1999 budget: European Parliament's estimates

1998/2004(BUD) - 28/05/1998 - Parliament's opinion on budgetary estimates/guidelines

In adopting the report by Mr Vicenzo VIOLA (EPP, I) on the estimates of revenue and expenditure of the European Parliament for 1999, Parliament approved a total budget of ECU 916.1 million, which represented an increase of 0.88% by comparison with the 1998 budget (ECU 910.93 million). After pointing out that the limited increase in expenditure should meet the concern to maintain a degree of rigour comparable to that self-imposed by the Member States, Parliament showed that its proposal was below the initial budget estimates (ECU 944.6 million). It also stressed that the amendments made to the nomenclature improved presentation of expenditure and met budget readability requirements. With regard to the Members, Parliament pointed out that prior to the first reading of the budget the Statute for Members Working Party, set up by the Bureau, should be submitting specific proposals which might have an impact on the budget headings concerning Members of the European Parliament. With regard to staff, it outlined the main principles which governed recruitment for Parliament and authorized appropriations for the creation and upgrading of certain posts: 1) Secretariat: - creation of 10 temporary posts related to the enlargement process, - upgrading of 206 permanent posts, - award of 5 ad personam grades; 2) Political group secretariats: - upgrading of 17 temporary posts. At the same time Parliament was surprised that the budget heading for interinstitutional cooperation had been reduced and called for a report on this matter. It also stressed that its building expenditure had been changed by ECU 17.2 million in 1999. Noting that savings had been possible in this area, it encouraged Parliament to continue its efforts and for subsequent budgets called for a letter of amendment to the PDB which took into account these budgetary reductions. Lastly, with regard to the Ombudsman, it noted that his budget totalled ECU 3.47 million. With reference to the Ombudsman's request for the creation of six new temporary posts, in particular through the upgrading of existing posts, Parliament rejected the proposed upgradings and was in favour of the creation of three new temporary posts: 1 A7, 1 B5 and 1 C5.