2002 discharge: EC general budget, European Parliament

2003/2211(DEC) - 13/05/2003

PURPOSE : to present the revenue and expenditure account and the balance sheet concerning the activities of the budget for the financial year 2002 (European Parliament). CONTENT : this document sets out the amount of expenditure and the balance sheet for the other institutions of the Union (except the Commission) for the financial year 2002, in particular the European Parliament. The document shows that the appropriations included in the Parliament·s budget (deductions made from the two amending budgets 1 /2002 and 6/2002) amounted to EUR 992.310.000, committed to the amount of EUR 977.212.021, i.e. 98,5% (2001: 99,33%). Only 0,33% of this amount was carried over to 2003, highlighting a considerable reduction compared to 2001 (13,49%) and 92,41% of the 2001 deferred appropriations have been paid. The final appropriations paid amount to EUR 876.911.048 in 2002, therefore an automatic carry over to 2003 of 10,26% of the committed appropriations. The implementation of the 2002 budget was marked by a series of changes to the appropriations as originally adopted, they concern: - the European Convention, whose financing necessitated a supplementary and amending budget 1/2002, adding a budgetary line to Section I of the budget (Parliament) (Article 372) and the transfer of EUR 1 million from Chapter 101; - preparations for enlargement, including "frontloading" operations whereby as a result of a supplementary and amending budget, the Commission was able to utilise appropriations available in 2002 in respect of expenditure initially planned for 2003 (SAB 6/2002); - expenditure which the authorising authority does not have control over (e.g. weightings); - release of appropriations allocated within the reserve by the budgetary authorities pending additional information and expenditure for enlargement; - building policy: reorientation of the Parliament·s building policy within the framework of the accelerated payments of certain buildings of the Parliament. With regard to the use of appropriations by chapter, the year 2002 was remembered by the definite increase in the expenses related with the organisation of training courses and the exchange of information (+35% compared to 2001 partly due to the increase in the remunerated trainees coming from the accession countries or the paid training courses for translators) as well as reception and representation expenses (+24,3%). The budgetary document states in parallel that for two years the expenditure related to travelling expenses for meetings has increased substantially (8% in 2001 and of 6,5% in 2002). The increase of this expenditure stems, on the one hand, from the adaptation of the allowances decided by the Bureau of the European Parliament but also by the increased number of missions outwith the 3 places of work of the EP. The document also highlights an increase in the expenses relating to telecommunications (+42,5% compared to 2001). Conversely, the report highlights a clear reduction in building expenses (rent and ancillary costs, -24,6%): this reduction is explained by the important savings generated by the anticipatory payment of EUR 165 million to accelerate the financing of LOW Building in Strasbourg. On the other hand, the expenses related to the security of the buildings were increased.