

# Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	<a href="#">1995/2060(INI)</a>	Procedure completed
Budgetary aspects of comitology		
Subject 8.40.10 Interinstitutional relations, subsidiarity, proportionality, comitology		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	<b>BUDG</b> Budgets		24/07/1994
		PSE <a href="#">WYNN Terence</a>	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	<b>AGRI</b> Agriculture and Rural Development		
	<b>ENER</b> Research, Technological Development and Energy		12/04/1995
		FE <a href="#">SCAPAGNINI Umberto</a>	
	<b>JURI</b> Legal Affairs, Citizens' Rights		
	<b>REGI</b> Regional Policy		
	<b>DEVE</b> Development and Cooperation		
<b>INST</b> Institutional Affairs			
<b>PECH</b> Fisheries			

Key events			
15/05/1995	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
18/07/1995	Vote in committee		Summary
18/07/1995	Committee report tabled for plenary	<a href="#">A4-0189/1995</a>	
24/10/1995	Debate in Parliament		Summary
26/10/1995	Decision by Parliament	T4-0517/1995	Summary
26/10/1995	End of procedure in Parliament		
20/11/1995	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1995/2060(INI)

Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 54
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	BUDG/4/06585

### Documentation gateway

Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading	<a href="#">A4-0189/1995</a> <a href="#">OJ C 269 16.10.1995, p. 0010</a>	18/07/1995	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading	T4-0517/1995 <a href="#">OJ C 308 20.11.1995, p. 0098-0133</a>	26/10/1995	EP	Summary

## Budgetary aspects of comitology

The WYNN report, which has just been adopted despite the fact that it mainly addresses the budgetary implications of comitology, provides an opportunity to make a more general examination of the question of comitology. Mr WYNN highlights the fact that these committees are composed of non-elected government representatives. Scope of the problem: according to information from the Commission, 424 committees operated in 1994, preparing 4679 "acts" (decisions or opinions) in areas of activity covering almost all sectors of the budget. This represented meeting costs of some 18 million ecus in 1994. The rapporteur also notes that the problem has been further complicated by the implementation of the TEU and the new role of the European Parliament as co-legislator, but not on an equal footing with the Council (this issue was addressed in the DE GIOVANNI report in December 1993). The rapporteur raises the question of the transparency of work and the potentially negative impact on legislative or budgetary issues (possible distortion of the will of the European Parliament as co-legislator or budgetary authority). The rapporteur calls for: - the Commission's internal procedures to be improved by setting out precise guidelines on comitology in order to improve transparency and the information supplied to the European Parliament; - the principles agreed in the "modus vivendi" (relating to the codecision procedure) to be extended to all legislative procedures and for information to be sent to the European Parliament promptly and without exception. It is therefore proposed to enter half the appropriations for the working of the committees for 1996 in the reserve (appropriations which can be released once the Commission has informed the European Parliament about the activities of committees) - a recommendation that committees meet in public as a rule in the future and for a public register of interests of the members of the committees to be introduced.?

## Budgetary aspects of comitology

The rapporteur stressed the importance of two budget lines on comitology, which he wanted to see entered in the reserve. He felt that Parliament's budgetary powers could in part be distorted if there was overly systematic use of the committee procedures. It was essential to change the system in order to make it more democratic and more transparent. Meetings should be held in public, the agenda should be published two weeks in advance and the minutes of the meetings should be made available to the public.

## Budgetary aspects of comitology

The European Parliament adopted the report by Mr Terence WYNN (PSE, UK) on the Commission's response to its request for information on comitology financed under budget lines A-2510 and A-2511. It started by welcoming the Commission's rapid response but noted the inconsistent quality of the reports on comitology. It therefore assumed that internal information within the Commission was patchy and not centralized, thereby hampering supervision of the activities of the committees and undermining the transparency demanded of the Commission in the implementation of its executive powers. It therefore called for the Commission to improve its internal procedures in this area for all executive committees and requested that the Commission forward the relevant comitology details to it (especially meeting dates, content of opinions and references to legislative texts). Parliament also recommended that a schedule of public meetings of the executive committees be drawn up and a regularly updated public register be introduced in which committee members could register their interests. Finally, it called for a statement to be inserted in the paragraph of the legislative proposal on comitology and the setting up of committees making these committees public meeting places (unless a specific decision is taken to the contrary) and calling on the committees to publish their agendas (two weeks in advance) and their minutes. It called for comparable information on committees not financed under lines A-2510 and A-2511 (mainly in the research sector). Finally, it called for: . the principles agreed in the modus vivendi on codecision procedures to be extended to all legislative procedures; . information to be transmitted promptly and therefore for the financial allocation provided for comitology to be entered in the reserve for the 1996 budget.?