

## II

(Acts whose publication is not obligatory)

## COUNCIL

## COUNCIL DECISION

of 31 December 1998

adopting the Statutes of the Economic and Financial Committee

(1999/8/EC)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 153 thereof,

Having regard to the opinion of the Commission,

Whereas in accordance with Article 109c(2) of the Treaty an Economic and Financial Committee will be set up at the start of the third stage;

Whereas the Council adopted on 21 December 1998 a Decision on the composition of the Economic and Financial Committee <sup>(1)</sup>;

Recalling that on 16 June 1997 the European Council adopted a resolution on the establishment of an exchange-rate mechanism in the third stage of economic and monetary union <sup>(2)</sup>;

Recalling that on 13 December 1997 the European Council adopted a resolution on economic policy coordination in the third stage of economic and monetary union and on Articles 109 and 109b of the Treaty <sup>(3)</sup>;

Recalling that, in these resolutions, a certain role was foreseen for the Economic and Financial Committee;

Whereas, therefore, the Statutes of the Economic and Financial Committee should be adopted,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

*Article 1*

The Statutes of the Economic and Financial Committee are hereby adopted.

The text of the Statutes is set out in the Annex hereto.

*Article 2*

This Decision shall be published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

It shall take effect as from 1 January 1999.

Done at Brussels, 31 December 1998.

*For the Council*

*The President*

R. EDLINGER

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ L 358, 31. 12. 1998, p. 109.

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ C 236, 2. 8. 1997, p. 5.

<sup>(3)</sup> OJ C 35, 2. 2. 1998, p. 1.

## ANNEX

## STATUTES OF THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL COMMITTEE

*Article 1*

The Economic and Financial Committee shall carry out the tasks described in Article 109c(2) and (4) of the Treaty establishing the European Community.

*Article 2*

The Economic and Financial Committee may, *inter alia*:

- be consulted in the procedure leading to decisions relating to the exchange-rate mechanism of the third stage of economic and monetary union (ERM II),
- without prejudice to Article 151 of the Treaty, prepare the Council's reviews of the development of the exchange-rate of the euro,
- provide the framework within which the dialogue between the Council and the European Central Bank (ECB) can be prepared and continued at the level of senior officials from ministries, national central banks, the Commission and the ECB.

*Article 3*

Members of the Committee and alternates shall be guided, in the performance of their duties, by the general interests of the Community.

*Article 4*

Opinions, reports or communications shall be adopted by a majority of the members if a vote is requested. Each member of the Committee shall have one vote. However, when advice or an opinion is given on questions on which the Council may subsequently take a decision, members from central banks and the Commission may participate fully in the discussions but shall not participate in a vote. The Committee shall also report on minority or dissenting views expressed in the course of the discussion.

*Article 5*

The Committee shall elect from among its members, by a majority of its members, a President for a period of two years. The two-year term shall be renewable. The President shall be elected from among members who are senior officials in the national administrations. The President shall delegate his/her voting right to his/her alternate.

*Article 6*

In the event of being prevented from fulfilling his/her duties, the President shall be replaced by the Vice-President of the Committee who shall be elected according to the same rules.

*Article 7*

Unless the Committee decides otherwise, alternates may attend meetings of the Committee. They shall not vote. Unless the Committee decides otherwise they shall not take part in the discussions.

A member who is unable to attend a meeting of the Committee may delegate his/her functions to one of the alternates. He/she may also delegate them to another member. The Chairman and the Secretary should be informed in writing before a meeting. In exceptional circumstances the President may agree to alternative arrangements.

*Article 8*

The Committee may entrust the study of specific questions to its alternate members, to sub-committees or to working parties. In these cases, the presidency shall be assumed by a member or an alternate member of the Committee, appointed by the Committee. The members of the Committee, its alternates, and its sub-committees or working parties may call upon experts to assist them.

*Article 9*

The Committee shall be convened by the President on his/her own initiative, or at the request of the Council, of the Commission or of at least two members of the Committee.

*Article 10*

As a rule the President represents the Committee; in particular the President may be authorised by the Committee to report on discussions and deliver oral comments on opinions and communications prepared by the Committee. The President of the Committee shall have the responsibility of maintaining the Committee's relations with the European Parliament.

*Article 11*

The proceedings of the Committee shall be confidential. The same rule shall apply to the proceedings of its alternates, sub-committees or working parties.

*Article 12*

The Committee shall be assisted by a secretariat under the direction of a Secretary. The Secretary and the staff needed for the secretariat shall be supplied by the Commission. The Secretary shall be appointed by the Commission after consultation of the Committee. The Secretary and his/her staff shall act on the instructions of the Committee when carrying out their responsibilities to the Committee.

The expenses of the Committee shall be included in the estimates of the Commission.

*Article 13*

The Committee shall adopt its own procedural arrangements.

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