

Thursday 16 December 1999

9. In this context calls on the Chinese National People's Congress to ratify the UN Covenant on Civil and Political Rights signed by China in 1998;
10. Urges the Commission to find ways to strengthen and consolidate Macao civil society and to promote and further develop the multiparty system and democratic institutions;
11. Urges all the Member States to exempt passport holders of the Macao SAR from visa requirements, since this would make a significant contribution to the preservation of Macao's way of life and would strengthen and facilitate economic and other contacts, as well as testifying to the Union's confidence in Macao's future;
12. Expresses its commitment to regularly monitoring developments in Macao after 20 December 1999, on the basis of close exchange of information and interinstitutional cooperation, analysing and debating the regular reports to be submitted and evaluating developments in the area of rights, freedoms and guarantees and all aspects of current circumstances related to Macao, in the context of the changing shape of international relations as regards the Far East and the new prospects being opened up in that region in all the abovementioned spheres, and also any new circumstances that may arise from China's entry into the WTO and the qualitative evolution and/or alteration of its relations with the US;
13. Urges the members of its delegation for relations with the People's Republic of China, in particular, to be aware of the issues raised in the foregoing paragraphs at all times when carrying out their duties, and to ensure, whenever appropriate and necessary, that assessment and monitoring of these issues form part of the agenda of the relevant interparliamentary meetings;
14. Is convinced that it is necessary to set up its own contact and interrelationship group, with a view to the permanent monitoring of developments in Macao;
15. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments of the Member States, the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Special Administrative Region of Macao.

7. Revision of the financial perspective

A5-0103/1999

European Parliament resolution on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the revision of the financial perspective annexed to the Interinstitutional Agreement of 6 May 1999 on budgetary discipline and improvement of the budgetary procedure (SEC(1999) 1647 – C5-0322/1999) and on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the mobilisation of the flexibility instrument (paragraph 24 of the Interinstitutional Agreement of 6 May 1999 on budgetary discipline and improvement of the budgetary procedure) (SEC(1999) 1647 – C5-0314/1999)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Interinstitutional Agreement of 6 May 1999 on budgetary discipline and improvement of the budgetary procedure⁽¹⁾,
- having regard to the proposals from the Commission to the budgetary authority (SEC(1999) 1647 – C5-0322/1999 and C5-0314/1999),
- having regard to the outcome of the Trialogue of 18 November 1999,
- having regard to the results of the conciliation meeting of 25 November 1999 with the Council,
- having regard to the deliberations of the extraordinary meeting of the Committee on Budgets of 1 December 1999,
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Budgets (A5-0103/1999),

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 172, 18.6.1999, p. 1.

Thursday 16 December 1999

1. Stresses that the credibility and usefulness of the Interinstitutional Agreement of 6 May 1999 will be put to the test if the Institutions attempt to interpret it unilaterally;
2. Welcomes the agreement reached between the Institutions concerning mobilisation of € 200 million under the flexibility instrument in order to cover a Community contribution to Kosovo reconstruction requirements for 2000, which could not be met within the ceiling of heading 4 of the financial perspective;
3. Notes that the budgetary authority's decision goes far beyond the proposals submitted by the Commission to raise the ceiling of heading 4 of the financial perspective; calls on the Commission to exhibit greater realism in future in implementing the Interinstitutional Agreement;
4. Awaits, with great interest, the precise multiannual assessment of Kosovo reconstruction requirements, to be submitted by the Commission, and the programme of assistance for the Western Balkans which it has undertaken to submit by April 2000; considers that the resulting proposal for revision of the financial perspective should be submitted by the same deadline;
5. Notes, with satisfaction, the Institutions' undertaking to reach agreement on these proposals, including on a possible revision of the financial perspective, prior to the Council's vote on the 2001 draft budget;
6. Approves the decision to mobilise the flexibility instrument provided for in paragraph 24 of the Interinstitutional Agreement and the declarations attached thereto, particularly as regards revision of the financial perspective, the texts of which are attached;
7. Instructs its President to forward its position, including the annex, to the Council and the Commission.

ANNEX

Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 1999 to use the flexibility instrument for the financing of the reconstruction of Kosovo

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT,

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

[...]

Having regard to the Interinstitutional Agreement of 6 May 1999 between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission, on budgetary discipline and improvement of the budgetary procedure⁽¹⁾, and in particular paragraph 24 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal for mobilisation of the flexibility instrument submitted by the Commission on 10 November 1999,

Whereas:

1. At the conciliation meeting held on 25 November 1999 in the presence of Commission representatives, the European Parliament and the Council were obliged to note that the Commission was not yet in a position to submit a year-by-year evaluation of the needs for Kosovo and the needs of the Balkans in general beyond the year 2000. They again called on the Commission to submit a precise multiannual evaluation of these needs for the whole of the period concerned, together with the necessary proposals for funding, including, if necessary, a proposal for revision of the financial perspective. These proposals would be made before submission of the preliminary draft budget for the financial year 2001 so as to enable the institutions to reach agreement before the Council's vote on the draft budget for 2001;

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 172, 18.6.1999, p. 1.

Thursday 16 December 1999

2. In the meantime, the European Parliament and the Council set the amount of resources needing to be made available for the reconstruction of Kosovo at a maximum of € 360 million in commitment appropriations for the financial year 2000;
3. In order to help cover this need, the Commission considered that it would be possible to carry over from the 1999 budget commitment appropriations of € 30 million from Obnova and € 30 million from humanitarian aid. The European Parliament and the Council therefore agreed to enter € 300 million in commitment appropriations in the general budget of the European Communities for the financial year 2000 for the reconstruction of Kosovo, of which € 40 million would be made available through redeployment (transfers of appropriations) under heading 4;
4. In order to finance this additional need, which arose after the submission of the preliminary draft budget for the financial year 2000, the Commission first examined all possibilities for reallocating appropriations under heading 4 of the financial perspective, in accordance with paragraph 24, fourth subparagraph, of the Interinstitutional Agreement of 6 May 1999;
5. The Commission indicated that € 60 million in commitment appropriations proposed for Obnova in the preliminary draft budget for 2000 and € 20 million requested for humanitarian aid could be used for Kosovo. The European Parliament and the Council agreed to this solution and noted that as a result € 220 million in commitment appropriations remained to be funded;
6. In addition, the Commission identified possible redeployment under heading 4 of the financial perspective, amounting to € 180 million in commitment appropriations. With the aim in particular of easing the burden on the poorer countries and enabling the Union to finance its traditional priorities, the European Parliament and the Council have agreed to restrict these redeployments under heading 4 of the financial perspective to € 150 million in commitment appropriations, as opposed to Parliament's first reading;
7. After examining all possibilities for reallocating appropriations under heading 4 of the financial perspective, the Commission proposed *inter alia* that the flexibility instrument should be used for a sum of € 60 million;
8. The European Parliament and the Council noted that the balance of the needs could not be financed by means of redeployment. Nevertheless, they noted that, in the absence of a precise evaluation of the needs for each year of the period concerned, at this stage the problem arose only for the financial year 2000 and concerned a limited amount;
9. The European Parliament and the Council, noting that the conditions laid down in paragraph 24 of the Interinstitutional Agreement had been met, therefore decided by common agreement, in accordance with the voting rules laid down in Article 272(9), fifth subparagraph, of the Treaty establishing the European Community, to use the flexibility instrument to finance the balance of the needs created by the reconstruction of Kosovo which cannot be met by carrying over appropriations from the 1999 budget or by redeployment of appropriations entered in the draft budget for the financial year 2000.

HEREBY DECIDE THAT:

Article 1

Use will be made by common agreement of the flexibility instrument provided for in paragraph 24 of the Interinstitutional Agreement of 6 May 1999 on budgetary discipline and improvement of the budgetary procedure for a sum of € 200 million.

Article 2

This sum is intended to cover part of the commitment appropriations entered against budget line B7-546 'Aid for the reconstruction of Kosovo' of the general budget of the European Communities for the financial year 2000.

Article 3

This decision shall be published in the Official Journal of the European Communities at the same time as the budget for the financial year 2000.

Done at Brussels, 16 December 1999

For the European Parliament
The President

For the Council
The President

Thursday 16 December 1999

Declarations

1. The Commission confirms that by April 2000 it will propose an aid programme for the western Balkans, including Kosovo for the period 2000-2006. The amount concerned will require it to submit a proposal for revision of the financial perspective, together with a programming plan for heading 4.
2. The European Parliament and the Council agree that an aid programme for the western Balkans must be established. They take note of the fact that, if a sum requiring a financial effort significantly greater than that already programmed were to be agreed, this would entail exceeding the current ceilings for heading 4 of the financial perspective.
3. The European Parliament undertakes to leave a margin of € 20 million under the ceilings for heading 4 and, if necessary, by means of redeployment, to enter an amount of € 40 million for the reconstruction of Kosovo in particular, before the Council's first reading of the draft budget for 2001, this to be done by means of transfers of appropriations. The European Parliament undertakes also to reduce payment appropriations compared to its first reading by € 2 billion.

8. 2000 budget

A5-0095/1999

European Parliament resolution on the draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2000, as modified by the Council (all sections) (C5-0600/1999), and on Letters of Amendment Nos 1/2000 (11568/1999 – C5-0313/1999), 2/2000 (13482/1999 – C5-0311/1999) and 3/2000 (.../1999 – C5-.../1999) to the 2000 draft budget

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Article 272 of the EC Treaty, Article 177 of the Euratom Treaty and Article 78 of the ECSC Treaty,
- having regard to the Council decisions of 26 November 1999 on the draft budget for 2000 as amended and modified by Parliament at first reading (13476/1999 – C5-0600/1999),
- having regard to the Council Decision of 31 October 1994⁽¹⁾ on the system of the European Communities' own resources,
- having regard to its resolutions of 23 March 1999 on the guidelines for the 2000 budget⁽²⁾,
- having regard to the preliminary draft budget submitted by the Commission for the financial year 2000 (COM(1999) 200),
- having regard to the draft budget established by the Council for the financial year 2000 (C5-0300/1999),
- having regard to Letter of Amendment No 1 to the draft budget for 2000 (11568/1999 – C5-0313/1999),
- having regard to Letter of Amendment No 2 to the draft budget for 2000 (13482/1999 – C5-0311/1999),
- having regard to Letter of Amendment No 5 to the preliminary draft budget for 2000 (.../1999 – C5-.../1999),
- having regard to Letter of Amendment No 3 to the draft budget for 2000 (.../1999 – C5-.../1999),
- having regard to its resolutions of 28 October 1999 on the draft budget for 2000⁽³⁾,
- having regard to the Interinstitutional Agreement of 6 May 1999 between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on budgetary discipline and improvement of the budgetary procedure⁽⁴⁾,

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 293, 12.11.1994.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 177, 22.6.1999, pp. 40 and 44.

⁽³⁾ 'Texts adopted' of that sitting, Items 1 and 2.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ C 172, 18.6.1999, p. 1.