Budgetary aspects of comitology

1995/2060(INI) - 18/07/1995

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.