1996 ECSC operating budget

1995/2116(BUD) - 24/10/1995

The rapporteur pointed out that the ECSC draft budget for 1996 came at a positive time for steel in Europe. According to forecasts, steel production would increase by 14 million tonnes in 1995, with a further increase of 2 million tonnes expected in 1996. However, coal production was expected to decline with output falling from 130 to 127 million tonnes as a result of imports from third countries. The ECSC draft budget for 1996 was 27% lower than the 1995 budget, falling from ECU 331 million to ECU 241 million. According to Mr GIANSILY, the increase in aid for reconversion could not be justified while the forecasts for the steel sector were positive and this aid was often used for regional development measures. He hoped, however, that aid for research and readjustment would be increased. Finally, the rapporteur noted that the expiry of the ECSC Treaty in 2002 did not mean that the Union was no longer concerned about the coal and steel sectors. The Commission should present a report defining the activities that would continue beyond 2002 and that would receive aid under the general arrangements. To this end, he supported the idea of a foundation that would inherit the ECSC’s assets after 2002.