charges" introduced by the Council into the corresponding heading. Finally, for the institutions as a whole, Parliament noted that the procedure for drawing up administrative budgets other than that of the Commission tended towards a convergence of views between the two branches of the budgetary authority. This convergence, when coupled with real interinstitutional cooperation, would be felt in practice by the saving of one reading of the draft budget. Parliament also wished to see greater transparency between the two branches of the budgetary authority as regards the dissemination of information. Parliament noted, finally, that the budget as amended left a margin, all institutions taken together, of ECU 61.5 m on "administrative expenditure". In this respect it appended to its resolution a series of conclusions on the rationalisation of administrative expenses (creation of jobs, organisation of competitions, language training, etc.). It called in particular for a sector-by-sector rationalisation of administrative expenditure and greater transparency in respect of the resources allocated to each heading and the means provided for financing the various sectors concerned (competitions, planning of requirements, etc.). ?

1996 budget: other sections

La Commission presented the Budgetary Authority with Rectifying Letter No 2, which the Council had forwarded to it on 23 October 1995 as a follow up to the conclusions of the conciliation on the rationalisation of administrative expenditure, which the Council approved on 16 October 1995. With a view to creating the appropriate budgetary structure for implementing the conclusions on interinstitutional cooperation, the nomenclature and comments of Section II - Council of the draft budget will have to be amended as regards: - the creation of a Chapter 18 (Interinstitutional cooperation) covering the appropriations intended for advanced vocational training, the day nursery and crèches, and recruitment; - the reference to interinstitutional cooperation in the comments to Articles 117 (supplementary services), 203 (cleaning and maintenance), 205 (security and supervision of premises) and 222 (equipment and technical installations). The rectifying letter does not give rise to any change in appropriations. ?

1996 budget: other sections

The Budget Committee adopted the amendments with a view to the second reading of the 1996 budget, which was to take place at the December sitting in Strasbourg (the debate is scheduled for 12 December and the vote for 14 December). The Committee on Budgets was to finalise its position with regard to certain budget lines and to adopt the resolution of the general rapporteur, Mr James ELLES (EPP, UK), at its meeting on Monday 11 December in Strasbourg. ?

1996 budget: other sections

The rapporteur, Mr MIRANDA, was pleased that throughout the debate on the budget there had been a consensus on the most important issues: use of the margin, interinstitutional cooperation, termination of the service of officials and operating expenditure. As far as the margin was concerned, the rapporteur hoped that the buildings of the Court of Justice and Parliament would be taken into account and that the Court of Auditors would draw up a report on the financial commitments involved prior to a decision by the budgetary authorities. However, the rapporteur also highlighted the differences of opinion with the Council on the changes to the nomenclature and the lack of agreement on the Committee of the Regions and Economic and Social Committee: he felt in particular that the CoR and the ESC should draw up a code of conduct in respect of a joint structure.

1996 budget: other sections

In adopting the report by Mr Joaquim MIRANDA (GUE/NGL, P) on the modifications made by the Council to Parliament's amendments concerning the 1996 budget, the EP welcomed the fact that, to a large extent, the Council had endorsed Parliament's first reading of the draft budget, in particular by accepting the amendments on partial use of the margin in heading 5 of the financial perspective, on interinstitutional cooperation, on the measures to terminate the service of officials and on certain operating expenditure. The EP also called for the drawing up of a Statute for Parliamentary Assistants on the basis of a Commission proposal by 30 May 1996. With regard to the margin, the report calls for account to be taken of the European institutions' buildings and for the Court of Auditors to draw up a special report on the financial commitments involved prior to a decision by the budgetary authorities. However, the report notes disagreement between Parliament and the Council over the Committee of the Regions and the Economic and Social Committee, and takes the view that these two committees should draw up a code of conduct in respect of a joint structure. ?