



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 4 May 2009

9445/09

**PE 195
INST 68
BUDGET 29**

NOTE

from : General Secretariat of the Council
to : Delegations

Subject : Report on the meeting of the **Committee on Budgets** held in Brussels on
27 April 2009

The meeting was chaired by Mr BÖGE (PPE, DE). Mr BÖGE announced a meeting on Monday 4 May, 19.00 to 20.00 in Strasbourg for a presentation by Mr Kallas of the Preliminary Draft Budget (PDB) for 2010. Another extraordinary meeting may take place on 23-24 June (dates to be confirmed, depending on the organisation of the constituent meetings for the new EP groups), to prepare the July conciliation.

*** Voting time ***

ITEM 4. Interinstitutional Agreement of 17 May 2006 on the multiannual financial framework (amendment)

BUDG/6/71396, 2008/2332(ACI), COM(2009)0171 – C6-0508/2008

The draft report by Mr BÖGE on the modification of the IIA - aimed at amending the MFF with the changes agreed in the trialogue on 2 April - was adopted, with four oral amendments presented by the PSE.

BUDGET 2009

ITEM 5. Amending budget 4/2009: Energy projects to aid economic recovery

BUDG/6/75617, 2009/2039(BUD)

Responsible committee: BUDG

The draft report of Mrs HAUG (PSE, DE) was adopted. Mr PRESA, on behalf of the Commission, replied to Ms GUY-QUINT (PSE, FR), saying that:

- the November conciliation, when the implementation of heading 2 in 2009 would be more clear and the agricultural amending letter would be on the table, would be the right moment for identifying the most appropriate source for the EUR 2,4 billion envisaged by the EERP and still to be financed;
- the legal bases relating to the EERP would be adopted by EP at the May plenary;
- the timetable for the implementation of the rural development measures included in the EERP would be the subject of a negotiation with the MS.

ITEM 6. Amending budget 5/2009: budgeting the surplus from the implementation of the budget year 2008

BUDG/6/75655, 2009/2040(BUD)

Responsible committee: BUDG

Rapporteur: Mrs HAUG

The draft report was adopted without debate.

ITEM 7. 2009 budget: Section III - Commission

The following transfer requests were voted on, following the draft report by Mrs HAUG:

- DEC 13 (EIT Governing structure): approved;
- DEC 14 and 15, EACEA mandate extension to TEMPUS programme: approved;
- DEC 16 (EUROSTAT): approved;
- DEC 17 (EUR 5 millions for Shanghai export pavilion) gave rise to a brief debate. Mr ELLES (PPE, UK) considered that part of the money should have been retained, to ensure that the EP would be given adequate standing in the EU pavilion. The item was eventually adopted, as it was considered a urgent payment for the Shanghai export and that the EP would have other opportunities to ensure its prerogatives in further transfers;

- DEC 5 (Building): the vote on this decision had already been postponed from the 22 April meeting. As no further information was provided by the Commission, the vote was postponed to 4 May. The Commission will disclose to Mr BÖGE the list of the nine companies participating in the call for tenders for executing building works in Brussels.

- DEC 7 (EMPA): already postponed from the meeting of 22 April. As the transfer was postponed again, the Commission will have to present a new proposal.

ITEM 8. 2009 budget - Other Sections

Rapporteur: Mr LEWANDOWSKI (PPE, PL)

- EP, C3/2009 (Temporary staff): approved;

- EP, C7 (Recruitment of Parliamentary assistants): approved. Transfer for medical visits respecting the neutrality clause, as it comes from Parliamentary assistance;

- Court of Auditors, V/02/09 (Chapter 27, Acquisitions): approved;

- Court of Auditors, V/03/09 (Other staff and external services): approved;

- Court of Auditors, Art 47(1) (conversion of post): approved;

- Economic and Social Committee, Inf. 2/2009 PART 1 and 2 (Other staff): approved.

*** End of votes ***

BUDGET 2010

ITEM 9. 2010 budget: Section III - Commission

BUDG/6/72035, 2009/2002(BUD)

Responsible:, BUDG

Mr SURJÁN (EPP, HU), drafter, presented a study concerning the implementation of the EU Cohesion Policy.

ITEM 10. 2010 budget - other sections

BUDG/6/72115, 2009/2002B(BUD)

Responsible committee: BUDG

An exchange of views took place with Mr WELLE, the new Secretary General of the EP. Mr BOGE welcomed Mr WELLE at what was his first appearance in the BUDG Committee since his

appointment, on 15 March 2009. The new Secretary General highlighted the main points of his program for reshuffling the Secretariat General of the EP. The main changes would concern the Personnel DG, which would be divided into three Directorates. He underlined the importance of a better definition of the Staff Regulations and modernisation of the promotion, mobility and appointment procedures.

Mr WELLE stressed the increasing importance of infrastructures and concluded that a new Directorate was needed. The new Directorate would be given more tasks such as building maintenance. The collapse of the ceiling in Strasbourg revealed the need for staff specialised in maintenance, which is lacking among EP personnel.

Information Technologies was another central element of Mr WELLE's programme as Secretary General. He considered that this central issue of governance had hardly been discussed at a sufficiently high level over the last 10 years.

Mr MANKA (PSE, SK) recalled other important dossiers the new Secretary General will have to address, such as the shift from linguistic to administrative tasks for many members of staff. Mr ONESTA (Verts, FR) stressed the importance of the security dossier. A document of his group will be circulated, containing figures and evaluations on buildings and maintenance. Mr ELLES drew a comparison with the US House of Congress, arguing that access to the EP building should be made easier for visitors, who are required to fill in too many forms. Mrs GUY-QUINT contested the need for three General Directorates for staff, considering that one of them would be too powerful and squeeze the others. She then raised the issue of matching the need for real expert personnel and mobility of staff. While mobility is required by the Staff Regulations, staff loses expertise in switching from a job to another. She then asked whether political plurality was guaranteed for management. Mr RÜBIG (PPE, AT) focussed on public relations, recalling that the mayor of Vienna has a communication unit staffed with 20 persons. Mr WELLE responded briefly to many of the questions.

OPINIONS

ITEM 11. Structures for the management of the European satellite radio navigation programmes

BUDG/6/74936, ***I 2009/0047(COD)COM(2009)0139 – C6-0103/2009

Responsible committee:

ITRE

Mrs HAUG (PSE) explained that ITRE had agreed to postpone the adoption of its report until the next legislative term.

STUDIES

ITEM 12. Follow-up of a study on the "Opportunity and feasibility of establishing common support services for EU agencies"

Mrs HAUG (PSE) expressed satisfaction with the study presented during the COBU meeting of 16 April and suggested that the item be put on the agenda of the next EP session.

ITEM 13. Factual Study on the follow-up of Pilot Projects and Preparatory Actions

This study, carried out by the Policy Department on Budgetary Affairs, examines budgetary resources for Pilot Projects (PPs) and Preparatory Actions (PAs) in 2000-2008 and the outcome of PPs and PAs that have come to an end in this period.

Mr ELLES (EPP-DE, UK), member with responsibility for this study, stressed its main finding: while the activities of the majority of PPs that ended during this period continued in some form, 40% of them were nevertheless abandoned, whereas for PAs, their activities were abandoned in only 16% of cases. Mr ELLES also stressed that the EP should make sure that it kept its "power" in relation to PPs and PAs. Ms GUY-QUINT highlighted the importance of effective implementation of PPs and PAs by the Commission and the need to assess the actual feasibility of the proposals in order to maximise resources. Mr ELLES concluded by proposing that the EP published a booklet on the success of PPs and PAs in time for the upcoming elections

Any other business

Date of next meeting

Monday 4 May, 19.00-20.00, in Strasbourg.
