

Procedure file

| Basic information | | |
|--|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| INI - Own-initiative procedure | 1995/2060(INI) | Procedure completed |
| Budgetary aspects of comitology | | |
| Subject 8.40.10 Interinstitutional relations, subsidiarity, proportionality, comitology | | |

| Key players | | | |
|---------------------|--|---------------------------------------|------------|
| European Parliament | Committee responsible | Rapporteur | Appointed |
| | BUDG Budgets | | 24/07/1994 |
| | | PSE WYNN Terence | |
| | Committee for opinion | Rapporteur for opinion | Appointed |
| | AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development | | |
| | ENER Research, Technological Development and Energy | | 12/04/1995 |
| | | FE SCAPAGNINI Umberto | |
| | JURI Legal Affairs, Citizens' Rights | | |
| | REGI Regional Policy | | |
| | DEVE Development and Cooperation | | |
| | INST Institutional Affairs | | |
| | PECH 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 | A4-0189/1995 | |
| 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) |
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| 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

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|---|--|--|------------|----|---------|
| Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading | | A4-0189/1995 OJ C 269 16.10.1995, p. 0010 | 18/07/1995 | EP | |
| Text adopted by Parliament, single reading | | T4-0517/1995 OJ C 308 20.11.1995, p. 0098-0133 | 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.?